

## Connecticut Partnership for Child Welfare Excellence 2017-18 Program Announcement

The University of Connecticut School of Social Work and the Department of Children and Families (DCF) are pleased to announce the Connecticut Partnership for Child Welfare Excellence (CT Partnership). The goal of this program is to train casework and group work method students to work effectively with vulnerable children and families that DCF serves and give DCF and students opportunities to explore the potential for possible employment with DCF.

The CT Partnership requires **CASEWORK, GROUP WORK and Administration** method students to complete a field placement in a DCF Area Office or facility during their **ADVANCED Placement** year, as well as take a set of required courses at the School of Social Work.

The selection process for the program is competitive. Students must be on target to graduate in the academic year they apply for the program, and will be required to participate in an interview as part of the selection process. All selected students will receive a **\$13,714 stipend**, and must maintain acceptable performance in the field placement and a minimum 3.0 GPA. Students are required to sign a contract outlining the expectations for the program, which includes a commitment to work for DCF upon graduation, if a position is offered. Failure to comply with the expectations of the program will result in forfeiture of the stipend and requirement to repay any amount received, as well as possible removal from the program. **The program application deadline is January 30<sup>th</sup>.**

For more in-depth information about the program, please contact Sarah Greenblatt at [sbg4750@aol.com](mailto:sbg4750@aol.com) or Cheryl Jackson-Morris at [Cheryl.Jackson-Morris@uconn.edu](mailto:Cheryl.Jackson-Morris@uconn.edu)

Please note that some of the required courses for the CT Partnership for Child Welfare Excellence may be offered on Saturdays. If you are unable to attend classes on Saturday for religious/spiritual reasons, please let us know so that alternative arrangements can be made in the event that you are accepted into the program.

## **CT PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILD WELFARE EXCELLENCE**

### **Frequently Asked Questions & Answers about DCF Internships**

Thank you for considering the **CT Partnership for Child Welfare Excellence Program**. DCF is pleased to partner with you in your learning experience as well as provide assistance to the children and families they serve. To that end, the following questions and answers are available to help make your experience a beneficial one:

1. **What does DCF expect of me as an intern?** As an intern, you are expected to actively participate in the learning process. This means taking responsibility for your learning by asking questions, following directions, offering support and assistance when appropriate as deemed by your field instructor and being professional in demeanor, attitude and dress at all times.
2. **What type of intern is DCF looking for?** DCF is looking for students who are very self-aware of their own strengths and challenges, are non-judgmental, humble enough to ask questions and willing to learn and engage, not just observe. Having a genuine care and concern for children and their families is paramount. Having an ability to remain ethical and a part of the DCF professional community is a must.
3. **What will I learn?** All interns will be offered trainings as well as the opportunity to participate in required learning opportunities that will help prepare them for work with DCF's children and families. These learning opportunities will also enable the student to gain a better idea of DCF as a whole. Additional learning will be provided by your field instructor who will assess your willingness and ability to take on additional responsibilities such as writing legal reports, being assigned a case, attending court, shadowing other DCF workers, etc.
4. **Will all interns learn the same information at the same time?** No. During required learning experiences as well as trainings, it is up to the field instructor to determine which assignments will be given when.
5. **Will I have to do home visits even if I am afraid?** Home visits are a basic part of the work that is done at DCF. Being able to assess an individual in their home environment, allows DCF workers to make comprehensive decisions and recommendations for supportive services for the children and families we work with. Please consider that home visits will be required as you make a decision regarding applying to the DCF Internship Program.

6. **Will I have to do a home visit alone?** It is not recommend that students initially do home visits alone. There are safety factors, and also liability issues that must be considered before you will be asked to conduct a home visit alone. Depending upon the length of your internship and your comfort level you may be asked to conduct a home visits by yourself as you grow in your internship position.
7. **Is there a dress code at DCF?** As interns, you are expected to arrive at your internship wearing suitable and appropriate attire. You may be asked to appear at court on any given day as well as attend meetings where professional attire is required. Additionally, it is DCF's intent to have their interns regarded as professionals at all times and proper dress is a part of that expectation.
8. **What if I disagree with my field instructor or feel that he/she is neglecting me?** Part of being a social worker is learning how to advocate. Advocacy for self is part of that process. Please communicate with your concerns with your field instructor, as he/she may not be aware that there is an issue. If after speaking with the field instructor you still feel uncomfortable, you may contact the consultant that oversees the DCF Internship Program, and/or your UConn SSW advisor for additional support.
9. **What happens if I begin the internship and realize it is causing me great distress and I must quit?** If you find that an internship at DCF is not meeting your needs or is making you uncomfortable, DCF will respect your decision. Please communicate your concerns to your field instructor and UConn SSW advisor in an effort to determine if you should leave the program or if additional accommodations can or should be made.

We wish you the best of luck on your internship at DCF and hope these questions and answers have proven helpful. In the meantime, you are invited to visit the DCF website for any further questions: <http://www.ct.gov/dcf/cwp/view.asp?a=4840&Q=568360>

**UConn**  
**SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**

**DCF**



**CT Partnership for Child Welfare Excellence**

**UConn School of Social Work  
CT Partnership for Child Welfare Excellence  
Trainee Stipend Application Guidelines and Checklist**

Is your method concentration: Casework, Groupwork or Administration?

Yes  No

Are you entering your **advanced** placement next year?

Yes  No

If you answered yes to both of these questions, then you are eligible to apply to the Program! Please submit the following materials to the UCONN School of Social Work, Field Education office, Room 108-C:

- Completed Application Form  
<http://ssw>.
- Written essay outlining your interest and/or experience in child welfare (maximum length 4 pages)
- Unofficial transcript or letter certifying good academic standing
- Current resume
- Completed Application Guidelines and Check List form

**Incomplete Applications will NOT be Accepted  
APPLICATION DEADLINE: January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Please note that some of the required courses for the CT Partnership for Child Welfare Excellence may be offered on Saturdays. If you are unable to attend classes on Saturday for religious/spiritual reasons, please let us know so that alternative arrangements can be made in the event that you are accepted into the program.

CONNECTICUT PARTNERSHIP  
FOR CHILD WELFARE  
EXCELLENCE  
APPLICATION



The Connecticut Partnership for Child Welfare Excellence involves the UConn School of Social Work and the CT Department of Children and Families, and is funded through a five-year federal grant from the National Child Welfare Workforce Institute to enhance the child welfare workforce in Connecticut and nation-wide. The Partnership prioritizes recruitment of MSW students who are CT DCF employees; African American/Hispanic men; men; and bilingual individuals to address workforce disproportionality and disparities in CT’s child welfare system.

APPLICANT INFORMATION					
Last Name		First		M.I.	Date
Street Address				Apartment/Unit #	
City		State		ZIP	
Cell Phone		Work Phone			
Home Phone		E-mail Address			
		Personal E-mail Address			
PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:					
Expected Graduation from UConn MSW Program (Month/Year)		Have you completed a class in child welfare at UConn SSW?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
If yes, please enter the name and course code:					
Method Concentration at the UConn SSW	CASEWORK <input type="checkbox"/>	GROUP WORK <input type="checkbox"/>	ADMINISTRATION <input type="checkbox"/>		
Are you currently employed at the CT Department of Children and Families?				YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
If you currently are a DCF employee, do you have at least 2 years of experience as a caseload carrying social worker? If yes, please add date of hire:	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>		
Are you fluent in a language other than English? If yes, what language?				YES	NO
Please identify the DCF Area Office(s) in which you would like to complete your internship. Please select any offices to which you are willing to commute. See below for a list of office locations. Current CT DCF employees will complete their internship in their current work location.					

Hartford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Manchester	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Britain	<input type="checkbox"/>		

### REFERENCES

*Please list two professional references – at least one should be from a social work employer*

Full Name		Relationship	
Company		Phone	
Address			
Full Name		Relationship	
Company		Phone	
address			

### PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

If selected for the Connecticut Partnership for Child Welfare Excellence do you agree to:

1. Maintain enrollment for the entire academic year?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Maintain a cumulative GPA of at least a 3.0?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Complete background screening including child protective services, fingerprinting and a driver's license check?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Meet the internship program requirements and successfully complete the internship at DCF?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Conduct home visits with families in diverse neighborhoods?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
6. Successfully complete the field education program (and) complete all courses and requirements of the CT Partnership for Child Welfare Excellence Program necessary to obtain your MSW degree?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
7. Accept a position for employment at CT DCF, if offered, and remain employed by CT DCF for (1) year?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
8. Return or repay the University of Connecticut School of Social Work the full or prorated amount of the stipend if you:		
a. do not complete the internship at the CT DCF, graduate and/or complete all requirements of the program?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
b. do to actively seek/accept employment if offered at CT DCF within the first six (6) months after graduation?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
c. do not fulfill the one (1) year employment requirement (i.e. termination of employment by CT DCF or voluntarily leave)	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
9. Notify both the School of Social work and the Field Instructor in writing within five (5) calendar days of any change in name or address or other contact information?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

**After completing this form, please print and sign below.**

**DISCLAIMER AND SIGNATURE**

I certify that my answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

If this application leads to acceptance into the CT Partnership of Child Welfare Excellence Program, I understand that false or misleading information in my application or interview may result in my termination from the Program.

Print

Name:

Signature:

Date

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: January 30, 2017**

**Submit this application along with the other required materials to the UConn  
School of Social Work,  
Field Education Department, Room 108-C**

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