University of Pittsburgh

 ***School of Social Work***403 East Winding Hill Road

 *Child Welfare Education and Research Programs*  Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

 *The Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center* phone*-* 717-795-9048

 Fax – 717-795-8013

**Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center Youth Ambassador Internship**

Applications will be reviewed by a selection committee (who will keep all information contained in the application confidential). Once the selections have been made, you will be contacted by a representative of the Child Welfare Training Program.

**Purpose**

The purpose of the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center’s Youth Ambassador Internship program is to allow foster care youth enrolled in post-secondary education the chance to share their unique perspective of the child welfare system in Pennsylvania. It also provides an opportunity to:

* Incorporate the older youth and foster care perspectives into the work of the Training Program.
* Enhance statewide permanency efforts for children and youth in foster care.
* Support county and private child welfare agencies in improving outcomes for children, youth and families.

**Primary Duties**

The Interns are involved in many initiatives and committees working alongside other youth and professionals from around the state. Examples include:

* Collaborate and serves as a member on the regional teams
* Serve as mentors and leaders on regional Youth Advisory Board
* Assist in the planning and implementation of the annual State Independent Living Youth Retreat
* Represent the perspective of older youth on Statewide Child Welfare Committees
* Present, and co-facilitate youth engagement workshops at local, regional and national conferences
* Assist with providing technical assistance to County Children & Youth Agencies
* Participates in the work of the State Youth in Transition Taskforce that is working to eliminate homelessness for youth exiting substitute care in Pennsylvania
* Other committees as appropriate

**Future Opportunities beyond the Internship**

At the conclusion of the internship program, eligible Youth Ambassadors have an opportunity to apply for a consultant position with the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center.

**Frequently Asked Questions:**

**How do I become a Youth Ambassador?**

The first step to becoming an Intern of the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center is to fill out this application and send it to:

Lucinda C. Gore, M.A.

Statewide Quality Improvement Supervisor

403 East Winding Hill Road

Mechanicsburg, Pa. 17055

Lcg7@pitt.edu

717-795-9048 ext. 203 (W)

717 585-1239 (cell)

717-795-8013 (fax)

**Youth Ambassador Interns must meet the following criteria:**

* Any college age youth who left foster care after the age of 16.
* Youth enrolled in a post- secondary educational course of study.

OR

* High school senior that must be enrolled in a post- secondary educational course of study prior to their employment.

**What are the hours?**

May–August; (summer full time 37.5 hours weekly)

September–April; (school year part time 18 hours weekly)

**Will I have to Travel?**

Yes, this position may require travel and overnight stay. Travel expenses will be covered and or reimbursed by the Child Welfare Training Program.

**Where are Youth Ambassadors located?**

The Child Welfare Resource Center is located in Mechanicsburg and Youth Ambassadors do work statewide and in the regions where they live.

 **What is the pay?**

 Intern will receive a stipend of $12.00 an hour.

**When are the applications due?**

Summer – Start date May Fall – Start date August Spring – Start date April;

\***Applications due by January** **\*Applications due by April** **\*Applications due by Sept.**

**The Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center**

**Internship Application**

The following questions ask for some personal information. It is important that we select Youth Interns who represent the diversity of Pennsylvania as well as those who have an understanding of the child welfare system. This information is confidential and will not be shared with anyone except the selection committee. If you need extra space to answer any of the questions, feel free to use a separate piece of paper. Thank you for your interest.

 **Name:**

**Mailing Address:**

**City:** **State: PA Zip Code:**

**E-mail address:**

**Daytime Telephone Number:** **/** **/** **Ext:**

**Evening Telephone Number:** **/****/**

**Best time to call you:** **AM** **[ ]  PM** **[ ]**

1. **Tell us about some of your experiences dealing with child serving systems (i.e. education, child welfare, juvenile justice etc.). Again, this information will be kept confidential.**

1. **Are you now, or have you ever been a member of an advisory board, involved in any community organizations or participated on any community or school committees? Yes** **[ ]  No** **[ ]**

**Please describe:**

1. **Why do you want to be an Intern?**
2. **Briefly describe any special skills or experience that will assist you in your duties as an Intern.**

1. **Name of college or trade school you will be or are attending?**

1. **Please indicate your school status:**

**Freshman** **[ ]  Sophomore** **[ ]  Junior** **[ ]  Senior** **[ ]**

**7. How did you hear about this opportunity?**

**8. Please provide one personal and one professional letter of
 reference. These letters should not come from a family member. The
 Reference Letters should be brief and should include:**

* **Name of the person and their contact information**
* **How they know you and how long they have known you**
* **Why they think you would be a good Youth Ambassador**

**Thank you again for your interest in the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center Youth Ambassador Internship position.**