



Clinical internship placement opportunities Fall through spring semesters

at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center 5-24-10

Founded in 1983, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center of New York City (the Center) today is recognized as the comprehensive, community-based organization for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities of the greater New York area, offering a range of services, activities and programs. Since its inception over 27 years ago, the Center has worked to address the myriad needs and issues the LGBT communities face, offering a comprehensive range of services, activities and programs. The Center helps to bring LGBT people out of isolation and connects them to proactive, healthy and affirmative services and activities, offering LGBT persons invaluable opportunities to discover who they are in an atmosphere of self-acceptance and support; to come together and build community to end stigma and prejudice; and to celebrate LGBT culture and identity. Approximately 6,000 persons pass through the Center’s doors each week and 22,000 unique individuals use the Center on an annual basis.

Clinical internships

The Center is proud to offer educational opportunities social work and counseling students seeking to work with the LGBT communities. The Center typically offers placements to approximately 15 second-year MSW and counseling interns each year. Two Center departments – Adult Services (primarily Center CARE) and Youth & Family Services, offer placements:

Adult Services programs:

Center CARE Wellness and Recovery: The Center offers its own programs and social services for adults (ages 18 and up) through its *Center CARE Wellness and Recovery* programs. Presenting issues cover a wide range of concerns and clients represent diverse socioeconomic, racial/ethnic, gender, age, sexual orientation and ability groupings.

Project LINK: The Center’s *Project LINK* offers on-site referrals to alcohol and substance abuse treatment by providing brief counseling interventions at public health clinics in New York City using the SBIRT (screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment) model. *Project LINK currently does not employ interns.*

Youth and Family Services programs

Youth Enrichment Services (Y.E.S.): The Center offers social services for youth (ages 13 – 21) through its *Y.E.S.* program. Presenting issues cover a wide range of concerns and clients represent diverse socioeconomic, racial/ethnic, gender, age, sexual orientation and ability groupings.

Center Families: Center Families is a program for LGBT parents and their children, for those considering parenthood, and for all LGBT people in the context of their families - of origin or of affinity. *Center Families* and its LGBT Foster Care Project provides information, resources, support, and advocacy.

Placement options at the Center

The Center can offer placements to students in the following educational specialties:

	Adult Services	Youth and Family Services
Administration/Social Enterprise Administration	Yes	No
Advanced Clinical Social Work Practice	Yes	No
Advanced Generalist Practice and Programming	Yes	Possible (with Adult Services)
Casework/Counseling	Yes	No
Community Organizing	Yes	Yes (Family Services only)
Group Work	Yes	Yes
Policy/Policy Practice	Yes	Yes (Family Services only)
<i>Number of internship opportunities</i>	<i>Up to 9</i>	<i>Up to 3</i>



Adult Services internship placements

The Center's Adult Services Department integrates substance abuse recovery, relapse and prevention, mental health, and HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment resources within an LGBT community center location. Over the last 22-years, the Center has worked to recognize, formalize and transfer a body of LGBT-community generated practice knowledge that is generated through evidence-based models and is relevant to individual, group and community level interventions. Adult Services practice goals include:

- *We perceive LGBT-identities as normative and work with participants to develop a healthy and un-conflicted self concept*
- *We emphasize positive role models where participants adopt the behaviors of those who are similar and respected*
- *We focus on reducing isolation*
- *We develop community-level interventions that enhance LGBT-identified spaces to treat, reduce or prevent substance abuse and the risk of HIV infection among the LGBT communities*
- *We engage and appeal to an inclusive LGBT community including partners, family, allies and hidden LGBT populations, such as youth, immigrants, and the elderly*
- *We utilize a harm reduction approach, emphasizing a "stages of change" methodology*

Adult Services programming addresses:

Center CARE Wellness

- Gender identity (*Gender Identity Project – GIP*)
- Grief and bereavement services
- HIV and AIDS support and prevention
- Immigrant support
- LBT cancer support and prevention (*Lesbian Cancer Initiative – LCI*)
- Mental health supportive services
- Recovery support (*Foundations for LGBT Recovery – FFR*)
- Smoking Cessation (*LGBT SmokeFree Project – SFP*)
- Substance abuse prevention and harm reduction services

Center CARE Recovery

- Substance abuse treatment

Project LINK

- Brief counseling intervention and substance abuse treatment referral – offsite in DHMH STD clinics

Adult Services internship placement opportunities include:

- Administration/Social Enterprise Administration
- Advanced Clinical Social Work Practice
- Advanced Generalist Practice and Programming
- Casework/Counseling
- Community Organizing
- Group Work
- Policy/Policy Practice

Adult Services field placement information:

- Adult Services is open Monday – Friday from 10am – 6pm and offers groups on Monday – Thursday evenings until 9pm
- Placement requires ability to flex field days to fit program hours; interns are expected to be onsite and attend the weekly Monday 2 – 3pm Adult Services staff meeting, as well as Monday morning trainings (dates and times vary)
- Prospective interns will need to have some weeknight evening and weekend availability
- Adult Services offers a combination of short-term individual, group and community interventions to its clients
- Adult Services has a supportive staff of about 26 full and part-time workers, up to 15 social work, counseling and CASAC interns, 3 or 4 peer interns and 14 to 18 peer and peer-professional educators



Adult Services internships:

Center CARE Wellness and Center CARE Recovery: Adult Services interns provide one-on-one sessions with individuals and couples for intake, assessment, counseling and referral and do follow-up encounters in person or by telephone, as necessary; lead or co-lead therapeutic and/pr psycho-educational support groups for lesbian, gay, bisexual & transgender clients including recovery maintenance, health and mental health promotion, and HIV concerns at on- and off-site locations; and respond to telephone inquiries, screen potential clients of the Adult Services programs and make appropriate referrals to programs within and outside the Center.

- Casework/counseling and group work interns typically carry a caseload of 6 to 10 individual/couples clients (less for group work specialists) and 1 support group (more for group specialists)
- Interns will offer administrative and operations support (varies by program and placement option) including: document all client sessions and follow-up encounters and provide other written documentation of program activities and proposals, as necessary; participate in weekly general staff meetings, regular team and Center CARE and meetings; and participate in program-relevant training workshops and seminars.

Other possible Center CARE student activities: Interns have the opportunity to participate in developing off-site outreach strategies, groups, and community and professional training programs for providers and consumers; assist in planning and development of social service activities, groups, and workshops, including the production of outreach and educational materials; and assist in the development and implementation of process and outcome evaluations.

Center CARE also offers the following program specific internships on a case-by-case basis:

Gender Identity Project (GIP): The Gender Identity Project works to foster the healthy development of transgender and gender non-conforming people, partners, family and community. Through the delivery of a range of transgender-driven supportive services, advocacy, outreach, education and capacity-building, the GIP creates a safe and productive atmosphere for community-building, wellness and self-care, and leadership development.

- The GIP intern is responsible for offering services to transgender and gender non-conforming individuals, partners and family members, around HIV prevention, support and education. This is achieved through community organizing, individual and group counseling and outreach. Interns will have the opportunity to engage in clinical work, as well as in various aspects of program development, policy, outreach and implementation.

Lesbian Cancer Initiative (LCI): The Lesbian Cancer Initiative offers a continuum of cancer-related services to lesbians, bisexual women, transgender people and their caregivers, partners and loved-ones. These services include support, prevention/outreach activities, educational events and cultural competency training for cancer-care providers.

- The LCI intern is responsible for offering cancer-related supportive and prevention services to lesbians, bisexual women, transgender people and their caregivers, partners and loved-ones. The LCI intern will have the opportunity to engage in clinical work, as well as in various aspects of program development, policy, outreach and implementation.

Foundations for LGBT Recovery (FFR): Foundations for Recovery offers a continuum of peer-driven recovery support services including support groups, case management and vocational training.

- The FFR intern is responsible for offering recovery support services to LGBT people in recovery. The FFR intern will have the opportunity to engage in clinical work, as well as in various aspects of program development, outreach and implementation.

Center CARE Recovery (CCR): Center CARE Recovery is a NYS licensed outpatient chemical dependency program and works to provide lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender sensitive and affirmative assessment, substance abuse/dependency treatment, relapse prevention, and referral services to individuals, couples, and groups.

- The CCR intern is responsible for offering substance abuse/dependency treatment services including screening and referrals to appropriate LGBT sensitive providers, assessment, treatment and relapse prevention, individual counseling and support groups.
- Intern attendance at CCR Team Meetings is encouraged but not required. The CCR Administrative Meeting is on Tuesday's from 2 – 3pm and the CCR Clinical Meeting is on Friday's from 1 – 2pm.



Youth and Family Services internship placements

Youth Enrichment Services (Y.E.S.)

The Y.E.S. exists to provide LGBT young people with community support to foster healthy development, in a safe, affirming, sex-positive, alcohol and drug-free environment. At Y.E.S., services are guided by our goal of creating a "Community of Inclusion" for everyone who comes to our program and is open to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning young people between the ages of 13 and 21.

Y.E.S. theoretical foundation and approaches:

- Positive Youth Development Model – focuses on strengths & asset-building
- Community of Inclusion – celebrates diverse identities and abilities
- Social Work/Person-in-Environment - "clinically-infused" youth leadership program
- Group Work – in order to deal with the number one risk factor faced by LGBT youth: ISOLATION - the majority of YES' interventions are group-based

Y.E.S. funding:

- Y.E.S. receives federal, state, local and private funds specifically to prevent substance abuse and HIV/STI's in LGBT youth through evidence-based group approaches and to develop their leadership abilities, coping skills, support networks, resilience, and pride.

Y.E.S. programming changes regularly and may include:

- Coming Out Support Group
- Computer Lab
- Knitting Group
- Peer Education Training
- Rated "Q" Movie Discussion Group
- Safe Schools Internship
- Safer Sex Discussion Group
- Summer Camp
- Young Women's Discussion Group
- Youth Pride Chorus

Youth Services internship placement opportunities include:

- Advanced Generalist Practice and Programming – *possible, in association with Adult Services, only*
- Group Work

Y.E.S. field placement information:

- Y.E.S. is open Tuesday – Saturday from 11am – 7pm (closed Monday).
- Placement requires ability to flex field days to fit program hours; interns are expected to be onsite and attend the weekly Y.E.S. staff meeting on Wednesday's from 1 - 2:30pm.
- Primary interventions are group work and short-term individual work.
- Y.E.S. has a supportive staff of about 11 people and up to 2 social work interns – with weekly team meetings attended by all.
- Creative and innovative new groups or approaches are encouraged.
- Room & flexibility for creation of new group areas if of interest to student.



Center Families

Center Families, including the LGBT Foster Care Project, is a program for LGBT parents and their children, for those considering parenthood, and for all LGBT people in the context of their families - of origin or of affinity. Founded in 1989, Center Kids gives children ongoing opportunities to befriend others from similar families, while their parents have a chance to meet, socialize and build their own support network. Center Families, which advocates at state and local levels for the rights of alternative families, has become a national and regional model for LGBT family organizing. In its almost 20-year history, many thousands of families in the tri-state area have utilized Center Families program offerings.

Center Families internship placement opportunities include:

- Community Organizing
- Group Work
- Policy/Policy Practice

Center Families field placement information:

- Center Families is open Monday - Friday from 10am – 6pm and offers events and volunteer task groups on evenings (dates and times vary)
- Placement requires ability to flex time to work some evenings and weekends for family-friendly events
- Center Families has a small staff of 3 full time employees and up to 2 social work interns – with weekly team meetings attended by all
- Primary interventions are group work, and community organizing
 - Center Families: One intern placement opportunity is with direct services to *Center Families*
 - LGBT Foster Care Project: One intern placement opportunity is with the *LGBT Foster Care Project* which involves community organizing, training and capacity building to foster care agencies
- Creative and innovative new groups or approaches are encouraged
- Room & flexibility for creation of new group areas if of interest to student

Center Families programs/projects include:

- Support groups for LGBT parents and prospective parents
- Trainings for teachers and school administrators; advocacy and activist efforts
- Support services for alternative insemination, adoption, surrogacy and nontraditional cooperative parenting arrangements
- Forums on issues such as custody when LGBT parents separate or financial planning for alternative families; recreational programs for children (Halloween Parties, Holiday Parties, Play Days, etc)

Center Families is piloting the “LGBT Foster Care Project” in 2010:

- The LGBT Foster Care Project will work to establish and help New York City foster care agencies to achieve benchmarks toward LGBT cultural competency in their work with LGBT-headed families as well as LGBT youth in care
- Services will include community organizing, training and capacity building to foster care agencies