DPCS Philadelphia Poverty Alleviation Internship

Philadelphia Poverty Alleviation Internships introduce students to the dynamic and new ways one of America’s most historic cities is responding to its evolving social needs. Philadelphia nonprofits are greatly influenced by the city’s motto of Brotherly Love, which is reflected in their mission to make the city more inclusive and livable for all. The Internships are generously supported by Dartmouth Partners in Community Service (DPCS.) Students will live and learn alongside Dartmouth peers in a cohort designed to provide support and community throughout the summer term.

About the Program

* Cohort of 8 students
* 10-week full-time summer internship in Philadelphia, PA
* Internships are in-person, either at organizational offices or out in the community
* Shared housing provided by DCSI
* $2000 (subject to slight change) living stipend to cover transportation and food
* Students are matched with an alumni mentor
* Professional development programming throughout the 10-week period

*\*Stipend amounts are determined in accordance with* [*MIT’s Living Wage Calculator*](https://livingwage.mit.edu/pages/methodology)

Impact Focus – Poverty Alleviation

Philadelphia nonprofits are cutting edge and intersectional in their approach. Nonprofits working on poverty alleviation have set up mail centers for those experiencing homelessness, mend clothing, provide free legal services, and give access to nutritious food.

Philadelphia Poverty Alleviation Interns can expect to be placed at a high functioning nonprofit that approaches poverty in dynamic and new ways in order to restore dignity to those experiencing poverty and its related effects.

Relevant Terms

* [Urban Poverty](https://www.americanprogress.org/article/addressing-urban-poverty-in-america-must-remain-a-priority/)
* [Food Insecurity](https://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/food-insecurity#:~:text=Food%20insecurity%20is%20an%20official,children%2C%20experience%20food%20insecurity%20annually.)

Program Details

During Philadelphia Poverty Alleviation Interns’ 10-week internship experience they will work in nonprofits that combat the city’s pressing issues of poverty through challenging work that is distinctive to Philadelphia’s needs and culture.

Students **will be placed** at high functioning nonprofit agencies with needs that match students’ skill sets. **Duties are at the discretion of the agency and students do not pick their agency**. Students will be challenged in numerous ways, but supported by alumni mentors, Dartmouth staff, and each other.

**City Profile:** Philadelphia is in the Delaware Valley region of Pennsylvania and one of America's most historic cities due its role in the signing of the Declaration of Independence. It is also one of the most culturally distinct and neighborhood-centric urban areas in the country, with each neighborhood bringing a unique identity, close knit community, and set of complex social impact issues. Philadelphia residents are known for being honest, but extremely generous once you get to know them, hence the city nickname, "City of Brotherly Love."  Philadelphia is a "street by street" city, meaning neighborhood character shifts dramatically and quickly, but the overall city character is energetic and vibrant. Summer is especially exciting due to many 4th of July celebrations, numerous block parties with vast varieties of delicious food, and the infectious culture of the Phillies. The weather is hot and humid; it can be in the low 90s with high humidity for the majority of the summer. As a result, many residents retreat to local jersey shore towns on weekends to go to the beach, which are only a short bus ride away.

**Housing and meals:** Interns are housed together in an area of the city populated by a major university. Students have double rooms and share bathrooms and lounges with members of their cohort. They are expected to buy groceries and cook in shared kitchens.

**Transportation:** Students are expected to take public transportation to and from their work sites each day. Average transportation time is about 45 minutes to an hour each way.

**DCSI support:** DCSI staff is always available in case of an emergency, but they are also available to help students in other instances such as problems with background checks, work duties, or in general instances of professional development and mentoring.

**Reflection opportunities:** Students will be required to read a book about structural poverty throughout their internship experience. Additionally, they will be required to produce a written reflection at the midterm point and a written or media-based reflection at the final point of the term. Upon return to campus, they will participate in a group reflection and an individual debrief meeting with a DCSI staff member.

2024 CSO Partners

Each of the CSO partners listed below will host 1-3 cohort interns. Roles within each organization will vary but may include patient navigation, research, administrative support, communications, and program management and delivery support.

* [Philabundance](https://www.philabundance.org/) – provides food distribution, works to reduce food waste, increases access to nutritious meals, and tackles the root causes of hunger through programs such as the Philabundance Community Kitchen.
* [ACHIEVEability](https://achieveability.org/) -strives to permanently break the generational cycle of poverty for West Philadelphia families through higher education, affordable housing, supportive services, community and economic development and accountability.
* [Share Food Program](https://www.sharefoodprogram.org/about-us/) - leads the fight against food insecurity in the Philadelphia region, by serving an expansive, quality partner network of community-based organizations and school districts engaged in food distribution, education and advocacy.
* [The Promise](https://thepromisephl.org/) / United Way - vets and funds investments that expand access to existing public benefits and aims to remove barriers to employment.
* [Habitat for Humanity Philadelphia](https://www.habitatphiladelphia.org/) –mission is to transform lives and their city by building and repairing homes in partnership with families in need, and uniting all Philadelphians around the cause of affordable housing.
* [Homeless Advocacy Project (HAP)](https://www.haplegal.org/about/) – legal services organization dedicated to providing direct civil legal services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Philadelphia. HAP also advocates for clients in broader terms, promoting changes in city policies that benefit its most vulnerable people.

Professional Development

DCSI’s professional development programming aims to achieve the following goals:

* Increased knowledge around the cohort’s theme
* Exposure to the cohort city’s alumni network, history, and culture
* Opportunity to process the internship experience through self-reflection and group discussion.
* A better understanding of social sector careers and how to succeed professionally in this sector.

Practically speaking, professional development programming includes networking events, dinners, guided discussions with your cohort, reflection assignments, and site visits.

Alumni Mentorship

Each student is matched with an alumni mentor who helps guide them through the cohort experience by providing support, professional development, and advice. Students typically meet with their alumni mentor 3-4 times over the 10-week program. Mentors generally reside in the cohort city and can meet with students in-person but can be remote as well.

A True Cohort

Philadelphia Poverty Alleviation Interns live and learn together, creating a new community for the summer. They support each other when days are challenging and celebrate together when there are victories. They may enjoy cooking meals together or simply share the bounty when they make too much. Students are encouraged to actively engage in the process of caring for one another and fostering each other’s growth.

Program Requirements

**Language Requirement:** None, but Spanish speakers are encouraged to apply.

**Personal Qualities:** Initiative, Flexibility, An Open Mind, Humility, Curiosity, Empathy

**Availability:** Must be available for the entire duration of the program

Students from all majors and potential career paths are welcome to apply.

Funding for this program is generously provided by Dartmouth Partners in Community Service (DPCS), a group of alumni classes dedicated to supporting students pursuing social impact work.