DPCS San Francisco Social Impact Internship

San Francisco Social Impact Internships introduce students to the cutting-edge nonprofit landscape of the Bay Area. Students engaged in these internships are immersed into this vibrant city through work with innovative organizations who create change in dynamic and new ways. 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.

Program Overview

* Cohort of 8 Students
* 10-week full-time summer term internship in San Francisco, CA.
* Internships are in-person, either at organizational offices or out in the community
* Shared housing provided by DCSI
* \*$2,500 (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 – Social Impact

For the last thirty years, the Bay Area has become synonymous with some of the most vibrant and innovative technology products in American culture. Influenced by this successful model and the optimistic start up tone in the region, nonprofits in San Francisco have been applying similar creative problem-solving strategies to their work to become powerful agents for change. Organizations combat the city’s pressing issues of gentrification, housing insecurity, immigration, and human rights violations through dynamic work that is distinctive to San Francisco’s needs and culture.

San Francisco Social Impact Interns can expect to be placed at a high functioning Bay Area nonprofit that uses innovative problem solving to make social change.

Relevant Terms

* [Social Innovation](https://www.gsb.stanford.edu/experience/about/centers-institutes/csi/defining-social-innovation)
* [Universal / Guaranteed Basic Income](https://basicincome.stanford.edu/about/what-is-ubi/)

Program Details

Selected program participants will be matched to a pre-scoped internship role by DCSI with one of our community service organization (CSO) partners.

Internship roles vary greatly across organizations. In general, all roles will expose students to combating the city’s pressing issues of gentrification, housing insecurity, immigration, and human rights violations through dynamic work that is distinctive to San Francisco’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:** San Francisco is in the Bay Area of California and home to extremely successful companies like Uber, AirBnB, and Reddit. However, due to the rise of such companies, the area has experienced extreme gentrification and income inequality. Most Interns will work on this issue during their internships, but all will see it in their personal journeys around the city. Individuals experiencing homelessness in San Francisco inhabit a distinct culture that is different than other major cities since poverty is so widespread. Additionally, the Bay Area has long been a haven for LGBTQ individuals. San Francisco has the highest percentage LGBTQ population of any American city and that influence remains today, despite rising costs that have affected the character of historic LGBTQ neighborhoods like The Castro. The weather is moderate in the summer, not getting above 80 degrees during the day, and falling into the 50s at night.

**Housing and meals:** Interns are housed together in a lively neighborhood. Students stay in apartments operated by another academic institution and share bedrooms with members of their cohort. They are expected to buy groceries and cook in their shared kitchen. They are expected to follow any rules put in place by their apartment building or complex.

**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 to work.

**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.

* [Community Arts Stabilization Trust (CAST)](https://cast-sf.org/) - a community-centered real estate organization that helps arts organizations build pathways to ownership, enables artists to secure long-term affordable leases, and creates dedicated spaces for cultural connection and exchange.
* [Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation (TNDC)](https://www.tndc.org/) - supports residents and community members in building transformative communities by providing affordable homes with supportive services, wellness opportunities, and community advocacy.
* [Hamilton Families](https://www.hamiltonfamilies.org/) – has a mission to end family homelessness in the San Francisco Bay Area through programs of shelter, transitional housing, rapid re-housing, homelessness prevention, resource referral, and advocacy.
* [Health Leads](https://healthleadsusa.org/) - works locally and nationally to move racial health equity progress more effectively – in partnership and with communities taking the lead. They innovate and spread promising practices on the most complex health equity challenges of today – from maternal health to housing to food security.
* [Compass Family Services](https://www.compass-sf.org/) - helps families secure long-term housing, including a comprehensive range of support services designed specifically for those in distress.
* [Open Door Legal](https://opendoorlegal.org/) - works to achieve universal access to civil legal representation in San Francisco.

As a reminder, students will not be able to select or express preference for a specific CSO or role. They will be matched according to the needs of the CSO and the community it serves.

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

San Francisco Social Impact 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.