

Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains Refugee & Asylee Programs



Internship Description: Youth Employment and Education Intern
Department: Community Programs

About Internships at LFS:

An internship at LFS offers the opportunity to gain a deep understanding of refugee resettlement in the Denver area. Interns will work with individuals from diverse cultures who are forging new beginnings in the United States. Challenging, educational and professional work experience will be gained through professional training and real work assignments that will provide valuable insight to the worlds of refugee resettlement and non-profit organizations. At times, interns will work closely with staff members, and other times independently, managing a workload comparable to LFS staff with the goal of helping advance the mission of LFS. Internships are integrated into the operations at LFS to help build the capacity of the organization while utilizing the diverse skill and talent of the interns. We greatly value the time commitment of each intern.

Description of the Internship:

Interning with Youth Programs is a wonderful opportunity to connect with high school-aged refugee youth while helping them integrate and transition into the American school system. As students adjust to life in America, they face many challenges. Some may not have had the opportunity to receive formal education in their home countries, and some are still learning English so they may fall behind in classes without supplemental support. Mentoring is one of the most important aspects of this program in order to build students' confidence, English language ability and understanding.

This position will support refugee youth ages 15-24 in adjusting to life in the United States by providing services that bolster integration and overall wellbeing. This position will work with a case load of youth, conducting an intake and screening with the youth to identify areas of support for the youth, working over a period of time with the youth to address and improve identified factors through mentoring and advising. Areas of support can include but are not limited to, addressing scholastic concerns (poor attendance/lack of interest in attending school, drop-out prevention, assisting youth with joining extracurricular activities, post-secondary readiness, college admissions processes, employment readiness and job interviews. The intern will maintain a steady relationship with the clients monitoring their improvements and providing mediation wherever necessary in order to support the youth in a healthy transition to adulthood. Depending on interest from the youth this position may be able to conduct regular group meetings with the youth on some specific areas of interest for the youth.

The Youth Programs Intern also has the unique opportunity to serve as a liaison between the youth and the schools though helping newcomers facilitate and navigate the schools programs and resources. Working with youth from varied backgrounds, the Youth Programs Intern's role is instrumental in setting the foundation for a youth's success in the U.S. school system and beyond.

Responsibilities:

- Manages a case load of 10-20 youth
- Works with youth on identified areas of support (addressing scholastic concerns (poor attendance/lack of interest in attending school, drop-out prevention, assisting youth with joining extracurricular activities, post-secondary readiness, college admissions processes, employment readiness and job interviews)
- Updates database and case notes with information regarding youth
- Refers youth to relevant, appropriate neighborhood and school programming.
- Provides equal treatment, compassion and patience to all client groups in accordance with the agency's commitment to the dignity of all persons.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

Qualifications:

- Patience, compassion and understanding in working with clients who may not be fully proficient in the English language.
- Ability to communicate effectively with young clients of diverse backgrounds and abilities.
- Preferred candidate should have an interest in teaching, English, international affairs, social work, political science or related field.
- Experience working in a multicultural environment, foreign language capability a plus.
- Knowledgeable about and sensitivity to the experiences of refugees and immigrants.
- Ability to exercise initiative and judgment and make decisions within the scope of assigned responsibilities.
- Ability to effectively communicate relevant project information to program coordinator, contractors and students.
- Excellent writing and communication skills.
- Colorado Bureau of Investigations background check.
- Current driver's license, current insurance and a reliable vehicle is a plus, but not required.

Time Commitment: TBD

Weekly schedule and hours: TBD

Internship start date: TBD

Internship end date: TBD

Intern will report to: Lauren Dorn, Youth Employment and Education Specialist