

# Yale University

## President's Public Service Fellowship

### Proposal for Fellowship Placement Summer 2024

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#### Organization information

<i>Name of organization</i>	Greater Dwight Development Corporation
<i>Full street address</i>	230 Edgewood Ave, New Haven, CT, 06511
<i>Website or link to social media page</i>	<a href="http://www.gddcnh.org">www.gddcnh.org</a>

#### PPSF Fellow's direct supervisor

<i>Name</i>	Mikhila Pingili
<i>Title</i>	Deputy Director
<i>Cell phone number</i>	3478891205
<i>E-mail address</i>	<a href="mailto:mpingili@gddcnh.org">mpingili@gddcnh.org</a>

**What is the best way for prospective student applicants to contact you with questions about your proposal?**

- Send an e-mail with questions

**Placement dates (8-11 weeks between Tuesday, May 28, 2024 through Friday, August 9, 2024)**

June 1 to August 9 for a total of 10 weeks.

**Are placement dates flexible? Are there any dates on which your Fellow must work?**

Our placement dates are flexible, the only dates that the fellow has to work are dates where surveys or focus groups are scheduled.

**Proposed work schedule**

The proposed work schedule is 30 hours or more per week, some of which can be remote work. The hours are negotiable, and will likely include some weekend and evening hours to facilitate meetings with the community.

**If a hybrid schedule is offered at your site, please describe:**

We do offer a hybrid schedule, the fellow can choose to work at the office, or at home when doing information gathering, etc. Some meetings will be held via zoom, but there will be in person meetings with the community on weekend and evening hours.

**Organization description (*mission statement, population served. 1,000 characters or less*)**

GDDC is a grassroots community organization formed by 7 women in 1994 due to the community's desire to address the problems of drugs, gangs and crime on the streets in the neighborhood. Our mission is to enhance the socio-economic well-being of Dwight residents by creating and implementing the Neighborhood Plan, increasing access to educational and child-development activities; increasing access to job training, revitalizing housing by developing affordable housing, undertaking community beautification projects; encouraging economic development by expanding existing business and attracting new businesses. Our accomplishments include Dwight Place Shopping Center, the Montessori School on Edgewood, and the Community Space at Amistad, a First Time Home Buyers Program, and over 300 home repairs through the HAP Program. The population that we serve is the Greater Dwight Neighborhood, which is a predominantly minority community that is also a persistent poverty neighborhood.

**Write a 1-2 sentence summary of the work that the Fellow would be conducting.**

The Yale Fellow will help build the next phase of a remarkable 30-year community development initiative. In collaboration with GDDC's community engagement coordinator and DCMT members, the Fellow will help organize and document a community conversation designed to consolidate the community-driven character of Dwight's work, and to draw on past plans and accomplishments and data and survey results to facilitate discussion of current challenges.

**Write a more complete description of the specific project you propose and list the duties/outcomes expected of the Fellow.**

In 1994, a group of neighborhood activists who had formed the Greater Dwight Development Corporation (GDDC) partnered with Yale's Office of New Haven Affairs, Architecture's Urban Design Workshop (UDW), and the Law School Clinic to initiate a community-driven process of resident consultation, planning, and advocacy that set the stage for extensive neighborhood renewal and development. In 2024, GDDC and DCMT are embarking on a re-intensified process of community engagement to ensure that the next round of neighborhood planning -- and the future work of these neighborhood organizations and their partners -- is driven by and accountable to a broad, active group of neighborhood residents.

To this end, the Fellow will work with GDDC's community organizer and the DCMT to deepen, diversify, and expand resident participation in the planning process that will launch with a 30th-anniversary celebration scheduled for October 3, 2024.

Duties/outcomes will include:

1. Help follow up on a community discussion about what GDDC has accomplished to date, and how. This session is planned for spring 2024, based on a process of documenting the 30-year story of community development in Dwight that the GDDC organizer and a group of Yale students will launch in the spring semester.
  - The Fellow will follow up with [and help build out a list of] participating residents – and particularly with youth from the neighborhood -- to solicit their interest in being involved in and helping to recruit others for upcoming conversations, the 30th anniversary celebration, and the neighborhood planning process.
2. Help organize a community discussion of a current and anticipated challenge identified by DCMT/GDDC, to gather input on resident concerns and daily challenges. Possible issue frameworks include housing, health, the environment, and climate change.
  - The Fellow will coordinate with YUDW and its summer Fellow on the design of this session, to ensure that it helps inform their development of the formal neighborhood planning process to be launched in October.
  - The Fellow will help pull together various materials to be presented at the session, including: data and survey information collected by GDDC/DCMT, and relevant highlights of the spring discussion about the implications of past experience for future challenges and strategies.

- The Fellow will document the event, and provide GDDC/DCMT with a synopsis to be circulated among participants and the broader community.

**List any specific skills/experience required for the project**

Should have experience with and interest in community engagement which need not be related to neighborhood development. We are interested in a candidate who is committed to helping organizations and community residents identify and pursue their own challenges, priorities and potential solutions.

Must have excellent interpersonal, oral and written communication skills.

**Additional requirements**

N/A

**Briefly describe any work that Yale PPSF Fellows and/or Yale students have done with your organization.**

We have worked with Yale students extensively on past and current projects. We have worked with the Yale Urban Design Workshop (YUDW) on the design and development of our current offices, and are working with them on the renovation of 1377 Ella Grasso Blvd. YUDW is also our partner on the Environmental Justice Small Grants Program. This project helps us learn more and inform the neighborhood on the effects of air quality on health, and quality of life. YUDW was also instrumental in creating the 1996 and 2007 Dwight neighborhood plans, which have informed much of the work that GDDC does. They are also working with us on the new neighborhood plan, which will also include a documentary that will highlight the work that GDDC has done in the neighborhood over the last 30 years.

We have also worked extensively with the Yale Law Clinic on our past and current projects. The students of the clinic have helped us draft and review contracts, and help us on the work that we are undertaking. This work runs the gamut from the revision of our bylaws, to helping us get zoning variances for our projects.

We are also working with the School of Management Social Impact Club for this academic year. The students who were assigned to us will work with us on feasibility studies for the organization and its subsidiaries.