

Public Service and Civic Engagement Pathways

Internship experiences at approved RSSI sites must belong to one of the five public service pathways.

I. Community-Engaged Learning and Research

Community-Engaged Learning and Research means connecting coursework and academic research to community-identified concerns to enrich knowledge and inform action on social issues.

Important Definitions for this Pathway:

- Community-engaged Learning: experiential education where students apply their academic studies to experiences in the community

Internship Criteria for this Pathway:

- The intern will regularly perform research, writing, and/or data analysis tasks on relevant topics and policies concerning the population(s) the organization serves.
- The intern's output(s) will be used by the organization to determine actionable items that the organization will enact in service of their clients and/or community.
 - Actionable items may include community organizing, activism, legislative advocacy, public policy, community outreach, etc.

Sample Internship Positions: Research, Data Analysis, Education

II. Community Organizing and Activism

Community Organizing and Activism means involving, educating, and mobilizing individual or collective action to influence or persuade others.

Important Definitions for this Pathway:

- Community Organizing: relationship-building, coalition-building, and/or leadership development for policy advocacy that enacts systemic change
- Activism: coordinating direct actions (campaigns, focused events) and statements on specific social issues/injustices that raise awareness and advocates for change.

Internship Criteria for this Pathway:

- The intern will regularly engage in community organizing and/or activism tasks and projects as those terms are defined above.

Sample Internship Positions: Outreach, Community Organizing, Communications, Advocacy

III. Direct Service

Direct Service means working to address the immediate needs of individuals or a community, often involving contact with the people or places being served.

Sample Internship Positions: Clinical, Client Services, Programming, Support Services

IV. Philanthropy

Philanthropy means donating or using private funds or charitable contributions from individuals or institutions to contribute to the public good.

Sample Internship Positions: Programming, Development, Fundraising, Grant Writing

V. Policy and Governance

Policy and Governance means participating in political processes, policymaking, and public governance

Sample Internship Positions: Legislation, Policy, Advocacy, Constituent Services, District Office