



Pregnancy, Parenting and Adoption Program

Internship: Pregnancy Options Counseling

Catholic Charities calls the community to action to join us in addressing the root causes of poverty, hunger, and homelessness by serving, educating, and empowering all those in need

Position: Pregnancy Options Counseling Internship (*unpaid*)

Location: 1421 Mockingbird Ln, Dallas, TX 75247

Time commitment: 480 hours completed within 1 semester.

240 hours completed per semester within 2 semesters

Site hours: As discussed and agreed upon by on-site supervisor.

MSW and BSW Supervision Available

Supervisor: Sheri Reynolds, BSW, LCPAA

Pregnancy, Parenting & Adoption Program Manager

sreynolds@ccdallas.org

Mission: Pregnancy, Parenting, and Adoption

Catholic Charities is committed to protecting and supporting vulnerable people, including women facing unplanned or crisis pregnancies, their unborn children, as well as their partners and families. Our hope is to enable women and families to make the healthiest and most informed decisions, even in difficult situations. Our focus is on strengthening families and our goal is to nurture each family we see and help them to create a stable and loving home environment for their children.

Program Background

Catholic Charities Pregnancy and Parenting Program provides options counseling to women in crisis and needing support. The case manager works closely with the mother (and her partner if they are involved) in identifying their strengths, who their existing support systems are, and what their immediate needs are. Through one-on-one counseling the case manager works to build a trusting and open relationship with the client and assist with any referrals needed. If creating an adoption plan is ultimately what the expectant mother (and father) decide is best for their child, the case manager walks with them through every step. PP&A promotes open adoption to prospective birth families however if a birth parent chooses to have a closed adoption that request is honored and only information they want shared will be shared with prospective adoptive families. Case manager assists birth families through the selection and matching process, meeting the adoptive family, creating a plan for the hospital, ensuring that birth mom is receiving medical care throughout her pregnancy, post placement support, and much more. Most children placed through this program are newborns to toddlers 2 years of age.

Internship Description

Interns will have the opportunity to assist families with applying for benefits, make referrals, maintain, and audit files to ensure compliance with minimum standards and contract requirements. Interns will work closely with case managers to advocate for birth parents during the selection and matching process with adoptive families along with postplacement visits once a child is placed in their adoptive home through finalization. Interns will also be asked to help support other programs within PP&A as needed. This internship will provide an opportunity to work partner agencies such as maternity homes, crisis pregnancy centers, hospitals, birth parents (possibly their extended family members), and many more individuals.

Primary Goals

- Case Managers provide birth families in crisis the immediate and long-term support they need.
- Case Manager provides options counseling and support. Whether a birth parent chooses to make an adoption plan or decides to parent their child staff are there to create a safe and nonjudgmental space to find success for the parent.
- PP&A always promotes open adoptions for birth families who choose adoption. This requires strong and thorough counseling, consistent support, detailed supervision, and assistance with additional resources and referrals for all parties involved.
- PP&A strives to build solid relationships with healthy and respectful boundaries between birth families and adoptive families that will last a lifetime. We believe this is in the best interest of birth families, adoptive families, and most importantly the children they all love

Intended Outcome

Interns act as an extension to the Pregnancy/Options case manager. Interns will be provided the opportunity to work directly with birth families and assist them through their journey of deciding whether they want to parent or make an adoption plan is in the best interest of their baby. Case manager will look to interns for support with daily, weekly, monthly, and quarterly tasks. The goal is to provide interns with real world experiences when working in the field of adoption in collaboration with the Infant case manager and other community partners (such as crisis pregnancy centers, maternity homes, hospitals, and others). The Infant Program has a goal of at least 8 adoptions this year which interns can play a pivotal role in helping reach through their work with birth families.

Responsibilities Include

- Assist with processing inquiries/intakes from prospective birth families thru phone calls.
- Attend and participate in orientations, trainings, one-on-one counseling sessions (in office, client homes, medical facilities, and neutral locations such as restaurants and parks). As well as match meetings, post placement visits, court hearings, waiting family group meetings, and other meetings/activities as needed or required.
- Assist with file maintenance and audits.
- Making and returning phone calls and emails as requested.
- Assist with PP&A's Parenting Program. This consists of attending and engage in parenting classes, handing out diapers and other material items, invoicing and billing in compliance with CCD's contract with TPCN, assist with organizing the back storage area, and make phone calls as needed to these clients.
- Complete required PP&A trainings provided through DFPS, OC-OK, and TPCN within the first 30 days.
- Other duties as needed/assigned based on program needs.

Values of a Successful Intern

- Service – Giving of ourselves and welcoming all.
- Compassion – Treating all with empathy, care and consideration.
- Integrity – Doing what is just, honest and merciful.
- Respect – Acknowledging the dignity and worth of every person.
- Commitment – Giving attention, energy and passion to all we do.

How to Apply

Please send the following items to the Volunteer Manager: volunteer@ccdallas.org

- Resume
- Internship you would like to apply for
- School requirements if using internship to receive school credit
- Internship length and time commitment
- Goal Statement of what candidate would like to accomplish with an internship at Catholic Charities Dallas

Process Steps

1. Application is reviewed by Catholic Charities Staff.
2. After review, program staff will directly contact candidate.
3. An interview will be set up with the program manager and intern.
4. After successful completion of the interview and both parties choose to move forward, you complete your internship on boarding of: background check, online training, submit 3 references that will be contacted as character references.
5. You will then be formally placed in the internship and can begin on a previously approved start date