

Catholic Charities:

Grant Writing

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Hi! My name is
Rebekah
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Social Justice Internship Program

This last year I have been able to intern with Catholic Charities because of the Social Justice Internship Program. The Social Justice Internship Grant Program is a year-long, 250–275 hour internship experience where students have the opportunity to intern with Misericordia, Catholic Charities, ONE Northside, Girlforward, and Forging Opportunities for Refugees in America.

Catholic Charities



My internship was with Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities fulfills the mission of charity to anyone in need by providing compassionate, competent, and professional services to individuals, families, and communities based on the value and dignity of human life. They achieve this goal by offering many different services, including:

- 01 CHILD, YOUTH, & FAMILY SERVICES
- 02 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & OUTREACH
- 03 FAMILY & PARISH SUPPORT SERVICES
- 04 HOUSING SERVICES
- 05 SENIOR SERVICES

Community Development

One common question in grants is “How will your program cooperate with community programs.” This is because many funders want services to be Community Asset-based. Catholic Charities does this by cooperating with existing local programs to provide services.

Problem

“Silo-based” social justice. This is when an outside program works independently of local, community services.

Solution

Asset-Based Community Development. Catholic Charities sees the community programs that are already benefiting people in a community, and unite together for a common cause.



What are Government Grants?


And why are they important?

A government grant is a financial award given by the federal, state, or local government to fund some type of beneficial project. The Grant

Writing Department at Catholic Charities finds

the grants for which the agency is eligible, and does the necessary research and writing to fill out the application in order to receive funds for different projects and for all of the services Catholic Charities provides.





Without funding,
amazing
programs only
remain amazing
ideas.

Power and Organizing

There are many factors that go into creating and running a successful program targeting social justice issues. However, one of the biggest factors is adequate funding. Grant writing helps obtain this funding so that programs can focus on helping those in need rather than worrying about a lack of resources.

My Role:

Because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, my internship has been online. During my time here, I learned the ins and outs of grant writing by working through mock grant applications, and assisting the grant writing team with the writing and research necessary to complete current, active government grant applications. We analyze a need in a community and demonstrate to funders how Catholic Charities' programs are able to address the issue.



Learning Objectives

KNOWLEDGE

I will better understand the positions and programs in the organization and their roles to learn more about my preferred work style and environment.



SOCIAL JUSTICE

I will develop my research skill through finding and analyzing facts and statistics useful for grant proposal questions.

SKILLS

I will improve my professional writing skills by writing responses for grant RFP questions.



My Projects:

Learning

The first step was learning what government grants are, how to read proposals, and how to apply Catholic Charities mission and values to applications. My first projects included a lot of deep-diving into previous grants and the services CC offers.



Writing

Grants require persuasive writing and active language which was a different writing technique than what I was used to. To learn how to write for grants, I had a few projects working on mock grant applications using questions from grant proposals from previous years.



Research

Grant application questions require factual evidence to prove a need for the grant. Therefore, I learned how to navigate different research sites such as the US Census, Chicago Health Atlas, CMAP, and many more to improve my research skills for grant writing.



All Together!

Incorporating all the skills I learned, I participated in an active grant for Catholic Charities. I worked on the Community Identification section for the ICIRR- New Americans Initiative grant. I researched and proved the need for citizenship resources for multiple CC locations.



Brief Reflection

I am extremely grateful for my time as a Grant Writing Intern at Catholic Charities. I was interested in the behind the scenes of nonprofit work, and now I can say that I understand more about how the different programs function and what it takes to provide them resources. My writing skills have improved as well as my ability to research and analyze data. I have learned so much about the social justice issues that exist today in Chicago because of the research I have done for grant writing. I'm also extremely thankful for my supervisors Sarah Ogle and Laura Mizicko for putting up with my endless questions and reminding me that the most important part of any internship is to keep learning.

Thanks!

Do you have any questions regarding my Social
Justice Internship?
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