



Internships and Volunteering at the Coalition

The Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition is a statewide organization with its main office in New Paltz. Our office is at 108 Main Street and only a five-minute walk from SUNY New Paltz. ***Please note that events may be virtual due to the hybrid nature of our current and there is an expectation that interns will be able to complete work virtually, as needed.***

About Us

Incorporated in 1975, The Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition of New York:

- Provides support, information, and advocacy for foster/kinship care/adopted children and their families as well as related professionals in New York State.
- Educates legislators, government leaders, and the public about the needs and realities of foster/kinship care/adoptive families.
- Collaborates with child welfare agencies and other groups to ensure that families are best able to support and parent the children in their homes.
- Represents the viewpoint of the family unit.
- Works to improve and expand the services available to children and families.

Our Mission

The Coalition unites foster, adoptive, and kinship care families, giving them a voice and providing support, information and advocacy. By fostering communication and collaboration between families, agencies, and concerned citizens, we seek to ensure the stability, well-being, and permanency of all children touched by the child welfare system.

Our Vision

No foster, adoptive, or kinship care family in New York State will feel alone or unsupported, and all such families will have the tools, support, and community they need to nurture their children and be role models for others.

Our Goals

- Educate and support foster/kinship care/adoptive parents and the professionals who serve them by utilizing information-sharing, services, peer support, and referral.
 - Improve services available to children and families.
 - Increase citizen involvement in local service planning and delivery.
 - Educate leaders and stakeholders about the realities, challenges, and rewards of foster/kinship care/adoptive parenting.
 - Advocate for greater support of foster/kinship care/adoptive families by federal, state, and local agencies.
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The following tasks are examples of potential internships and volunteer opportunities. **Not all opportunities are available every semester**, and responsibilities are determined on a case-by-case basis.

Research and Information:

A large part of what the Coalition does is provide up-to-date information for foster, adoptive, and kinship families that are not available elsewhere and/or are easy to understand. Interns can play an important role in researching and synthesizing new and evolving topics or updating information on current topics. *An excellent project for sociology majors and/or those with a human services concentration looking for a macro-level view of the human services field.*

Advocacy and Legislation:

The Coalition advocates on behalf of foster, adoptive and kinship families in Albany and New York City. Interns can play a role in developing and promoting our advocacy agenda and in coordinating/participating in visits with legislators. *A good option for political science and sociology majors, and/or those with a human services concentration.*

Writing Mini Curricula:

Work with Coalition staff to develop mini curricula that can be used for informational and training sessions with foster, kinship, and adoptive parents and professionals. Topics to be considered might include; trauma-informed care, how to work with your case worker, preparing a child for transition, etc. *A great opportunity for students with a psychology, sociology, and/or human services focus.* (Mandatory for all interns)

Social Media and Publicity:

The Coalition has a growing presence on social media. In addition, the Coalition published a bi-monthly newsletter via MailChimp. Assistance is needed with providing and distributing content on our social media accounts, creating newsletters, and publicizing the work of the Coalition and issues important to foster and adoptive families via traditional media statewide. *Perfect for Communication majors and others.*

Website/Network Updating, Maintenance, and Redesign:

Assistance is needed in updating content as needed – this involves research, writing, and communicating with staff and other organizations. *Perfect for Communications majors, marketing majors, and others.*

If interested in interning or volunteering at the Coalition or know of a student who is, please send over a resume, any course requirements, proposed length of internship, and scheduling possibilities to Amy Drayer (amy@affcn.org) at (646) 688-4321.