

FamilyForward's Mission

To better serve the community, Children's Home Society of Missouri and Family Resource Center officially united to become FamilyForward on April 1, 2017. Together, the agencies have 169 years of experience helping children and families. FamilyForward is a movement and the name for the merged entity of two of St. Louis' most accomplished, leading-edge non-profit organizations. FamilyForward is the direction for hope and for new opportunities to build safer, healthier relationships for children and families.

FamilyForward's mission is to move vulnerable children in the direction of hope by delivering comprehensive therapeutic and educational services to support biological, foster, and adoptive families. We strive to be a leader in the community in providing innovative solutions, evidenced-based practices, and utilizing partnerships to provide services that lead to better outcomes for the families that we serve and the surrounding communities. Our Core Values include *Out Front*: We are leaders in the use of innovative tools and methods to get better results for the children and families we serve. We prefer to set the pace, testing new ideas and collecting data, always striving to make the biggest impact we can. *Whole Hearted*: We are tirelessly committed to the vision and mission of FamilyForward. We use our unique talents and expertise to serve our clients and community with compassion, acceptance, and respect. and *Rock Solid*: We are responsible stewards of an organization with a long and proud history of service. Reliable, trustworthy, and hard-working, we do whatever it takes to get the job done, even when no one is watching.



Program Aim

Our program aim is to prepare psychologists for entry level practice in clinical psychology with an emphasis on psychological evaluations and trauma-informed care.

Clinical Areas of Focus

Psychological Assessment

Interns complete psychological assessments as a significant part of their internship year. Evaluations are adapted to the specific needs and presenting problems of the client and family. As such, each evaluation, report, and feedback session are unique. Interns practice applying a variety of concepts from DEIB initiatives, diagnostics, theory, current research, evidenced based practices, and therapeutic interventions when completing assessments. Further, they are trained to use trauma-informed approaches throughout psychological evaluations with a heavy influence on strength-based conceptualization.

Therapeutic Intervention and Treatment

Interns develop the necessary skills to implement trauma-informed therapeutic intervention. The nature of the internship program being housed in the Developmental Trauma Center at FamilyForward provides the intern with opportunities to provide consultation

services among the rest of the assessment and therapy teams, provide warm handoffs to help bridge assessment and therapy services, engage in individual, parent, and group therapy with clients and families, and assist in developing interventions and implementing interventions with psychoeducational groups and with the Therapeutic Preschool. Therapeutic intervention will rely on evidence-based practices and trauma informed care. In addition to more traditional models of care, interns are involved with IEP meetings, treatment team meetings, and other medical or mental health appointments at the client's request. During these meetings, interns communicate their conceptualization of the client, advocate for the client's needs, and relay information about trauma and the functional impact of trauma-related symptoms to help other providers increase their understanding of the client and how to support them. Approximately 10-20% of the intern's work week will involve a variety of these intervention services, which may be adjusted based on interest level and need of service. Interns create a centralized location where children and their families can turn for services and/or referrals for each stage of life and develop an environment of respect and acceptance of all families.

Consultation

Interns develop ethical, professional, intentional, and culturally sensitive skills, prepared for entry level practice as a specialized psychologist through the use of individual supervision, peer/case consultation, seminars, readings, and research. They explore models of consultation in order to

establish skills to partner with a variety of community members.

Supervision

Interns apply supervision knowledge in direct or simulated practice in order to build skills of observing, evaluating, and giving guidance and feedback.



Intern Work Assignments

- Psychology Interns are full-time employees of FamilyForward expected to work 40 hours per week for the duration of 12 months. They will complete roughly 2000 hours within the 12-month internship, with an anticipated start date in August and end date of August of the following year.
- It is expected that a minimum of 50% of the interns' 40-hour work week will include direct client services, which equates to 20 hours weekly. Included within direct client services is face-to-face time with clients, which will encompass a minimum of 10 hours weekly.
- Most of the interns' work will occur during the hours of 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. However, we value being flexible with the families we serve and there may be occasional client sessions that occur outside of this window. Moreover, psychoeducational and support groups, as well as group therapy, occur in the evenings to accommodate client schedules, in which interns may have the opportunity to participate.
- The agency will assign case load based on the experience of staff, needs of clients, and needs of the

program as a whole. The interns will carry a caseload of approximately 3 psychological testing clients per month. Caseloads will be adjusted based on the complexity of the case and non-direct service time as needed.

- Within an intern's workweek, 10-20% of time will be allocated to intervention services in the format of individual, group, or family therapy; facilitation of psychoeducational groups or therapeutic summer camps; consultation and collaboration with other mental health professionals within or outside of our organization; and development of programs, interventions, and treatment plans.
- Interns are expected to consult with their supervisors at any time if they feel they cannot adequately service the caseload assigned. As services are provided, the interns keep up-to-date records, which are cosigned by supervisors.
- Interns will participate in 2-hour weekly didactic seminars focused on clinical skills and professional growth.



Expectations of Intern

Over the course of the internship year, the intern is expected to develop the following competencies:

- Intervention – skilled in selecting and applying evidenced-based interventions and clinical decision making

- Consultation and Inter-professional/Interdisciplinary Skills – knowledge and respect for others' roles and perspectives; familiar with models of consulting and application of skills
- Assessment – knowledge of diagnostics, role of client history and context, understanding and use of assessment tools and literature; skilled in application and interpretation of data along with communication of results
- Supervision – knowledge of supervision models and practice along with skills to apply that knowledge
- Communication and Interpersonal Skills – effective in developing and maintaining professional relationships and communicating appropriately
- Professional Values and Attitudes – values and attitudes of psychology are reflected in behavior; self-reflective; open and responsive to feedback; professional composure
- Individual and Cultural Diversity – value and understand role of own context, biases, history, and attitudes; knowledge of theory regarding diversity in role; applies knowledge in clinical and professional relationships
- Ethical and Legal Standards – knowledgeable and responsive to APA ethics, professional standards and guidelines, and code of conduct; ethical in behavior and consults as needed
- Research – able to evaluate research and incorporate into practice

Intern Selection

FamilyForward offers two full-time internship positions. Applicants interested in applying should submit an

online application through the APPIC website (www.appic.org) using the APPIC Application for Psychology Internships (AAPI). Applicants who do not submit their application via the AAPI will not be considered.

Application materials include:

1. A completed online AAPI
2. Cover letter
3. CV
4. Three letters of recommendation
5. Official transcript

Applicants who have met the following qualification prior to beginning internship are considered preferred:

- Minimum of 200 intervention hours
- Minimum of 100 assessment hours
- Dissertation proposal successfully defended
- Comprehensive examinations completed
- In good standing within program
- Minimum of three years of graduate training and diagnostic training or experience with the DSM-5
- Graduate program is accredited by APA, CPA, or PCSAS, or program is regionally accredited

Preferred candidates will have experience or interest in systems and attachment theory, assessment, and trauma-informed care.

We look forward to your interest in our internship program. If you have any questions concerning the application process, please contact the training director.

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Accreditation Status

We are an APPIC member. Our internship program has been awarded Accreditation, on Contingency by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association (APA).

Questions related to the program's accredited status should be directed to the Commission on Accreditation:

Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation

American Psychological Association
750 1st Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002

Phone: (202) 336-5979 / E-mail:
apaaccred@apa.org

Web: www.apa.org/ed/accreditation