

Choices Offers Paid and Stipend Internships – March 2023 -

It is with profound excitement and gratitude that we announce the award of 1.15 million dollars to Choices, Inc. from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) for workforce development, specifically in the areas of behavioral health and substance use disorders. At Choices, our mission is to create a safe, supportive, and respectful recovery community where adolescents struggling with addiction and mental illness can reclaim and restore all aspects of their lives. We work in partnership with the adolescent and family to provide wrap-around support in pursuit of a healthy, meaningful life. We work with adolescents who are marginalized and often invisible. In Massachusetts, the behavioral health crisis has been compounded by the effects of a worsening opioid epidemic coupled with ongoing effects of the COVID19 pandemic. According to a recent study by the Association for Behavioral Healthcare, recruitment and retention issues have contributed to vacancies and high turnover rates resulting in extended waitlists for services of nearly 14,000 individuals in Massachusetts.

Choices plans to address this critical issue as a job-training program with three goals in mind: 1) to provide paid internships where Bachelors and Masters level students can receive the requisite experience and skills training they need for their career; 2) to support workforce diversity by folding in diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) measures in internship candidate selection and 3) to offer a direct hire pipeline to job opportunities within the behavioral health sector with our Work Ready Employer Network. This funding provides a stipend for living expenses (up to 19,000 dollars per intern depending on length of internship), as well as a 15-20 dollar per hour rate of pay, depending on the level of school program. We seek interns who are interested in the behavioral health or substance use disorder fields, and who might benefit from a financially well supported internship. In addition to the paid internships inclusive of hourly pay and a living expense stipend, monthly professional development sessions inclusive of cultural sensitivity, on-the-job readiness, clinical applications, etc. and field training along with job shadowing and job rotation experiences will be provided. This funded opportunity runs from 3/2023-3/2025 and it is our commitment to place 35 interns (15 BA level and 20 MA level) over this time.

We are excited to make a difference and look forward to hearing from all those who share our passion for supporting youth.

Gratefully

Billy

Billy Beers
Founder
Choices Inc
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Choices is a register 501c3 non profit organization