

# **MSW Student Field Practicum**

## **Some important questions to ask when contacting an agency**

1. Do you take MSW level students for practicum/internships?
2. Do you have a MSW-level social worker on staff who can provide at least 1 hour of supervision per week. How long have they been working at your agency?
3. If the answer to number 2 is no, then ask if they have any social workers with their MSW on the agency Board or in an affiliated program who could provide supervision.
4. On average I will need to work approximately 18 hours per week (for fall/spring) or 24 hours per week (for summer). Can your agency accommodate that many hours for students?
5. Does your agency require its own background check? If so, how long does that usually take to process before I can begin my practicum? Do I have to pay for the background check?
6. (If needed) Does your agency offer the opportunity to work evening and/or weekend hours?

## **Some important questions to ask at your agency interview**

**Do your homework. Ask specific questions. Know the agency.**

1. What are some learning opportunities for MSW students at your agency?
2. What are some of the tasks/projects that previous practicum students have accomplished at your agency?
3. Do you require your students to work a consistent schedule or are you flexible in terms of days/hours?
4. Will I be able to have direct client contact?
5. How many different individuals will I be able to work with while at the agency? What are their professional backgrounds?
6. Will I be able to attend board meetings and other organizational events?
7. Do you have any training materials that I could review after our interview?

## **Now it's the agency's turn!**

**Be prepared to answer the following questions. Do your homework. Know the agency.**

1. What do you hope to gain from this practicum?
2. Why do you want to become a social worker?
3. What type of social work do you want to do once you graduate?
4. Why are you specifically interested in doing a practicum at our agency?
5. What do you know about our agency?
6. What types of social work or social work related volunteer experience have you had?