

## **Austin Voices for Education and Youth** *Austin, Texas*

**Purpose of Mission:** Founded in 2003, Austin Voices for Education and Youth is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to encouraging school reform efforts, building a new generation of young leaders and supporting Austin families to reduce social and economic barriers for students. Starting in 2007, Austin Voices developed the Family Resource Center model that now supports 11 campuses in 2 school districts. Part of an innovative community-based school reform model, the FRCs support low-income families with comprehensive supports, including access to healthcare, employment assistance, housing, education and counseling, as well as emergency food and clothing. In 4 years, the FRCs have increased attendance and reduced mobility at several of Austin's highest need campuses.

**Job Title or Position:** Neighborhood Research Assistant for Middle School Family Resource Center

**Responsibilities:** Intern would work with Family Resource Center project director Julie Weeks, along with FRC staff, to develop a project around a particular community need. Past interns have surveyed communities for access to diabetes care, housing needs, asthma, health insurance and other issues. Intern would work with staff to develop a plan to improve services. Intern would also support summer programming at the FRC, including adult education and children's activities, and could be asked to assist in data entry or other basic functions of the center. Intern would also take part in "community conversations" with neighbors in the St. John and surrounding communities, aimed at building capacity and leadership around key neighborhood needs.

**Qualifications:** Intern should be comfortable having conversations with community members, as well as doing neighborhood research. Being able to function as part of a team is key. Some background or interest in healthcare, community development, social services or working in at-risk communities is a plus, as is a working knowledge of Spanish (not required, but helpful).

**Working Conditions:** Intern will work in a team environment, and will have access to a computer at the FRC. Intern will also spend some time outside in the community, as well as attending meetings or community conversations in local community spaces. Austin is hot in the summer, so intern will need to plan their schedule around outdoor conditions.

**On Site Supervisor/Mentor:**

Julie Weeks

Family Resource Center Project Director, Austin Voices for Education and Youth

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**Mentorship Plan:** June 11-August 3 (9 weeks, including week of July 4). Intern will work directly with FRC Project Director of Austin Voices. Two weeks shadowing FRC Project Director, with discussion of focused intern projects. Six weeks of working on particular project. One week of project wrap up and presentation to AVEY team and colleagues. Intern will participate in bi-weekly AVEY staff meetings, and will debrief weekly with FRC Director.

**Preparation:** List of books and articles will be sent in Spring 2012 for background preparation.