

CSU Extension Internship Application

Family Leadership Training Institute (FLTI) of Colorado at CSU Extension

Interdepartmental Partners: Human Development and Family Studies and the Department of Social Work

Title: Building the Civic Capacity of Colorado Communities for Community-Driven Change

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Collaborative Department Mentor (Faculty member): Paula Yuma, School of Social Work, paula.yuma@colostate.edu

Internship Opportunity Snapshot:

Join this exciting and innovative CSU Extension driven effort to validate a newly developed tool for communities and groups to assess their civic capacity for community-driven change. This first of its kind effort involves working with civic and leadership experts on campus and off as we work closely with Colorado communities to bring decision makers and community members together to explore how they can learn, plan and act together. This internship is focused on utilizing a tool called the Civic Capacity Index that measures current gaps in how communities work together and identifies areas to strengthen community collaboration. This internship opportunity will feature opportunities for:

- Hands on experience using a diagnostic tool in the field to support building community resilience
- Working with experts to design trainings and materials for communities to build civic capacity,
- Piloting the use of the Civic Capacity Index in urban and rural communities,
- Connecting with local, regional and state community organizations and government offices in outreach efforts,
- Working behind the scenes with the FLTI of Colorado staff and faculty on campus related to this important civic capacity building work
- Experience researching, assessing data, communicating what is learned and writing for publication
- Opportunity to work with diverse audiences around the state of Colorado (virtually and in person if COVID restrictions are lifted)

What is the Family Leadership Training Institute of Colorado at CSU Extension?

The Family Leadership Training Institute (FLTI) of Colorado at CSU Extension is a one of kind community leadership initiative focused on building individual and community capacity for inclusive collaboration and civic engagement by bringing diverse voices (those most often left out of public conversations) to the decision-making table. FLTI promotes greater collaboration between individuals, families, institutions, public administrators, and elected officials as they seek strategies to respond to pressing community social, health, and economic issues.

What is the Civic Capacity Index?

The **Civic Capacity Index** is a research based measure of a community's civic capacity to respond to challenges and disruptions like the coronavirus and was created by a national panel of researchers and practitioners who are experts in the field of community leadership. Civic capacity is tied to a communities ability to learn, plan and act together.

Communities and regions with a high capacity for community-driven change are characterized by:

- a collective and pervasive capacity to exercise leadership for the common good from any part of the community or region;
- a willingness to confront overarching issues such as racism, discrimination, and social injustice that prevent real progress on other, substantive challenges;
- the commitment and support of authority figures and institutions for constructive civic engagement;
- a default civic culture that encourages civic engagement and the organic creation of coalitions that can work, learn, and act together in pursuit of the common good.

Mentorship Opportunity:

This internship will provide a student with an opportunity to work closely with the FLTI team and our lead researcher with the Department of Human Development and Family Studies, Dr. David MacPhee. Additionally, Dr. Paula Yuma, in the Department of Social Work will provide mentorship for this work and its connection to designing community intervention strategies for community level impacts. We anticipate this work will fall in both the Community

Development PRU as well as the Individual, Family, and Community Well-being PRU. Most work will happen on campus, but there will be an opportunity to travel. FLTI has limited budget to pay for travel.