The Staten Island Foundation Elizabeth Dubovsky Fellowship in Social Work

Application Guidelines for Host Organizations

**Background:**

The Staten Island Foundation (Foundation) was created in December 1997 by the former Staten Island Savings Bank when the Bank converted to a public company. Our mission is to improve the quality of life in Staten Island, especially for the least advantaged. Since its inception, the Foundation has granted more than $76 million in the focus areas of health, education, arts, and community services. To learn more about the Foundation, see [www.thestatenislandfoundation.org](http://www.thestatenislandfoundation.org).

When Elizabeth Dubovsky (known to most people as “Betsy”), The Staten Island Foundation’s first Executive Director, passed away suddenly in February 2021, the Foundation looked for a way to celebrate her life and work that would capture the spirit of this dedicated and inspiring woman. The Foundation Board and staff, in consultation with Betsy’s family, believe that creating a professional learning opportunity in social work in Betsy’s name is the right approach.

Betsy led the Foundation for over 20 years and often introduced herself as a social worker, emphasizing that this was the perspective that guided her thinking about how the resources of the Foundation could improve the quality of life on Staten Island. Betsy received her MSW from The Graduate School of Social Work at Rutgers University in January 1975. She began her career as director of social work at Eger Lutheran Homes and Services Inc. She was the first social worker of the Staten Island Visiting Nurse Association and then served at the Community Agency for Senior Citizens, at the YMCA, and the American Red Cross.

The Staten Island Foundation Elizabeth Dubovsky Fellowship in Social Work (the Fellowship) seeks to incorporate some of the values that Betsy championed as the Foundation’s Executive Director:

- The importance of life-long learning
- Empowering residents to create their own solutions to community challenges
- Working collaboratively across whole systems
- Including principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion to achieve better outcomes

The Foundation intends that, over time, a cadre of Fellows will develop, representing a broad range of experiences and backgrounds who reflect these values.
**Mission Statement**

The mission of The Staten Island Foundation Elizabeth Dubovsky Fellowship in Social Work is to strengthen the local social work field by supporting emerging professionals. Through the Foundation’s network of nonprofit and other partners, Fellows will expand their capacity to work in collaboration with community in order to improve outcomes for the Staten Island residents they serve.

**Program Guidelines**

The Foundation will provide grants of up to $50,000 each to two Staten Island-based nonprofits to host Fellows. The funds provided by the Foundation will be restricted to use for the Fellow’s stipend, professional development for the Fellow’s mentor, and Fellowship program administration. Once the host organizations have been selected, the Foundation will work with the host organization to establish a budget that establishes the amount of stipend based on the number of days and hours worked and the scope of the Fellow’s assigned responsibilities. Fellowship administration will not exceed 10% of the total award. The award of a Fellowship grant will not preclude the host organization from requesting grant support from the Foundation for another purpose.

The program will be announced in the fall of 2021. Staten Island based nonprofits may apply to act as a Fellowship host organization by December 1st, 2021. Selection of two host organizations will take place in early 2022. Organizations that are selected may not be precluded from applying to serve as a host in subsequent years, but it is expected that the Foundation will offer the opportunity to a wide range of local organizations over time. The Fellowships will begin in the fall of 2022.

The host organization will work with the Foundation to develop an application for fellowship candidates. Applicants will meet the requirements for host organization internships as well as Fellowship requirements so that Fellows will be able to be placed without further review. The Foundation intends that Fellows may use the Fellowship to satisfy academic requirements for clinical internship hours.

Fellowships will continue for one year. At the conclusion of the year’s Fellowship, Fellows will be required to report their reflections on their experiences with the Foundation and the Fellow’s host organization. In addition, the Host Organization will report to the Foundation on Fellowship grant expenditures.

Fellows:

- must be Staten Island residents;
- should demonstrate a commitment to continuing their career on Staten Island;
- may be interested in clinical or macro-level work;
- may be undergraduates or graduate social work students and attend school full or part-time;
- may also be MSWs seeking credentials towards their license who do not have a full-time, paid position in social work.

Demonstrated financial need will be a consideration.
Fellows will be expected to maintain contact with Foundation staff and participate in meetings of community collaborations at the suggestion of the Foundation and/or host nonprofit. In this way, the Fellows will be introduced to the wider community of social services, develop a network of professional relationships, and become familiar with the resources available to Staten Islanders in need.

The Fellowship application will be released by the Foundation and circulated through Host Nonprofit channels, collaborative groups, schools in the NY area that have social work programs, Idealist and other appropriate sites, as well as social media.

Fellow selection will be announced to the media.

**Application and Deadline**

Nonprofits who wish to serve as a Fellowship host will please email a Word document responding to the attached questions to watters@thestatenislandfoundation.org by December 1, 2021.

**Questions About the Program and Application Process**

An information session will be conducted online on Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 10 AM. It will be recorded and posted on the Foundation website. To receive a link to the session, please contact the Foundation.

*The Foundation would like to thank the following individuals whose advice helped to develop this program:*

- Alexa Donnelly, LCSW, Deputy Director, Person Centered Care Services
- Amanda Wexler, LCSW, CASAC-T, Clinical Director, Richmond County District Attorney’s Office
- Carol Taverner, LCSW, Emma’s Place and Visiting Assistant Professor Wagner College
- Dara Major, consultant on philanthropy
- Diane Arneth, CEO, Community Health Action of Staten Island
- Dina Fiore, LCSW, New York Foundling
- Dr. Barbra Teater, MSW, Program Director, College of Staten Island
- Dr. Linda Lausell Bryant, Professor, NYU Silver School of Social Work
- Jared Carroll, MSW, Project Director, Staten Island Alliance for North Shore Children & Families
- Karen Goldman, LCSW, Director Bereavement at SIUH Hospice and Director Emma’s Place
- Neshama Marcus, MSW, Former Chief Program Director of Community Based Programs