

October 2019

Victoria Damiani, Ed.D., NCSP  
Dept. of Education & School Psychology  
Indiana University of Pennsylvania  
246 Stouffer Hall  
Indiana, PA 15705

Dear Dr. Damiani:

CORA Services is currently seeking school psychology interns for the 2020-2021 school year. I have enclosed a description of CORA Psychological Services and our internship program. You will also find a flier advertising our internship opportunities which can be posted within your department or distributed to prospective interns.

CORA Services' school psychology internship program offers a wide variety of experiences and the opportunity for supervision in a number of clinical areas related to the practice of school psychology. Our program meets the criteria for internship programs outlined by the Council of Directors of School Psychology Programs and the internship program standards set by the University Training Programs who have worked with CORA Services in the past (e.g., Temple University, Millersville University and Penn State University). If you have any questions regarding our program, please feel free to contact me at 215-701-2625.

Sincerely,

Paul Haughton, Psy.D.  
Director of Psychological Services  
PA Licensed and School Certified Psychologist

PH:jam  
Enclosures

# **CORA SERVICES, INC.**

THE CHILDREN AND FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

## **INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY**

CORA Services, Inc. is currently seeking school psychology interns for the 2020-2021 school year. CORA Services is a multi-funded community based, private, non-profit and non-sectarian agency, which offers professional services to children and their families, primarily within the Northeast section of Philadelphia. Under its contract with the Philadelphia Intermediate Unit (#26), CORA Services provides remedial education, counseling, speech and language, and psychological services to approximately 65 non-public schools (grades K through 12). CORA Services also provides services to several Philadelphia Charter Schools.

The core school psychology internship program is a ten-month (September to June) program that offers experience and supervision in the areas of psychoeducational diagnostics/evaluations and school-based consultation. Supplemental internship experiences with outpatient and early childhood assessment are also available during the summer. Ours is a multidisciplinary model of service delivery, which emphasizes consultation between school personnel and the CORA Services professional staff. The psychology staff also works closely with the Philadelphia Public School System to ensure the proper educational programming for students who may require transfer from the non-public to public schools (e.g. exceptional students who need special education services). Intern psychologists are integrated quickly into our system and should have prior experience in psychoeducational assessment. Interns receive a minimum of two hours of individual supervision per week, participate in monthly group supervision and can attend on-going professional development conferences held at the CORA building. We offer full-time (five days per week, 40 hours per week) internships with a yearly stipend of \$15,000 and part-time (20 hours per week) internship with a yearly stipend of \$7,500 (depending on prior experience).

Prospective interns should submit the following information to ***CORA Services, Human Resources Department, 8540 Verree Road, Philadelphia, PA 19111:***

- a cover letter
- resume – (vitae)
- graduate school academic transcripts
- three letters of reference from professors in your graduate school training program or from professional supervisors
- sample evaluation reports (with identifying information about the client appropriately deleted)

For further information/questions, feel free to contact CORA Services Human Resources at 215-701-2533.

## **CORA PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES**

### **Overview of the Psychological Services Program**

CORA Services is a non-profit agency which provides educational, speech and language, counseling, and psychological services to non-public schools in Philadelphia under contract with Philadelphia Intermediate Unit #26. CORA Services has also initiated psychological and other services within the Mastery Charter Schools and other charter schools in the Philadelphia area.

Psychological services provided to the non-public schools include diagnostic and consultative interventions. Staff psychologists are directly assigned, on a school year basis, to several different schools. They work as part of a multidisciplinary team, which includes other CORA Services professionals (such as educators, speech/language therapists, and counselors), school personnel (teachers, principals) and parents. Referrals are made to psychological services from teachers, principals, and CORA Services professionals. Work within the charter schools parallels the role of school psychologists in public school districts.

Each school psychologist employed by CORA Services participates in supervision with both the Chief Psychologist and either the Non-Public School or Charter Schools Services Psychology Coordinator. Supervision includes individual case conferences, and review and approval of evaluation and consultation reports. Staff psychologists also participate in monthly staff meetings during which administrative concerns, theoretical issues, and cases are discussed.

CORA Services is an APA approved provider of continuing education for psychologists. Psychology staff are encouraged to participate in conferences, symposia, and workshops to advance their knowledge and skills.

### **Internship Program**

The CORA Services Psychological Services Department provides opportunities for advanced level masters' and doctoral students to complete an internship in the area of school psychology. Both full-time (40 weeks at 40 hours per week) and at times part-time (40 weeks at 20 hours per week) opportunities are available. Currently CORA is offering two positions (Masters or Doctoral level) within the Nonpublic Schools, one position each at Mastery Charter School in Philadelphia and Mastery Charter Schools in Camden, NJ, as well as one position combining nonpublic and charter school experiences. Supplemental internship experiences with outpatient and early childhood assessment can also occur during the summer months. The CORA Services school psychology internship program provides experience and intensive supervision in the areas of: psychoeducational diagnosis, psychoeducational test administration, consultation skills, parent and teacher conferencing, classroom observation techniques, and psychological and educational interventions/prescriptions. Interns are exposed to a wide variety of psychological and educational assessment instruments. In addition, CORA Services maintains a reference library which supports staff understanding of each instrument and assessment in general.

The school year begins with a two day structured all-staff orientation followed immediately by psychology team orientation in the field. Intern school psychologists in NPSS are assigned to several diverse schools, while interns within Mastery are assigned assessments across several campuses, including several specialized classrooms. Each intern psychologist receives experience in working with grades K through 12. Each intern psychologist is assigned a staff psychologist who acts as a mentor. Certain school assignments, in particular the ones which are demanding or have a large pupil enrollment, are shared by the mentor psychologist(s) and the intern psychologist for the entire school year. Intern psychologists are given the same responsibilities for cases as full-time staff psychologists, with the goal of functioning close to the role of an independent practitioner by the end of their internship experience. They are required to complete the necessary CORA Services paperwork for all cases assigned and to adhere to CORA Services policies and procedures regarding the provision of psychological services to non-public schools.