The County of Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is the largest child welfare agency in the United States. Established in 1984, this child welfare agency is designed to provide a wide range of protective and social services to needy residents of Los Angeles County. The Department's primary focus is ensuring the safety of all its' clients while focusing on the maintenance of family systems, the reunification of families who have children placed in foster care, and securing permanent homes for children who need this service through adoption planning. The Department operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A CHILDREN'S SOCIAL WORKER (INTERN)

As a Children’s Social Worker (INTERN), you will be responsible for:

- Meeting the ongoing safety needs of clients who are under DCFS jurisdiction.
- Providing psychosocial assessments and services to families of diverse cultures.
- Educating, advising, advocating and supporting involuntary clients, who may present as uncommunicative, ambivalent, angry, fearful, traumatized, possibly living in poor, unhealthy environments and social situations.
- Being a referral resource for clients and networking with the legal medical, educational, and psychological service systems that impact the client's situation.
- Knowing, understanding and adhering to the legal and ethical boundaries that define social work case management at DCFS.
- Documenting all client contact and services provided as well as creating case plans and writing court reports in expected time frames.

On any given day, you may find yourself:

- Dealing with an unexpected casework or administrative issue; prioritizing your client's needs with the demands from court and expectations of managers.
- Providing crisis intervention services to clients regarding child abuse referrals, child removal/replacement, death or injury, financial or housing problems.
- Assessing and servicing client situations involving serious physical or sexual abuse.
- Feeling unsupported, i.e. no desk space; computer crashing; copy/fax not working; being reassigned/relocated; poor supervision; ongoing case assignments.

Possible Benefits:

- Ability to impact positive change in the lives of deserving children and families.
- Ability to interface with diverse populations, situation, and organizations.
- Ability to develop skills and work toward a professional social work degree.
- Ability to promote and/or be reassigned to various job functions.