

## Connecting Older Adults with Community-based Resources and Options

## Intern at AgeOptions!

AgeOptions is recognized nationally as a leader in developing and helping to deliver innovative community-based resources and options to older populations in transition and through our network of community agencies we serve approximately 170,000 people annually. Interns will benefit from handson, experiential learning including involvement in professional meetings and in-service training.

Our offices are conveniently located in downtown Oak Park, Illinois, near the Green Line 'L' and Metra train station. We offer a casual work environment with competitive salaries and a strong benefit package. To learn more about what we do, please visit our website at: <u>AgeOptions</u>

We have the following intern options available for Fall 2025 placement:

- The Benefits, Information and Education program is seeking student interns to provide public benefit access as well as information and assistance to older adults and individuals with disabilities.
  - Our Information & Assistance hotline answers calls from older adults, caregivers and providers within suburban Cook County to connect them to resources that can assist with their expressed need. An intern working on the I&A hotline will have the opportunity to take calls and speak directly to callers about a variety of topics impacting older adults (e.g. economic security, healthcare, food insecurity, aging in place, social isolation). In addition, an intern may assist with analysis and visualization of caller data, evaluation of consumer satisfaction, and special projects that promote the student's learning goals while supporting the program.
  - Our Benefits Enrollment Center is funded through the National Council on Aging to provide benefits screening and application/enrollment assistance to older adults for a variety of public benefits programs such as—Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicare Savings Program, LIHEAP (energy assistance programs), Benefits Access Application (Ride free card, public transit reduced fare, license plate discounts. etc.) An intern supporting this program would attend outreach events in the community, give presentations on public benefits and SNAP to older adults and participate in enrollment events in the community.

An intern with this program may also support training and technical assistance projects for our Aging and Disability Network of providers which includes creating presentations, flyers or other benefit materials. An intern will carry a caseload of clients which involves screening for eligibility, collecting paperwork, submitting applications, troubleshooting and following up with clients.



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- The Avisery program educates professionals about Medicare, Medicaid and other health benefits
  programs that improve access and affordability of health insurance for older adults and
  individuals with disabilities. Avisery also engages in administrative and systems level advocacy
  around public health insurance benefits programs. Interns working in the Avisery program will:
  - Support Avisery's policy updates through research and writing tasks
  - o Support ongoing training curriculum development through research and slide deck design
  - Outreach to partner agencies to assess training needs.
- AgeOptions is a statewide program to empower Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries to prevent, detect and report health care fraud and abuse and is funded by the Administration for Community Living (ACL). The Illinois SMP provides funding for 12 Area Agencies on Aging across Illinois and two other non-profits to support the programs mission including outreach, media and individual interactions. Through our Caregiver programming, AgeOptions provides leadership, technical assistance and funding to nine Caregiver Resources Centers located throughout suburban Cook County to serve family and informal, unpaid caregivers of older adults, non-biological children and all people living with dementia. Additionally, AgeOptions provides funding to Caregiver Resource Centers and organizations that serve the limited English-speaking communities to provide memory cafes. AgeOptions conducts outreach, presentations, training and extends support to communities aiming to obtain the Dementia Friendly Community recognition. Interns working with these programs can expect to:
  - o Respond to SMP hotline calls for health care fraud or abuse
  - Conduct outreach presentation in suburban Cok County, engage with local community partners and organizations, identify outreach and training opportunities
  - Develop and update outreach materials on health care fraud and abuse as needed
  - Assist in the planning and coordination of Medicare Fraud Prevention Week and other outreach campaigns
  - Plan and participate in network quarterly meetings, coalition and task force meetings
  - Planning & Evaluation: The Planning & Evaluation team addresses the current and future
    needs of a diverse aging population. This group uses a variety of methods, including
    researching and analyzing data related to older adults, demographic trends, and needs
    assessment to inform planning, program development and design as well as evaluation of
    those programs across our service area. Interns will specifically work on:
    - Qualitative data analysis
    - Support of quantitative data analysis
    - Updating an Emergency Plan for our area of suburban Cook County aging services



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- Planning and supporting a public event, such as public forums, focus groups or presentation of data analysis.
- Advocacy & Public Policy- The Advocacy and Public Policy team works to advance
  AgeOptions' mission to enhance the quality of life and promote independence for older adults
  through analyzing and researching policies, legislation and rules. This group works with
  stakeholders to gather insights and stories to inform legislative agendas and inform the public
  and policy makers of our advocacy efforts through forums and group messaging. Interns can
  expect to work on:
  - Tracking legislation
  - Helping to prepare for legislative season through researching and preparing materials
  - Communication with legislators and staff

To be considered for one of these internship opportunities, interested students should complete the AgeOptions Internship Application.

AgeOptions is an Equal Opportunity Employer where diversity is celebrated, and we are committed to creating an inclusive environment for all