

CISS Caregiver Internship Program FAQ

1) How long is the program and what is the format?

This is a cohort (group) program lasting 3-4 months with approximately 60 hours of training.

All interns start and end the program together. In the first month of the program, Interns attend weekly group training sessions typically held in the evening at the CISS training room in Camarillo.

The second month is comprised of shadowing with Mentors for approximately 4-8 hours per week, and continuing to attend training sessions. Months three and four are focused on shadowing Mentors providing In-Home Respite Care and attending bi-weekly group meetings at the office with the program supervisor.

2) Who supervises the program?

The Caregiver Internship Program is coordinated by John T. Francis, MSW, Training and Development Specialist at CISS. John has experience in the field of developmental disabilities in Respite care and summer camp settings. He attained his Master's in Social Work from CSU Long Beach in 2019.

Contact John for more info at John@IslandSocialServices.org or at (805) 384-0983 x868

3) Is this an unpaid Internship?

Yes. This is a training program designed for college students who may receive course credit. As the training is provided for the benefit of the interns, they are never left alone with individuals and are not performing duties in place of staff, the program is unpaid. Adults who are not in college but would be interested in participating in the training program may apply under certain conditions.

4) Is there a hands-on component to the Caregiver Internship Program?

Yes, under direct supervision of experienced Mentor Respite Caregivers. Availability of the Mentors, their Respite families, and Interns is taken into consideration when accepting Interns into the program, and when scheduling mentoring hours. CISS will make all reasonable attempts to pair Interns and Mentors with similar availability, but family cancellations occur and may not be practical to make up; therefore, stable training hours with Mentors are not guaranteed.

5) Am I guaranteed a job with CISS once I complete the Caregiver Internship Program?

No, but most Interns do choose to apply and are hired if they have demonstrated the necessary skills and have good availability. CISS receives new referrals of families each week who need support. Skills learned in the program and completion of the program can qualify program graduates to work with other service providers too.