



## Adult IDA/Asset Building Practicum Project Description

### Semester Available

Two semester commitment

### Student Level

Concentration preferred; will accept other applications

### Primary Practicum Student Responsibilities

- Research and summary of best practices related to IDA programming
- Consistent direct interaction with program participants, such as through program enrollment, account management, and financial literacy and asset specific education
- Assist facilitation of financial capability classes and other workshops
- Work collaboratively with the many existing community partners in the metro area and specifically Greater St. Louis Asset Building Collaborative
- Participate in program quality improvement and evaluation efforts
- Administrative duties include database management; producing mass mailings; contacting participants via phone, text, and e-mail

**Organizational Overview:** Beyond Housing exists because home matters. We begin with actual houses and housing preservation, focusing on quality and stability to give people a place to start. But there is more to a home than the house - home is about the life that happens in and around the house, as well as the life that fuels and draws out the best of the people within it. That life, in turn, is shaped by the community, its influences, its structures, and the people and dynamics that define it.

Beyond Housing helps entire communities become better places to live. We engage where we're needed, focusing on building consensus among leaders, providing and preserving housing, fostering community structures that shape lives, and guiding systems that make people's lives better.

We lead with vision for what a community can be - every community is different, but thriving communities tend to share the same basic set of positive traits regarding housing, safety, education, health, infrastructure, and access to basic human services.

We bring together leaders and resources, volunteers and citizens, and pursue a wide assortment of creative approaches to build stronger, healthier communities for life.

Finally, we are community builders, not kingdom builders. "It's their neighborhood, future, & dreams". Our objective is to help build, and contribute the good things we do for the sake of adding value to the lives of the people we're honored to serve.

**Practicum Description:** As part of the Education department, the adult IDA program is offered through United Way's Greater St. Louis Asset-Building Collaborative & is designed to assist hard-working families to build financial assets by providing the extra dollars and financial tools to help to help clients save for their future.

Every dollar a participant saves up to \$1500 is matched with either one or two dollars, for a possible total of

either \$3000 (\$1500 participant savings + \$1500 match funds) or \$4500 (\$1500 participant savings + \$3000 match funds). The \$3000 or \$4500 can then be used to purchase a home, home repair/remodeling, post-secondary education/training or small business capitalization. Program participants are offered a variety of financial and asset-specific education classes such as a course on buying a home or home repair, as well as credit reviews.

**Additional Requirements:**

- Strong preference for two semester practicum commitment
- Must be able to commit at least 15 hours/week
- Flexible scheduling available
- Student is **required** to bring their own **laptop**

**Qualifications:**

- Evidence of leadership
- Experience with youth work and/or financial literacy preferred
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Passion for working in a high needs community
- Ability to work with individuals from a broad range of backgrounds
- Ability to be flexible, adaptive, and positive in a constantly changing environment

**Office Location:** Please be advised that the practicum will take place at Beyond Housing's main office, at 6506 Wright Way, St. Louis, MO 63121. This office is accessible by public transportation.

**Application Instructions:** To apply, please send a resume and cover letter specific to this opportunity to Lawrence Miskel, [lmiskel@beyondhousing.org](mailto:lmiskel@beyondhousing.org). Visit [www.beyondhousing.org](http://www.beyondhousing.org) for more information and to view the full 24:1 Community Plan.