

NEW YORK CITY

MAYOR'S OFFICE OF RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY

The Flood Insurance Data Coordination Internship is available during January through May 2015.

Organization Description:

In March 2014, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced the establishment of the Mayor's Office of Recovery and Resiliency (ORR). ORR leads the City's efforts to increase the City's resiliency by implementing recommendations laid out in *A Stronger, More Resilient New York*. The plan builds on the foundation of public collaboration and rigorous analysis set forth by *PlaNYC*, New York City's sustainability plan. ORR's mission is to guide the City in strengthening coastal defenses, upgrading buildings, protecting infrastructure and critical services, and making homes, businesses, and neighborhoods safer and more vibrant. To learn more about the City's resiliency initiatives, please visit: www.nyc.gov/resiliency

Background:

When Hurricane Sandy hit, unfortunately, thousands of homes and businesses inundated by the storm did not have adequate flood coverage. For some property owners, they did not know they needed a separate policy for flood insurance from their homeowners insurance; for others, they chose not to insure against flood risk; for another subset, they did not know they were at risk in the first place.

In addition to insufficient flood insurance coverage, Sandy highlighted the detrimental impact of reforms to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)'s National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), enacted by the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (BW-12). BW-12 required changes to the NFIP that eliminated certain subsidies, resulting in significant rate increases. While the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2013 (HFIAA) will mitigate some of the immediate impacts of BW-12, owners will still face lower property values as potential buyers take into account insurance costs; homeowners will also see annual increases between 15 -18% as all policies move toward eventually paying FEMA's newly assessed higher rates.

In December 2013, FEMA released Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for New York City. While these maps likely won't be finalized until 2016, the Preliminary FIRMs show an expanded floodplain that nearly doubles the number of impacted structures from 36,000 to 68,000. Homes with federally-backed mortgages will be required to purchase flood insurance when the FIRMs are finalized.

To assess the impact of these changes, ORR is managing two studies assessing the affordability impact of increased flood insurance premiums on multifamily and 1-4 family homes as well as developing a consumer education campaign so that homeowners understand their risks and adequately protect their property against damage. ORR seeks an intern to support efforts to improve communication on the topic of flood risk and flood insurance across city agencies and among affected New Yorkers.

Position Description:

Internship responsibilities may include, but are not limited to:

- Flood insurance data compilation coordination, and support
- Communication support across key agencies, including the Housing Recovery Office, Department of Housing Preservation and Development, and Department of City Planning
- Education and outreach through community events, key stakeholder meetings, online case studies, and social media outreach

Qualifications:

Eligible candidates must have a bachelor's degree by the start of the internship. Although not required, the successful applicant will likely have one or more of the following academic or professional experiences: public policy and/or administration, urban studies or urban planning, political science, environmental policy, environmental science, and/or

financial policy. Some understanding of the insurance market is helpful, but not required. Current or recent graduate students are strongly preferred.

Applicants must have a proven record demonstrating management, analytical, leadership, and communication skills. Compelling examples of these skills include managing complex projects; successfully gaining the support of independent stakeholders; conducting and presenting analytical work with significant attention to detail; and/or demonstrating leadership in the applicant's current field of work. Proven written, verbal, and presentation communication skills are critical. Proficiency in PowerPoint, Excel, flexibility, proactiveness, and organization skills are required.

The intern will work under supervision of a Senior Policy Advisor and Policy Advisor. The internship is unpaid and part-time, with 20 working hours within 9AM to 5PM, Monday through Friday. The intern will start at her/his earliest availability in January 2015, and end in May 2015.

To Apply:

Please submit to planycinternships@cityhall.nyc.gov the following:

- The subject line "Flood Insurance Data Coordination Outreach Internship Application – *Full name*"
- A one page cover letter highlighting aspects of your experience that are relevant for this position, including volunteer service, and explain why you are interested in working with our office
- A one page resume

Deadline:

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The City of New York is an Equal Opportunity Employer.