



## **2018 OSAKA, JAPAN SOCIAL SERVICE EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

### **Overview**

Chicago Sister Cities International (CSCI) is committed to promoting Chicago as a global city, developing international partnerships and networks, and sharing best practices on a city-to-city basis with its 28 sister cities, including Osaka, Japan, with whom we have shared a sister city relationship for 42 years. CSCI strives to develop and expand community, education and business partnerships between Chicago and its sister cities. Through long-term partnerships, CSCI creates opportunities for citizens and city officials to experience and explore other cultures. Each year, the 28 committees execute a wide range of projects focused on economic development, culture, business, education, social services, the environment, and healthcare.

The Osaka-Chicago Social Services Exchange was an initiative that began in 2008 with a focus on understanding the needs and supports for youth and families, persons with disabilities, and older adults, and a goal of improving systems and service delivery to these vulnerable populations. The exchange convenes interdisciplinary professionals from both cities to build relationships, deepen cultural understanding, and share best practices related to their varied work in human services. Chicago and Osaka have alternated hosting the exchange.

### **2018 Exchange**

Our eighth exchange program starts in February 2018, with monthly orientation workshops structured to familiarize delegates with: best practices of the CSCI interdisciplinary social service exchange model; Japanese perspectives on social problems, social welfare policy, and provision of services; and relevant aspects of Japanese culture, traditions, and language. During orientation, delegates will identify their learning goals, which will be communicated to the hosting committee in Osaka. The exchange travel will take place from **June 10 to 17, 2018**. Five interdisciplinary social service professionals will be selected from the metropolitan Chicago area to visit sites and dialogue with Japanese professionals about their culture and best practices in social services. The theme of this year's exchange is "**Advocacy, Innovation, and Interdisciplinary Collaboration.**" Participants will explore the following questions:

1. *How do we, as social service professionals, design innovative programs that both serve our clients and enhance our professional growth?*

2. *How do we achieve our mission goals while collaborating with others who may be in different fields and/or ranks in seniority system?*

Chicago delegates will develop Individual Action Plans to result in concrete outcomes. A former exchange participant reported, "This was a once in a lifetime opportunity...I and my social service practice have been changed forever by this experience."

### **The Osaka Social Services Exchange Subcommittee Mission**

The Osaka Committee's Social Service Exchange Subcommittee serves as a conduit for "cultural discourse," a mutual sharing of professional social service knowledge, skills, and cultural experiences to enhance social services in our global community.

### **Eligibility**

1. Social Service professional working in the Chicagoland area (*the delegation is interdisciplinary and may include direct service providers, nonprofit administrators, government workers, clinical practitioners, foundation staff/leadership, special educators, transition specialists, and university faculty/staff/students*);
2. Desire to integrate an international perspective in one's social service practice;
3. Commits to serve on the Subcommittee to sustain future exchanges;
4. Will participate in group orientation prior to and debrief after the exchange;
5. Contribute to public presentations and written report;
6. Some knowledge of Japanese language/culture is preferred but not required;
7. Due to long workdays, personal stamina is required.

### **Costs**

Chicago delegates will be responsible for securing and paying for their individual round-trip airfare (approximately \$1300- \$1,600) and accommodations (approximately \$70/night based on double occupancy). Partial flight and other scholarships may be available. Evidence of need may be required. Participants should also be prepared to budget approximately \$200 for food and transportation. Costs will fluctuate based on exchange rate.

### **Timeline**

Completed applications will be due via email no later than **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15th at 5:00 p.m.** Interviews will take place in mid-January with final delegate decisions made by the end of January. Monthly meetings in preparation for the June exchange will take place beginning in February.

### **Application**

Application instructions are provided below. Please email completed applications to leva Dilytè, Manager of International Programs at Chicago Sister Cities International, at [ldilyte@chicagosistercities.com](mailto:ldilyte@chicagosistercities.com). For questions, please email leva or contact her by phone at 312-201-4533.

## Application for 2018 Osaka Social Service Exchange Program

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Length of Time in Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Personal Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_ Home

If selected, I agree to: 1) participate in the exchange orientation and post debriefing; 2) complete the exchange program with the delegation; 3) attend meetings and participate with the Osaka Social Services Subcommittee's ongoing activities to sustain the exchange, including planning to receive a delegation in Chicago in 2019; and 4) integrate international and intercultural perspectives in my practice, management/supervision, research and teaching/training in ways that are relevant to my work.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please submit this cover page with a current resume and personal narrative that addresses the items below. Please limit your response to 2 pages or 850 words.**

- a. Describe your current role, primary area(s) of expertise relative to social services, and any specific populations with whom you have worked.
- b. Describe your interest and motivation to apply. What specifically do you hope or expect to learn? How does this support your personal and professional growth?
- c. How might you and your organization/agency contribute and support the work of the Social Services Exchange Subcommittee (e.g. planning/hosting activities for future exchanges, providing financial or in-kind contributions, incorporating best practices learned) and/or other Sister Cities' or other Osaka Committee work?
- d. Please describe any knowledge or experience with Japanese culture and/or language.
- e. Please describe additional skills, if any, you could offer to the delegation (e.g. Japanese language/translation; facilitating a cross-cultural workshop; photography, social media, blogging; report writing; fundraising; musical performance, etc.)