

**Ash Institute Summer Fellowship in Urban Policy  
Project Description | 2009**

**City of Philadelphia  
Office of the Mayor and City Health Commissioners**

**Strategies to Reduce Hunger in Philadelphia**

**The Organization:** The City of Philadelphia has the highest poverty rate of any of the ten largest cities in the nation. One out of four Philadelphia residents lives in poverty and a staggering one out of every three children in Philadelphia lives at or below the federal poverty line. With the economy in recession and rising unemployment, food and energy prices, the City of Philadelphia wishes to develop an aggressive and innovative strategy to reduce hunger and food insecurity. The City recently launched the BenePhilly campaign to enroll low-income Philadelphians in Food Stamps/SNAP and other valuable federal and state benefits, and is launching the City's first Food Policy Council.

**Project Description:** The Fellow would report to Pauline Abernathy (KSG MPP94), Senior Advisor to the Mayor and Dr. Donald Schwarz, Deputy Mayor for Health and Health Commissioner. The Fellow would be responsible for reviewing the City's current anti-hunger efforts, surveying best practices in other cities, identifying practical reforms that would have the highest impact on hunger, developing recommendations and helping to coordinate new strategies. The review would include but not be limited to strategies to: increase participation in nutrition assistance programs, expand the availability of free or affordable healthy food, and improve awareness of where to find food and enroll in programs. The Fellow would be expected to identify ways to measure the impact of the recommended reforms, and the Fellow's PAE could focus on evaluating their implementation.

**Qualifications:** The Fellow should have demonstrated analytical and interpersonal skills and previous work experience analyzing complex problems and getting things done in a large public or private organization. Knowledge or experience related to health and social services preferred.