



About State College

Incorporated in 1896, State College is a college town which hosts friendly, walkable neighborhoods, a safe, vibrant downtown, and the main campus of the world-famous Pennsylvania State University. Occupying 4.56 square miles, with a vibrant downtown and a world-class university in the middle, State College is a pedestrian's paradise, boasting the highest percentage of people who walk and bike to work among Pennsylvania cities. The local bus system has the third-highest mass transit ridership in Pennsylvania. Our regional growth boundary has helped to maintain low commuting times and to preserve the area's physical beauty. State College's vision is to provide leadership, opportunities, and exceptional services for an innovative, progressive, and caring community.

The Government

In 1973, the residents of State College adopted a Home-Rule Charter, which provides for a Council-Manager form of government with a budget of over \$69 million. Under the Charter, there is a seven-member Council, elected at large, for four-year, overlapping terms. The Mayor is also elected at large for a four-year term. The day-to-day operation of State College is the responsibility of a professional local government manager, appointed by Council. State College cooperates with five other regional municipalities in the Centre Region Council of Governments: College, Ferguson, Harris, Halfmoon, and Patton Townships. State College also engages with and provides services for several other municipalities throughout Centre County.

Our Purpose

State College seeks to provide a compelling and comprehensive work experience for an ICMA Local Government Management Fellow that seeks to gain experience in municipal government. Our goal is to provide the individual with resources and expertise to help State College complete critical projects that are meaningful to the community and Fellow. These projects include implementation of a local race equity plan and establishment of an Equity Office, implementation of recommendations to improve local mental health services, completion of a feasibility study for a local health department, and other manager-level projects as assigned. State College's administrative leaders are committed to being a mentor and providing guidance on helping advance the career of the fellow in the local government profession.

Fellow Work Plan

The selected Fellow will be exposed to several 2021 projects that are a high priority to Borough Council, Administrative staff, and the community. The projects listed below will expose the

Fellow to various municipal projects and gain experience that will help foster an enriching professional work experience. State College will offer all resources and expertise that is needed to assist the Fellow in completing these projects. The projects listed below are not exhaustive but reflects the variety of experiences the Fellow should expect. The Fellow will work with administrative staff to develop a timeline and goals for each of these projects.

Implementation of Race Equity Plan and Office of Equity

In 2019, State College staff contracted with the National League of Cities Race Equity and Leadership (REAL) Program to develop a Race Equity Plan that will establish the municipality's race equity statement, conduct a race equity analysis, disaggregate and analyze data across departments and establish the use of a racial equity lens for hiring, policy/legislation development, procurement and other operations. The Fellow will assist with overseeing and managing the implementation of this plan with an inter-departmental team. This project also will consist of organizing the Office of Equity and collaborate with the core team in hiring of a Director of the Office of Equity.

Implementation of Recommendations from the Task Force on Mental Health Crisis Services

Like many other communities across the country, in State College and Centre County, PA, there is an increasing need for improvements to mental health crisis services. In August 2019, State College and Centre County jointly appointed members to the Task Force on Mental Health Crisis Services. This 32-person Task Force delivered their final report in November 2020 to Borough Council and Centre County Commissioners. They will assist with overseeing the implementation of these recommendations and reporting their progress.

Completion of a Feasibility Study for an Act 315 Certified Health Department

The fellow will research and update a feasibility study for the creation of a state recognized Act 315 Certified Health Department. The local need and value for a Health Department was made apparent throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. This feasibility study will be presented to Borough Council and outline the programmatic and budgetary impact of the creation of an Act 315 Health Department. If feasible to be implemented, this program would likely include at a minimum, consultant services of a Medical Director and the hiring of a certified Health Nurse.