

**2017 SHANGHAI, CHINA SOCIAL SERVICE EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

[Chicago Sister Cities International](http://chicagosistercities.com/sister-cities/osaka/) (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 Shanghai, China with whom we have shared a sister city relationship since 1985. 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, government relations, cultural arts, tourism, international business, global education and social services.

The Shanghai-Chicago Social Services Exchange was an initiative that began in 2014 with a focus on understanding the social service and legal needs/supports for a growing elderly population, and a goal of improving those systems and service delivery to the most vulnerable. The exchange convenes interdisciplinary professionals from both cities to build relationships, deepen cultural understanding, and share best practices related to their varied work in elder care and services. Chicago hosted the first exchange in 2014 and will continue to alternate years hosting and sending a visiting delegation.

Our fourth annual exchange will take place from **October 7 – 15, 2017**. Eight interdisciplinary social service professionals will be selected from the metropolitan Chicago area to visit sites and dialogue with Chinese professionals about best practices in elder social services. The exchange will conclude with a one-day conference where delegates will have an opportunity to discuss and compare best practices between cultures. Chicago delegates will develop Individual Action Plans to result in concrete outcomes.

Since 1996, Chicago and seven of our sister cities have held social services exchanges. A 2010 social service 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 Shanghai, China Social Services Exchange Subcommittee Mission**

The China Committee of CSCI’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. The committee:

* Develops sister-city multidisciplinary exchanges where social service and legal leaders, practitioners, administrators, supervisors, academics and others from different parts of the world come together.
* Cultivates leadership within subcommittees to sustain and expand the exchanges.
* Shares best practices and policy experiences to improve social services globally.
* Educates and promotes international collaboration overcoming cultural divisions.
* Develops ongoing projects which promote human potential and functioning.

**Eligibility**

1. Social Service and Legal professionals working in Elder Care Services in the Chicagoland area (*the delegation is interdisciplinary and may include direct service providers, nonprofit administrators, government workers, clinical practitioners, foundation staff/leadership, and university faculty/staff*);
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 and debrief after the exchange;
5. Some knowledge of the Chinese language/culture is an asset but not required;
6. Due to long workdays, personal stamina is required.

**Costs**

Chicago delegates will be responsible for securing and paying for their individual round-trip airfare which will be approximately $1,400. As host, Shanghai will cover the majority of other costs including delegates’ lodging, meals, and city transportation.

**Timeline**

Complete applications will be due via email no later than March 5. Interviews will take place in April with final delegate decisions made by early May. Orientation meetings will take place in September in preparation for the October exchange.

**Application**

Application instructions are provided below. Please email/forward completed applications to Heather Joerger, Manager of International Programs at Chicago Sister Cities International, at [hjoerger@chicagosistercities.com](mailto:hjoerger@chicagosistercities.com). For questions, please email Heather or contact her by phone at 312-201-4537. Further Social Services Exchange Program information can be found at Chicago Sister Cities International Website under Social Services Initiative.

**Application for 2017 Shanghai 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 Shanghai Social Services Subcommittee’s ongoing activities to sustain the exchange, including planning to receive a delegation in Chicago in 2018; 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 a personal narrative that addresses the items below up to 2 pages or 850 words.**

1. Describe your current role, primary area(s) of expertise relative to elder law or social services, and any specific populations with whom you have worked.
2. 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?
3. How might you and your organization/agency contribute and support the work of the exchange (e.g. planning/hosting activities for future exchanges, providing financial or in-kind contributions, incorporating best practices learned)?
4. Please describe any knowledge or experience with Chinese culture and/or language.
5. Please describe additional skills, if any, you could offer to the delegation (e.g. Chinese language/translation; facilitating a cross-cultural workshop; photography, social media, blogging; report writing; fundraising; musical performance, etc.)