

Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future Summer Policy Design and Implementation Internship

Internship Description

Since 2019, the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future (GOPIF) has coordinated policy initiatives, working closely with other State agencies and external stakeholders to address the long-term issues facing the State of Maine. GOPIF supports the design of innovative policy solutions and programs through planning, research, data, and stakeholder convening. Areas of focus and leadership include climate change, community resilience, lead-by-example in State government, opioid response and prevention, youth engagement, anti-hunger, economy and workforce development, housing, and aging.

GOPIF supports ongoing coordination of the Maine Climate Council and its subcommittees and working groups, including the implementation and progress monitoring of the state's climate action plan, *Maine Won't Wait*. The GOPIF Climate Team is seeking a graduate summer intern to support the *Maine Won't Wait* annual reporting process and documenting successful initiatives under the State's climate action plan. Additionally, this intern will analyze and synthesize lessons from GOPIF's policy innovation initiatives, with the goal of informing future policy design and implementation. The intern will work across GOPIF's policy priorities to assess implementation efforts, support evaluation and reporting activities, and develop materials that capture effective practices in policy design and execution.

Job Tasks

- Conduct interviews with implementers, partners, and stakeholders across *Maine Won't Wait's* seven strategies
- Document climate success stories demonstrating how initiatives are creating a positive impact for Maine people and communities
- Produce 7-10 short, case-style stories for inclusion in the FY 2026 *Maine Won't Wait* annual report
- Develop a work plan to analyze GOPIF's approach to policy design and implementation
- Review major policy initiatives led by GOPIF in recent years
- Identify patterns in stakeholder engagement, cross-agency coordination, decision-making, and implementation strategies
- Conduct interviews with GOPIF staff and partners involved in the design and launch of priority initiatives

- Synthesize findings into a report outlining lessons learned and actionable recommendations for future policy initiatives

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities Required

Strong candidates will demonstrate many of the following:

- Currently enrolled or recently graduated from a graduate program in public policy, public administration, planning, environmental policy, or a related field
- Strong writing and analytical skills
- Experience with qualitative research methods, including interviewing and synthesizing findings
- Ability to work independently and manage multiple tasks
- Interest in public sector policy design and implementation

This is a full-time, paid position (40 hours/week, up to 400 hours) from June to August (start and end date negotiable). The position will be hybrid, headquartered in Augusta, ME. **To apply, please send a cover letter, a resume, and a writing sample to Cheryl Miller (cheryl.miller@maine.gov) no later than March 23, 2026.**