Title: The Landscape of Substance Use and Abuse in Madison County
Community Partner: Madison County Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, Inc. (BRiDGES)

A data collection project based in Oneida, New York on substance use and abuse in the county for a student with skills in survey and focus group research.

Project Description:
A Field School Fellow will conduct a community assessment with BRiDGES on what substance use and abuse looks like to youth and adults in our community. The research will look at what experts and professionals in various roles are seeing and experiencing in our area, and what gaps exist in services related to: alcohol, tobacco and drug prevention education; suicide prevention education; and service to the LGBTQ community.

The Field School Fellow will work with BRiDGES staff members to develop survey and focus group questions to be implemented, by the Fellow, in localities throughout Madison County. The Fellow will develop focus groups and surveys by working with key partners such as school counselors, pharmacists and doctors, dentists, school administrators, staff from the county Department of Social Services, law enforcement, and municipalities that have enacted smoke-free policies. These focus groups will be of the general community and will include people of all ages. Once collected, the data will be analyzed and summarized to present to BRiDGES staff and Board of Directors. BRiDGES will utilize the Fellow’s final report for grant writing, targeted program development, and provision for improved service in the local community that addresses identified gaps.

About the Community Partner:
The mission of BRiDGES is to improve the quality of life by providing advocacy and services to the community, the workplace, and families and individuals affected by addiction and the abuse of alcohol, tobacco and other substances. BRiDGES is a leader in the delivery of prevention and intervention programs that promote change and build healthy communities. Diversity and inclusion are integral to the vision of BRiDGES. Leadership in the community requires an organizational culture and inclusive environment to meet the needs of everyone in the community. The values of BRiDGES incorporate innovative leadership, integrity, professionalism and respect for cultural diversity and inclusion.

Required Skills:
The Fellow should have excellent communication and interpersonal skills, and should be able to work well independently and part of a team. The Fellow will gain knowledge of BRiDGES through participating in Monday staff meeting, and experience in outreach through interactions with community members. BRiDGES programming staff work as a team; the Fellow will be treated as such, gaining valuable professional experiences through time spent with the organization.

Logistics:
This is a full-time paid research position (35 hours per week) to last approximately 10 weeks, conducted under the joint supervision of the Upstate Institute and the Madison County Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse. Maureen Campanie, Associate Director, and Susan Jenkins, Executive Director, will provide oversight of the project, which will be conducted primarily out of the organization offices in Oenida, New York. However, much of the work will also be conducted in the field, as the Fellow conducts data collection throughout the county.
Field School Fellows receive a research stipend of $4500 plus reimbursement for any costs associated with transportation for this project. A car is not required for this project, but may be helpful. A Fellow will need a U.S. drivers’ license to complete this work.