

What is Project Payback?

Project Payback is a juvenile restitution program that was brought to Alachua County in 1997. Juvenile defendants who owe restitution are court-ordered to complete Project Payback as a condition of their probation requirements. The purpose of Project Payback is to increase the amount of restitution being paid back to victims by juvenile defendants. Project Payback has worked to accomplish its mission by developing juvenile employment skills, providing the means for juveniles who are unemployable to payback their restitution, monitoring restitution payments, and improving the enforcement procedures used by the various juvenile justice agencies.

Prior to the creation of Project Payback, only about \$166 per month in restitution was being paid back to victims of juvenile offenders. Currently, the average amount of restitution being paid back to victims of juvenile offenders is \$3,000 per month. Since the inception of Project Payback, over \$600,000.00 in restitution has been paid back to victims of juvenile offenders in Alachua County.

For More Information...

If you are interested in receiving more information, contact intern supervisor, Megan Robinson.

Megan Robinson
Project Payback
Office of the State Attorney
120 West University Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32601

Phone: (352) 337-6178
Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
8:30AM to 5:00PM

You may also e-mail Megan Robinson at hillm@sao8.org with any questions.

For additional information, please visit the Project Payback website:
www.sao8.org/payback

Project Payback

Intern Positions
Available
At the
State Attorney's
Office

Looking for
the perfect
chance to earn
college credits
while also
getting some
"real world"
experience in
the job force?



Who can apply? Social Science students interested in juvenile delinquency and development, as well as the rights of crime victims. You must be at least 20 years old and a junior or senior in college. You will also be required to pass a background check.

What shifts are available?

The morning shifts are Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. The afternoon shifts are from 1:30pm to 5:00 pm (4pm on Fridays). We are looking for dedicated interns who are able to work 3-4 shifts per week (10-12 hours/week).

How do I apply? Call Project Payback immediately to schedule an appointment with Megan Robinson. If you are interested in an internship, you will also need to talk to your department head to inquire about the specific requirements, and/or find a professor who is willing to supervise your internship.



Project Payback Position Descriptions

Court Assistant

Court Assistants must be able to work every Wednesday from 9:00am until 12:00pm. Interns assigned to this position will be responsible for assisting Project Payback with covering the Wednesday morning Compliance and Disposition dockets. This requires explaining the program, taking detailed notes and meeting with juveniles and/or their families outside of the courtroom.

Case Management

All interns are required to assist with case management. The interns assigned to this position will be responsible for reviewing files, researching several databases, making phone calls, drafting letters to both defendants and victims, and recording detailed notes regarding the juvenile's status in the clients' file.

Special Projects

Special projects include updating and creating program materials, databases, brochures, resource guides, and websites. Any office duty that is not either "case management" or conducting a "job skills" training class can be considered a "special project."

Job Skills Training Classes

Project Payback participants age 16 years and older are required to either have a job or be looking for a job, unless they are able to pay their restitution by other means. Once the juvenile is employed, they are expected to use the money they earn to make monthly payments toward their restitution. During the trainings, Project Payback teaches the juvenile skills necessary for getting and keeping a job. The interns assigned to this position will be responsible for assisting in the training. One or two interns may have this opportunity in addition to case management duties.