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 employability skills, providing the means for juveniles who are unemployable to pay back their restitution, monitoring restitution payments, and improving the enforcement procedures used by the various juvenile justice agencies.

Prior to the inception of Project Payback, only about $166.00 per month in restitution was collected back to victims of juvenile offenders. Currently, the average amount of restitution being paid back to victims of juvenile offenders in Alachua County is $4,000 per month

For More Information...

Please contact
Sydnie Grant Project Payback Coordinator Office of the State Attorney
120 West University Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32601

Phone: (352) 337-6178
Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday
8:30AM to 5:00PM
Friday
8:30AM to 4:00PM

You may also e-mail Sydnie Grant at Grants@sao8.org with any questions.

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

Project Payback

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Office

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

Who can apply? Liberal Arts 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/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 Sydnie Grant. 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 Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm.
Interns assigned to this position will be responsible for assisting Project Payback with covering the Tuesday and 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.

Cose 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 juveniles' 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.