



Holy Comforter Episcopal Church

2015 Fleischmann Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32308

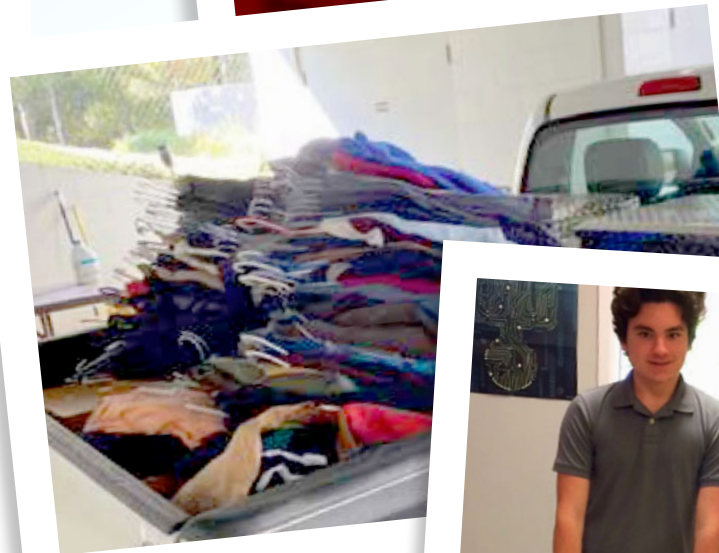
HC-EC.org

About Holy Comforter

We are a church of approximately 200 friendly, vibrant people who worship and work together to “live our faith by serving God and others.” We are devoted to The Lord our God and to the Gospel of Jesus. We participate in a variety of outreach activities, trying to fulfill the declaration our Deacon makes every Sunday as church concludes: “The worship has ended, the work has begun. Go in peace to love and SERVE the Lord.”

Our church is co-located with Holy Comforter Episcopal School (HCES), a pre-K to 8th grade Episcopal school with a reputation of excellence. There are currently 540 students, 50 teachers, and 35 administrators at HCES.

The church and the school are independently incorporated: our rector is not responsible for the administration of the school. However, our rector meets regularly with the Head of School and serves ex officio on the HCES Board of Trustees. Four Holy Comforter members are on the school's Board of Trustees as well. The church and school jointly-fund a full-time clergy position to serve as our Associate Rector and the School Chaplain. This position has been a blessing, strengthening our relationship.



Our Rector Search

We seek a transformational leader who:

- Guides with passion and strategic intention
- Articulates a clear vision of the future and inspires parishioners to act so that the vision becomes reality
- Recognizes parishioners' gifts and empowers us for ministry
- Challenges the status quo and encourages creativity in followers
- Preaches and teaches from the Bible with clarity, energy, inspiration, and wisdom
- Develops a strategy to reach new people in our community targeting younger folks including families with children
- Builds and strengthens partnerships to revitalize the community around the church
- Cultivates love and care for every individual, especially those broken by life circumstances



What Makes Holy Comforter Unique

We are an extraordinarily warm and welcoming church. We are a healing church that serves many people who have lost spouses or children or are suffering from other forms of grief. We bring Christ's love and care to people dealing with difficult times, such as divorce, illness, or job loss. Strong clergy and lay pastoral care are core ministries of our church. We want to continue and expand the ways in which we live up to our name: Holy Comforter.



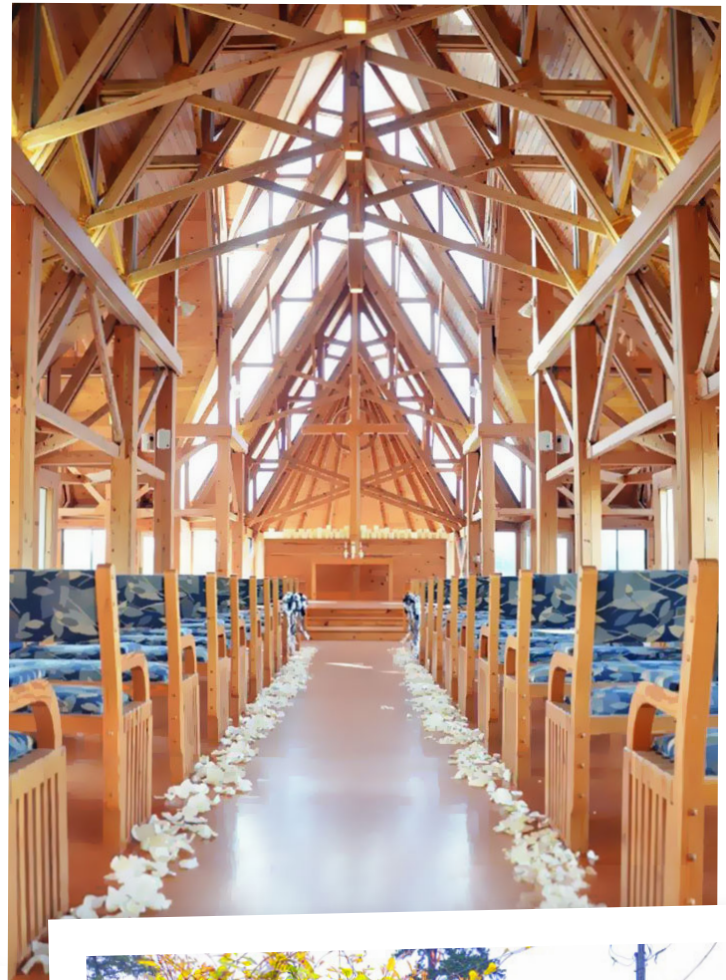
History of Holy Comforter

- Holy Comforter was founded in 1953 as a church with an open and loving atmosphere.
- In 1955, we began operating a kindergarten in the church basement.
- We have grown from an original group of 36 founders to a worshipping community of approximately 200.
- We began our weekly food pantry in the 1970s. It is now a large enterprise, serving 800 clients a month.
- We have had 7 rectors and occupied 2 church buildings.
- We have been in our current church building since 2007. Substantial improvements have been made on our buildings and grounds in the last two years.



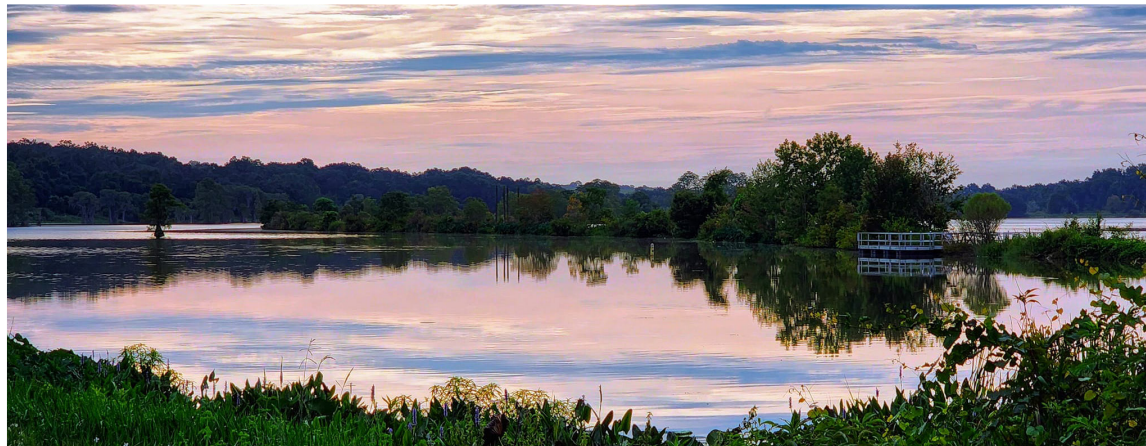
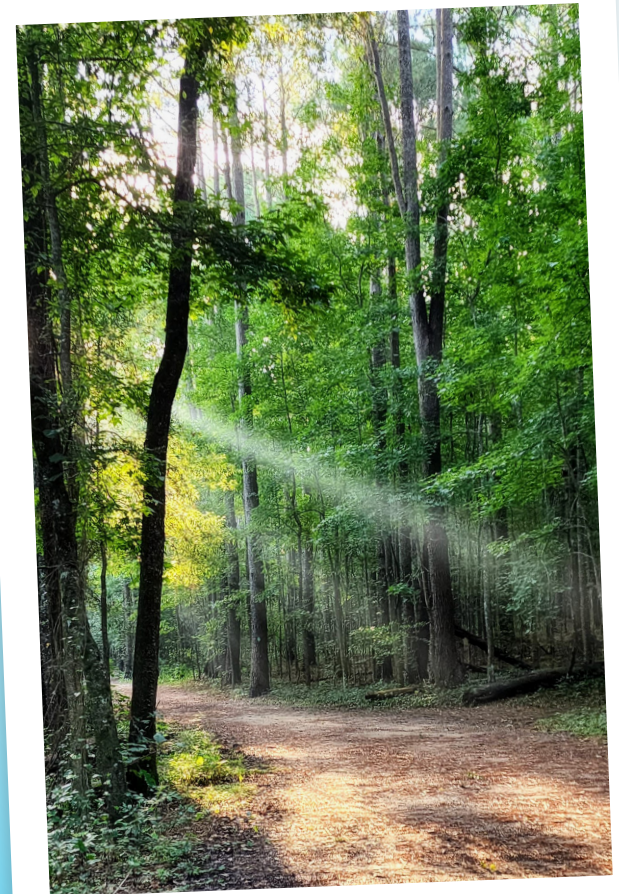
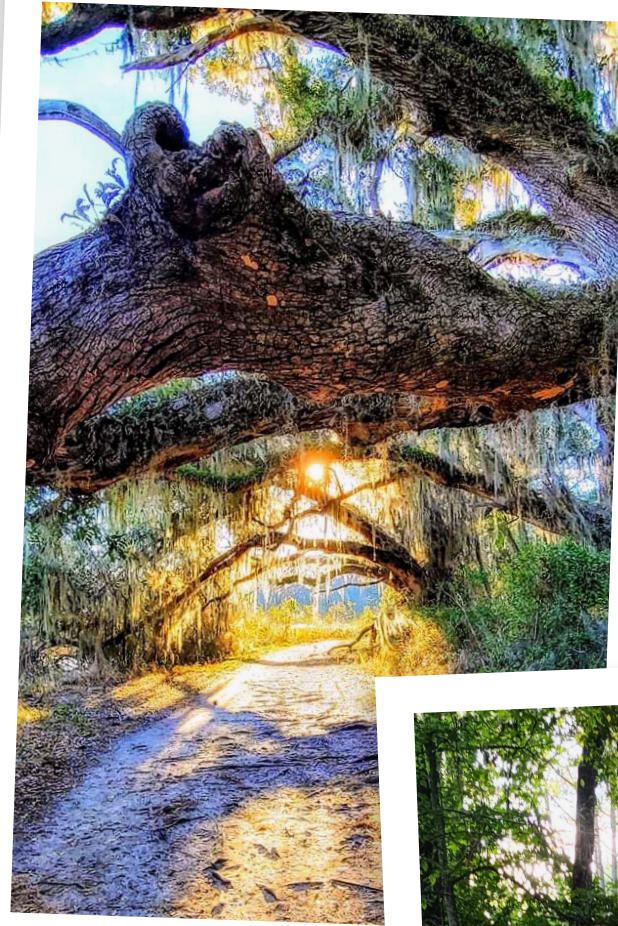
Our Diocese

Founded in 1938, the Episcopal Diocese of Florida is geographically large and diverse - spanning 25 North Florida counties with a variety of rural and urban, wealthy and poor communities. Our 63 parishes are located in small towns and large cities; some are tiny and some are among the largest in the country. Our Diocese is headquartered in Jacksonville; we are home to institutions of higher education, the seat of state government, and the oldest continually inhabited city in the United States. Our mission and ministry programs work to strengthen relationships—with Jesus Christ and with one another—through teaching, healing, feeding and fellowship. Camp Weed, our 500-acre camp and conference center nestled in the heart of North Florida, is home to many of our Diocese's activities.



Our Location

Holy Comforter is located on the east side of Tallahassee, the capital of Florida. A growing city with a population of just over 300,000, it is 30 miles from the Georgia border and 40 miles from the Gulf of Mexico. State government is the primary employer, and we have three higher education institutions: Florida State University (FSU), Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), and Tallahassee Community College (TCC). Tallahassee is a community with old-fashioned charm in a background of gorgeous scenery and gentle rolling hills. People who enjoy the fine arts and the college environment are well-served in Tallahassee. Likewise, there are ample opportunities to fish, hunt, bike, swim, run, play tennis, golf, and walk in parks, greenways, and forests. Five Episcopal churches and one university chapel provide a network of support for our clergy. Discover more about our area at VisitTallahassee.com.

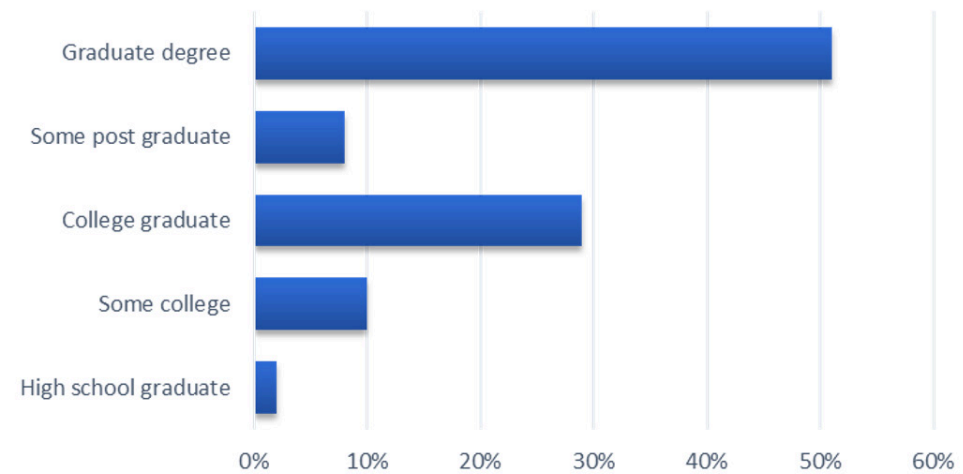


Our Members

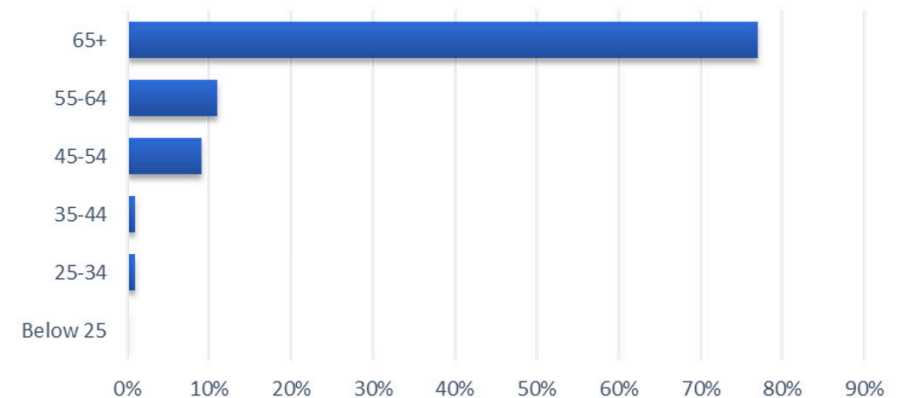
In June 2022, our parish participated in the Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT) Survey produced by Holy Cow! Consulting, Inc. We had an excellent return rate with 163 respondents. This is 73% of our average weekly attendance (includes duplicates such as people attending multiple services in a week); or 82% of our assessment roll (unique individuals over 16). The following graphs highlight characteristics of the survey respondents. The survey report is available upon request.



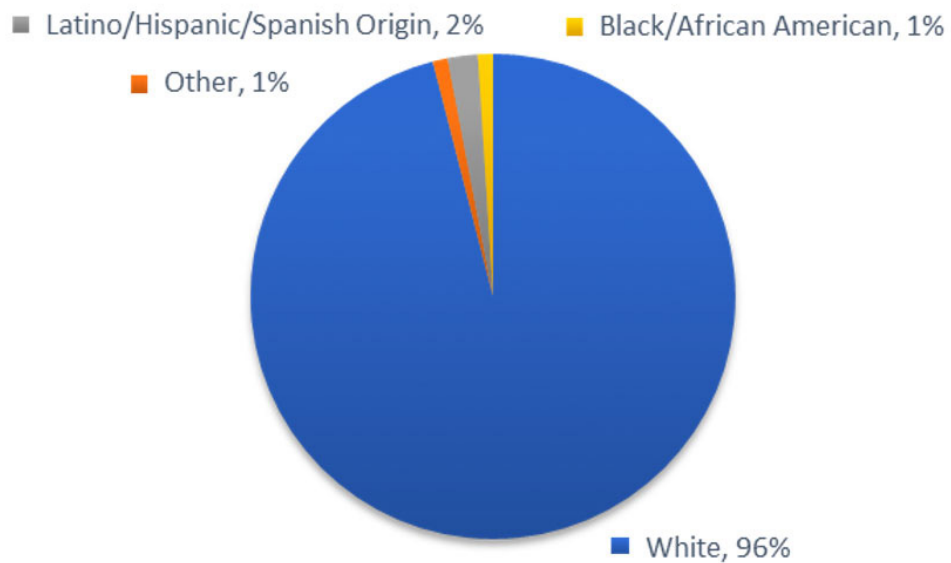
Education



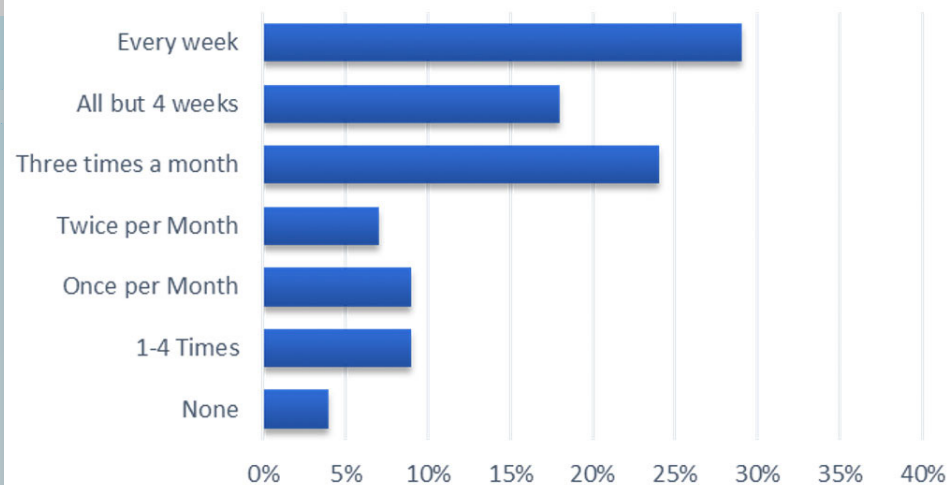
Age



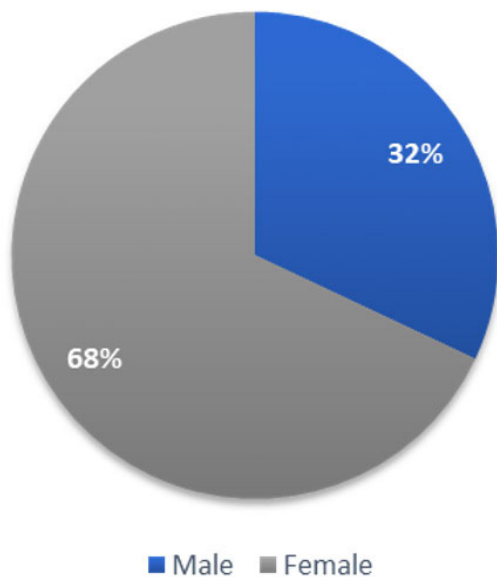
Ethnic Background



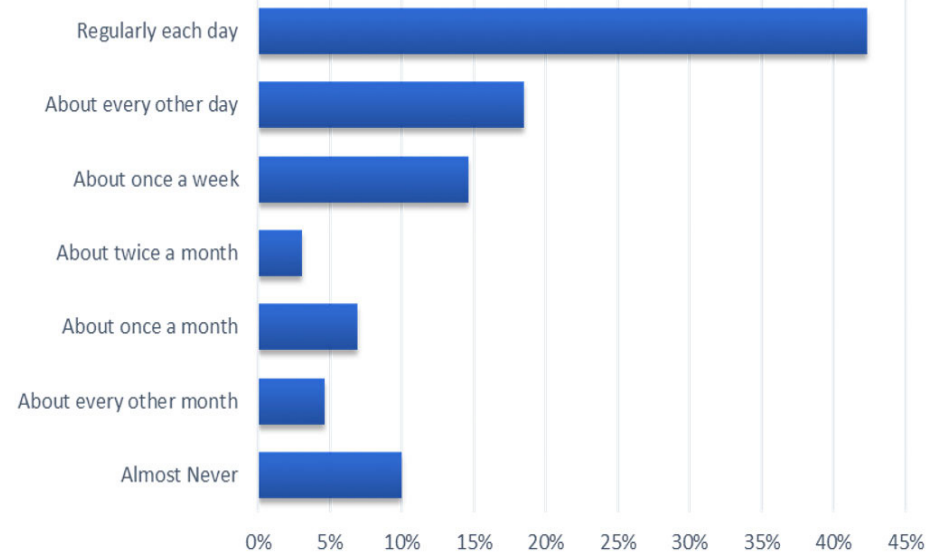
Church Attendance



Gender



Time spent on Individual Spiritual Growth



Additional Parish Survey Results

- We are a “transformational church in training,” the type of church with the potential to change the lives of members and others.
- Theologically, we are diverse with surprisingly little conflict. We lean toward a progressive perspective with a significant number of conservatives. We hold these differences together well.
- We are a parish in transition seeking a new rector, but we are very healthy with room to grow.
- As a congregation, we are open and welcoming.
- Our conflict management is excellent.
- We have a good mix of internal and external ministries.
- Additional congregational strengths include hospitality, morale, trust in leadership, spiritual vitality, and readiness for ministry.
- We want to make changes needed to reach out to others, especially young people and families with children - but we're a little resistant to change.
- Stewardship is 4.08% of the reported income.



Our Activities and Ministries

Worship Services

- Sunday Services: Rite 1 and Rite 2
- Morning Prayer: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
- Evening Eucharist and Healing Service: Wednesday
- Compline: Thursday
- We are a hybrid worshipping community, offering services both online and in person. Our Sunday services can be viewed online. We offer morning prayer and compline on Facebook.



Christian Education

- Children's Sunday School
- Adult Classes and Bible Study
- Youth Group
- Vacation Bible School



Our Activities and Ministries (cont.)

Communication

We communicate with our members through a weekly online newsletter, the E-Dove, and an excellent quarterly magazine, The Dove. Holy Comforter also recently began using Realm, a cloud-based church management system, to help members stay informed about church activities and communicate with the clergy and other congregants. Our clergy and parishioners actively engage through social media on Facebook and YouTube. Our website provides details about services, activities, and ministries (listed below).

Worship Ministries

- Pastoral Care
- Readers and Acolytes
- Ushers
- Altar Guild
- Choir & Music
- Flower Guild

Finance

- Stewardship Committee
- Fundraising Committee

Evangelism

- Greeter Ministry
- Westminster Oaks

Spiritual Life

- Centering Prayer
- Spiritual Journey
- Banner Committee
- Grief Support Group
- Card Ministry
- Prayer Angels
- Cursillo
- Daughters of the King
- Brotherhood

Church Care Ministries

- Buildings and Grounds
- Garden Guild
- Creation Care
- Lawn Care
- Safety & Security

Outreach Ministries

- Food Pantry
- Cuba Ministry
- Grace Mission
- Disaster Relief
- Technology/Concert Series

Church Community

- Connect Women
- Supper Club
- Book Discussion Group
- Men's Cooking Crew
- Hospitality
- Bereavement
- Home Meals

Is Holy Comforter a Good Fit for you?

As you consider whether Holy Comforter is a good fit for you, please reflect on these questions:

- What are your spiritual gifts?
- How have you succeeded in the past to attract families with children to your church?
- How would you help us provide more opportunities for Christian education and spiritual growth to every age group?
- Could you build additional partnerships to enhance our existing ministries and establish others that would serve those in need?
- Leading a transformative parish of our size can be joyful, yet exhausting work. We care about your health and well-being. How will you bring balance and self-care to your ministry?

Application Process: Please submit your cover letter, resume, OTM portfolio, and YouTube links to at least 2 recent sermons and a Bible Study to:

- The Rev. Cn. Allison DeFoor, Canon of the Ordinary, Episcopal Diocese of Florida at: Adefoor@diocesefl.org
- Ruth Roaza, Holy Comforter Search Committee Chair at: ruthroaza@comcast.net

Interviews will be scheduled on a rolling basis.

Application Deadline: November 30, 2022