Project Description
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From May to September 2020, I am working as a Software Engineering (SWE) Intern at [Ameelio](#), a nonprofit organization based in CT that is creating the first ever free digital communication platform between incarcerated people and their loved ones. Ameelio offers several services — including the Letters product (recently launched), which allows loved ones to write letters with photos on an app and have them delivered to facilities nationwide; the Videoconferencing product (to be launched), wherein loved ones can video call into certain facilities that have agreed to our program; and more.

As an onboarding/ramp-up task from April 1 to June 1, I have been working on **writing web crawlers for the "Nationwide Inmate Locator" project** (the end goal is to build a seamless, searchable national database that includes inmate information from every state in America). For the latter part of my internship until September 1, my main project is to **help translate Ameelio's service (completely web-based at the moment) to a mobile client**. Doing so will allow us to expand our reach exponentially to far more loved ones, as mobile availability opens up the door to large swaths of impacted populations (i.e. those who might not have computers all the time, those who want to send letters on the run, etc.). I will be collaborating on this project with three other interns as well.

I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to work at Ameelio, as I know that this project will be transformative for me on multiple levels. For starters, I will learn many technical skills, extremely useful to my trajectory as an aspiring technologist hoping to enter the world of public service — including React Native, web design, Typescript, Redux, and more. However, more broadly, this project allows me to work right at the rare synergy of the intellectual field that piques my interest most and the social problem that angers me most. Interning at Ameelio, then, will allow me to simultaneously engage with my humanistic inclinations and my technical pull; in essence, it is work that, for the first time, validates and fulfills every part of me. More so, completing this internship will undoubtedly help inform my future path more precisely. Given my aspirations to work in tech-for-social-good, the lived experience of interning at Ameelio will enlighten me on what problems make me tick most, which concepts in computer science I am most eager to master, and what my future career could ostensibly look like. These are just some of the few benefits I know I can expect to carry away from my time at Ameelio. I'm very grateful to JJCF for supporting this internship!