



Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.

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TO: Rural Community Organizations
DATE: March 26, 2018
RE: **22 AmeriCorps Positions Open for September 2018**
APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED NOW!

Dear Community Leader:

The Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc. (RurAL CAP) is pleased to announce 20 AmeriCorps Member positions in rural Alaska. The program will run for 11 months and start in September, 2018.

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| RESILIENT ALASKA YOUTH |
| AmeriCorps 22 positions available |
| AmeriCorps Members engage youth ages 10-17 in positive, skill-building activities that promote wellness and strengthen culture through in-class and outside of class instruction. |

AmeriCorps Program Information:

AmeriCorps engages more than 80,000 Americans each year in service to their nation and community at nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and other community and faith-based groups across the country. AmeriCorps members respond to local needs and make a difference by improving lives and local conditions through hands-on service and capacity-building activities. The AmeriCorps program brings benefits to the community and to the AmeriCorps member by providing training, a monthly living allowance of \$1,550 and an education award of \$5,920 upon successful completion of the service year. RurAL CAP and their supporting partners have been providing opportunities for rural communities through AmeriCorps programs for 25 years.

Using Project Venture as the primary intervention, the AmeriCorps Resilient Alaskan Youth program aims to address the high rates of youth substance abuse and suicide in rural Alaska through positive youth development and experiential learning. Project Venture, an evidence-based model recognized by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices, will be implemented in 22 communities across rural Alaska. Project Venture uses outdoor activities and American Indian traditional values to help youth develop positive self-concepts, effective social skills, a community service ethic, resiliency, and increased decision-making and problem-solving skills. Comprised of classroom-based problem solving activities, adventure-based experiential learning, service learning, and culturally based leadership, Project Venture actively engages youth in developing life skills while reinforcing traditional Native values such as family, service learning, and appreciation for the natural world.

Utilizing a Strength-based approach, Project Venture is built upon the concept that the indirect, positive approach of experiential learning is one of the most powerful and culturally appropriate means of education and development for American Indian youth. Project Venture has demonstrated success in reduction of risky behaviors, substance abuse, teen pregnancy, violence, depression, and anxiety; and increase in positive youth development indicators including those related to competency, connection, character, caring, confidence, and contribution.

AmeriCorps Members are recruited locally from their communities by a sponsoring **host organization** such as a tribal or city council, local school, community school, local health clinic, or regional or other local entity. Successful applicants are supervised by a locally-identified Site Supervisor and expected to work closely with community residents. This resource is available through grants from the Corporation for National and Community Service, Community Services Block Grant and the State of Alaska, Tobacco Prevention and Control make AmeriCorps placements available at no cost to your organization.

Detailed information on AmeriCorps program goals, possible activities and member benefits can be found in the attached program descriptions.

AmeriCorps Host Organization – How to Apply:

1. **Recruit AmeriCorps Member Candidates** – Use the enclosed posters and program information to recruit AmeriCorps applicants in your community. Communities must have at least one AmeriCorps applicant to be considered for selection– and are encouraged to have more than one applicant, if possible. Each candidate must complete a member application. People with disabilities are encouraged to apply.
2. **Complete Host Organization Application** – As part of the application, host organizations are required to:
 - Designate a Site Supervisor for the AmeriCorps member, who is a staff member within the host organization, and who will fill out the the host site application. *See “AmeriCorps Site Supervisor Roles & Responsibilities.”*
 - Develop a Service Description/workplan for the RESILIENT ALASKA YOUTH AmeriCorps member based upon community needs and the initiatives.
 - Identify and provide office space and access to a computer, fax and phone. *See sheet on host organization requirements.*
3. **Resolution or Letters of Support**--The host organization should show support for the program by submitting resolutions or letters of support from tribal or city councils, schools, Behavioral Health Aides and other partners such as regional health providers or community agencies. *Request a sample, if needed.*
4. **Submit Host Organization and AmeriCorps Member Applications by Deadlines Below** – These applications should include resolutions, letters of support or resumes. The application materials for the host site and member(s) should be submitted together and may be mailed, faxed or e-mailed, postmarked by the deadline below.
5. **AmeriCorps Application Information – Return Application to the Program Contact by either:**
 Email: Select email below; or Mail to: 731 East 8th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501
 Fax: 866-389-8484 (ATTN: Leilani Luhrs)

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| | RESILIENT ALASKA YOUTH |
| Priority Application Deadline | July 31, 2018 |
| RurAL CAP Program Contacts | Leilani Luhrs AmeriCorps Program Coordinator 907-865-7359 lluhrs@ruralcap.com |

Host Organization and Member Selection Process

1. **Application review** - RurAL CAP staff will review and score host site and member applications in November.
2. **Telephone interview** – Interviews conducted in November and December will include both the Site Supervisor applicant and the AmeriCorps applicant. Candidates are expected to be well prepared with ideas and plans for the year of service with details about creating a longstanding youth program. *The **interview questions** will be sent out before the actual interview to help you prepare.* Ask for it if you did not receive it.

The interview will be conducted by a team of two staffmembers at RurAL CAP. Successful applicants will be notified in September, and new members will begin their year of service in **September 2018**.

Enclosed in this packet are the following materials. Please make copies for your community, and share with prospective AmeriCorps member applicants:

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| 1. Resilient Alaska Youth Position Description | 4. Host Organization Application |
| 2. Site Supervisor Roles and Responsibilities | 5. AmeriCorps Member Application (4) |
| 3. Host Organization Recruitment Checklist | 6. AmeriCorps Recruitment Poster |

The RurAL CAP AmeriCorps Program is grateful for the partnerships that make this opportunity possible - the Corporation for National and Community Service, Serve Alaska, the State of Alaska, Departments of Commerce, Community and Economic Development and Health and Social Services (Tobacco Prevention and Control.)

Thank you for your interest in AmeriCorps!

Please do not hesitate to call directly or email RurAL CAP staff members/contacts listed above with questions.

-- the RurAL CAP AmeriCorps Team

Need assistance completing forms in this packet due to a disability or limited English proficiency? Please contact us at comdevsupport@ruralcap.com or 1-800-478-7227 and ask for Community Development's Accomodation Coordinator.