



**AmeriCorps Member
Service Opportunity
Full-Time Position
1700 hours in 10 months**



Greater Syracuse Land Bank and Local Initiatives Support Corporation are seeking two full-time AmeriCorps members to serve as **Community Outreach Coordinators**. Community Outreach Coordinators will work to implement a community outreach initiative to conduct community assessments of specific neighborhoods within the City of Syracuse and the Towns and Villages of Onondaga County. The candidate will ideally begin service on December 1, 2016 and serve a minimum of 1700 hours through the end of his/her term on September 30, 2017.

ORGANIZATION BACKGROUNDS

The Greater Syracuse Land Bank seeks to return vacant, abandoned, underutilized, and tax-delinquent properties to productive use in ways that support the community's long-range vision for its future. We do this by acquiring these properties, stabilizing them, selling them to responsible buyers for redevelopment, and by assembling and land banking projects for long-range redevelopment plans. Responsible, well-planned redevelopment of these properties will increase surrounding property values, improve quality of life for surrounding residents, and stabilize the tax base making it easier for local governments to provide essential services. Ensuring that properties are redeveloped by qualified developers, with adequate plans, and for purposes that benefit the surrounding community will work to reverse the decline of property values in blighted areas.

Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) is dedicated to helping community residents transform distressed neighborhoods into healthy and sustainable communities of choice and opportunity — good places to work, do business and raise children. LISC combines corporate, government and philanthropic resources to help community-based organizations revitalize underserved neighborhoods. This strategy extends to the LISC AmeriCorps program where we support placing AmeriCorps Members with local non-profit partners. Members assist in efforts to revitalize underserved neighborhoods across America and create vibrant places for people to live, work, and play.

The New York State Housing Stabilization Fund ("the Fund") is a LISC initiative developed in coordination with the Office of the New York State Attorney General. The Fund uses funds generated from New York's bank settlements as a result of the mortgage crisis to fund affordable housing, land banks, and anti-blight initiatives in the state. The goal of the Fund's AmeriCorps program is to enhance the capacity of the state's certified land banks to develop new initiatives, increase collaborative efforts with non-profit and community-based partners in targeted communities, and engage in innovative approaches to working with residents to solve community challenges posed by tax foreclosed and vacant buildings and properties.

AMERICORPS MEMBER ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Community Outreach Coordinator will be the primary liaison between the Greater Syracuse Land Bank and community members within the City of Syracuse. The AmeriCorps member will be assigned specific neighborhoods to conduct a community assessment to better determine how the Land Bank can establish mutually beneficial planning objectives with residents. The Community Outreach Coordinators will collaborate and support each other throughout the city while the assessments are conducted. The Community Outreach Coordinator tasks will include:

- Actively attend and participate in community/neighborhood meetings
- Organize and facilitate community meetings to gather community input to influence Land Bank planning goals
- Recruit residents and stakeholders to participate in community forums
- Work with Land Bank staff to develop community outreach plans in areas that have a high concentration of Land Bank properties and tax-seizeable properties.
- Develop a community assessment plan of assigned neighborhoods
- Support other AmeriCorps members in developing community assessments city-wide
- Educate community members on the Land Bank's vision, mission, planning objectives, and its property acquisition, maintenance, and disposition processes.
- Inform residents of Land Bank programming such as the Green Lots Grant program, Adopt-A-Lot, and Volunteer Beautification Programs
- Develop, recruit, and lead neighborhood beautification projects as identified by community groups
- Actively provide feedback and directive to Land Bank staff to influence planning and programmatic decisions based on community input
- Manage the Land Bank's social media platforms to engage current and new community members to determine community needs
- Develop media content to promote the Land Bank's mission and increase communication with community residents

CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

Members perform day to day service at the Greater Syracuse Land Bank and are expected to attend and participate in all LISC AmeriCorps sponsored activities including but not limited to:

- Attending a national leadership conference tentatively scheduled for March 2017;
- Attending all locally sponsored monthly meetings;
- Participating in nationally sponsored webinars;
- Actively participating in at least two locally identified and team coordinated service projects (one for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service and one for National AmeriCorps Week); and,
- Engaging in any other LISC events as determined by the NYS Housing Stabilization Fund.

This is an AmeriCorps position. LISC and the Greater Syracuse Land Bank will not allow the member to engage in activities that are considered prohibited under the terms of the grant while serving as a LISC AmeriCorps member.

DESIRED SKILLS

- Desire and ability to work with a diverse group of people, particularly those living in low-income distressed neighborhoods
- Experience in community engagement, community outreach, and/or volunteer coordination
- Bachelor's Degree in a field related to community engagement
- Strong public presentation skills
- Empathetic to individuals in difficult social and economic conditions
- Comfortable with organizational change in a fast-paced work environment

- Desire to learn and develop professional skill in the field of community development
- Ability to work independently and in a team environment
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite
- Experience managing and developing social media platforms
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Ability to work a flexible schedule (some night and weekends may be required)

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible to participate as a LISC AmeriCorps member the candidate must meet all eligibility requirements to serve as a National Service participant including but not limited to:

- Be eligible to earn 100% of a full-time education award
- Be eligible to perform a term of national service
- Possess a high school degree, GED certificate or agree to achieve GED during the term of service
- Be at least 17 years of age (note there is no upper age limit)
- Have unexpired proof of status as a US citizen or possess permanent resident status and be able to provide documentation as determined by CNCS
- Be available to serve for a full 10 month period of time
- Be able to complete at least 1700 hours of service within the 10 months of service as well as serve the full term of the service

NATIONAL SERVICE CRIMINAL HISTORY SEARCH REQUIREMENT

If a candidate has a criminal record, it does not necessarily make a candidate ineligible for service. Only candidates who are subject to registry on the National Sex Offender Public Website or have been convicted of First Degree Murder may not participate as an AmeriCorps member. Only candidates being offered and then accepting the position must consent to a search of the National Sex Offender Public Website, a State Level Criminal History Search and an FBI search. Consent is provided via the LISC AmeriCorps application.

PROGRAM BENEFITS

Upon successful completion of the term of service, the member will be eligible for a \$5,775 education award to pay off existing, eligible student loans or return to school. The position pays a total stipend of \$15,000. The stipend is taxable and paid in 20 equal checks twice a month from LISC. Direct deposit is highly encouraged. A health care benefit is available for the participant only (dependents are not eligible). For members with children under the age of 13, there is a child care subsidy benefit available which is dependent on the participant meeting all eligibility requirements (This benefit is administered by a contracted provider via the Corporation for National and Community Service).

HOW TO APPLY:

To apply, please submit a cover letter (no more than 1 page) and resume (no more than 2 pages) to: Katelyn Wright, Executive Director, Greater Syracuse Land Bank, 431 E Fayette Street, Suite 375, Syracuse NY 13202 at kwright@syracuselandbank.org. Email is strongly preferred. Please submit your application by October 21, 2016.

*We promote equal opportunity in selecting AmeriCorps members.
We are committed to diversity and inclusion in the selection process.*