



Child Welfare System Improvement CWS AmeriCorps Program Summary



AmeriCorps & Prevent Child Abuse California

AmeriCorps is often referred to as “the domestic Peace Corps.” Both are committed to service and both offer challenging and rewarding opportunities. While Peace Corps assignments are overseas, AmeriCorps was created to increase national service within American communities. The purpose of AmeriCorps is to engage members in direct service to address unmet community needs. AmeriCorps is a cost-effective way to leverage limited resources in these challenging economic times. With over 20 years of experience operating AmeriCorps programs, Prevent Child Abuse California administers the Child Welfare System Improvement (CWS) AmeriCorps Program. Members serve in either a full-time or half-time capacity for a duration of 10-12 months. Currently we have full-time (1700 Hour) and half-time (900 Hour) slots available for our 2018-2019 program year beginning September 17, 2018 and ending September 16, 2019.

**AmeriCorps positions
are available to begin
service September
2018-March 2019**

CWS AmeriCorps Position Summary

Family Support Aides serve as the family’s primary contact within the CWS AmeriCorps program. The Family Support Aide provides **direct services** to the family in their home or community service sites to provide family stabilization services such as parenting education, health education, assistance with accessing medical/dental services, home visitation, crisis intervention, resource/referral, and case management.

2016-2017 Accomplishments

- ❖ 60 Members provided 6,562 parents with parenting education and family stabilization services.
- ❖ Nearly 75% of parents showed an increase in parenting knowledge and reduced risk for child abuse behaviors based on pre- and post-assessment scores.
- ❖ 8,386 individuals received emergency food services and 1,162 individuals were enrolled into Health Insurance/Services.
- ❖ 1,054 community volunteers were recruited and served a total of 8,487 hours.

AmeriCorps Member Activities

- ❖ **Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect:** Family Support Aides provide family stabilization services and parenting education to prevent child abuse and neglect. AmeriCorps members can provide home visitation, case managed support, and assist with agency events focused on child abuse prevention and strengthening families. Integrated into these services, members provide crisis intervention, information & referrals, health education and assist with accessing health services, and facilitate family support groups. Data collection includes tracking increases in parenting knowledge and decreases in abusive and neglectful behaviors and the number of families served who do not have a substantiated CPS case within the program period.
- ❖ **Professional Member Development:** Members participate in ongoing personal and professional growth opportunities, including formal trainings and one-on-one supervision and coaching sessions. Members gain valuable skills and network with local agencies that enhance their AmeriCorps service and careers.
- ❖ **Volunteer Generation:** Members coordinate volunteers to enhance the capacity of their agency. Volunteers provide outreach services, assist with special events and provide support services. Members network with the target sources for potential volunteers, prepare flyers, attend community events to recruit volunteers, plan recognition events, monitor volunteer hours, and organize trainings. Many volunteers are prior or current recipients of CWS services.

CWS AmeriCorps Program:

Member Eligibility, Benefits and Partner Agency Investment

- ❖ **Eligibility Criteria:** Applicants must be 18 years of age; be a U.S. citizen, national or lawful permanent resident; and pass a National Service Criminal History Check.
- ❖ **Education Award:** Members earn an education award of \$5,920 after successfully completing a 1700-hour term of service or \$2,960 after successfully completing a 900-hour term of service.
- ❖ **Transfer of Education Award:** Members who are age 55 or older at the time they commence service, may transfer the education award to a child, grandchild, or foster child upon successful completion of their term of service.
- ❖ **Training/Member Development:** Members receive training opportunities, professional/personal development, field experience, networking, and individual supervision.
- ❖ **Childcare:** Eligible members may receive a childcare benefit.
- ❖ **Healthcare:** Members serving in a full-time capacity and who do not have other health insurance are eligible for a healthcare coverage.
- ❖ **Loan Forbearance:** With approval from the lending institution, members can postpone repayment of qualified student loans and the Corporation for National & Community Service will pay some or all of the interest accrued during the loan forbearance period depending on full-time vs. half-time status.
- ❖ **Member Living Allowance:** A living allowance is provided to offset cost of living expenses for the member during their term -of service. Members receive a pre-determined monetary amount, between \$13,735 and \$20,825 for full-time members and between \$7,270 and \$11,025 for half-time members; that is distributed equally in bimonthly payments over the term of their service.
- ❖ **Partner Agency Investment:** Partners provide match support to cover member living allowance and program operating expenses directly related to member service. The partnering organization selects their investment level based on a range of living allowances paid to AmeriCorps members. The cash match can range between \$9,510 and \$18,760 per full-time (1700-hour) member and between \$5,150 and \$10,140 per half-time (900-hour) member.

CONTACT INFORMATION: PREVENT CHILD ABUSE CALIFORNIA

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