AmeriCorps Member Position Description
Youth Action and Research Specialist - Full Time

The Iowa Department of Human Rights is partnering with Iowa AmeriCorps 4-H Outreach to have an AmeriCorps member serve as a Youth Action and Research Specialist in the Iowa Department of Human Rights (DHR). Members will serve one term of service which will begin in September 2021 and conclude in September 2022. Interested candidates should send their resume to Kayla Powell, Department of Human Rights, 321 E. 12th Street, 2nd Floor, Des Moines, IA 50319, or e-mail to kayla.powell@iowa.gov.

CLOSING DATE: Open Until Filled

POSITION SUMMARY: A full-time (1700 hours) AmeriCorps member will empower youth action and research to strengthen youth-serving systems, including child welfare and juvenile justice. The successful candidate will work collaboratively with DHR and youth/young adults to promote youth voice and youth participatory action research. No prior experience with research is required.

The physical office location for the successful candidate will be in the Iowa Department of Human Rights, Des Moines, IA.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: DHR is in need of an AmeriCorps member to serve as the Youth Action and Research Specialist to complete duties that include:

- Co-coordinate youth action and research activities within the Department
- Co-lead the Youth Justice Council, a subcommittee of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council, composed of youth and young adults with lived experience in juvenile justice who are passionate about making changes to better this system
- Collaborate on the activities of the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) Ambassadors, a cohort of youth with foster care experience to help advise, strengthen and partner on the NYTD survey and communication with stakeholders
- Collaborate on the implementation of school-based Youth Action Squads, a program for youth leaders wanting to take action on human rights issues within their local schools/communities using data and research as strategies
- Co-coordinate DHR youth development events and create content for the Iowa Youth Resources website, the NYTD website and NYTD social media channels
- Develop and implement strategies to advance youth engagement in DHR Councils, including the Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development, Iowa Taskforce for Young Women, Disproportionate Minority Contact, and others.
- Collaborate on the development of positive youth development and authentic youth engagement trainings for DHR staff and other state agency staff
- Coordinate with the other DHR youth initiatives, including Iowa Youth Congress and the State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council and network with local youth councils, community, and state partners.
- Involve youth participants in AmeriCorps sponsored service projects.
• Provide technical assistance and training to youth and adults related to youth development, including youth participatory action research.

MINIMUM EDUCATION: High school diploma (or equivalent)

SALARY and BENEFITS: Full-time AmeriCorps members receive a MODEST annual living stipend of $14,279.00. This living stipend will be paid monthly, divided by the number of months in a member’s term. For example, a member whose term is 12 months will receive a monthly living stipend of $1,189.92 (pretax) ($14,279/12 months). Upon completion of 1700 hours of service, members receive an additional $6,195 educational award. An additional benefit includes student loan forbearance or deferment while in service.

This position also provides valuable leadership and problem-solving skills that all employers are seeking.

AmeriCorps members are not employees of the State of Iowa. The office for the successful candidate will be in Department of Human Rights, Des Moines, IA.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:
• Demonstrated ability to interact effectively and work with youth/young adults and diverse populations;
• Computer proficiency in Google Suite (Docs, Sheets, Slides, and Gmail); Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher)
• Flexibility and the ability to manage multiple projects at once;
• Self-motivated and able to work independently and remotely as well as in a team environment;
• Willingness to learn new skills, set goals and have good organizational skills;
• Demonstrated public speaking ability and excellent communications skills, both oral and written;
• Willingness to have a flexible schedule and have the capacity to travel, including nights and weekends
• Interest in working with youth/young adults, community groups, and state agencies to promote youth development and youth engagement.
• Preferred, but not required: lived experience in child welfare and/or juvenile justice