



# Illinois Public Health Association AmeriCorps Program

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## What is AmeriCorps?

AmeriCorps is a National Service movement with roots in the Peace Corps and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). AmeriCorps provides thousands of Americans of all ages and backgrounds with an opportunity to address pressing community needs by completing a 'term of service'.

Nationwide, there are hundreds of AmeriCorps programs providing service to communities in the areas of Disaster Services, Economic Opportunity, Education, Environmental Stewardship, Healthy Futures, and Veterans and Military Families. AmeriCorps programs are funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) and in Illinois, they are supported by the Serve Illinois Commission.

AmeriCorps Members serve with nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and faith-based and community organizations to help them accomplish more and make more effective use of volunteers. AmeriCorps Members help make our communities safer, stronger, and healthier.

## What is the Illinois Public Health Association AmeriCorps Program?

The Illinois Public Health Association (IPHA) AmeriCorps Program is a Statewide AmeriCorps Program that works to strengthen the field of public health through the development of skilled and committed leaders. The IPHA AmeriCorps Program serves as a valuable opportunity to mentor individuals into the field of public health and human services. Members who serve in the program receive extensive orientation, mentoring, and guidance in exploring the public health field as a career – and potentially working within Illinois communities.

IPHA AmeriCorps Members help meet locally identified needs at health agencies across the state through community service in three primary focus areas: health promotion, education, and outreach; volunteer coordination; and assistance with community emergency preparedness.

## How Do IPHA AmeriCorps Members Serve?

Members serve a required number of hours over a pre-determined time period called a 'term of service'. IPHA AmeriCorps Members are placed at organizations called Host Sites where they address locally identified community needs through direct service to the organization and community. At least 80% of the member's hours are spent in service for the Host Site and fulfilling other IPHA AmeriCorps Program requirements. The remaining hours may be dedicated to training and professional development opportunities. Members attend IPHA AmeriCorps and Serve Illinois Commission sponsored trainings and activities, participate in National Days of Service, attend quarterly team trainings, participate in monthly team conference calls, and have the opportunity to participate in optional development activities.

## What Do AmeriCorps Members Receive For Their Service?

In exchange for their service, AmeriCorps Members receive a moderate living allowance/stipend and an education award. Members may also qualify for student loan forbearance and health insurance. Beyond these benefits, all members have the opportunity to gain personal and professional development skills, take on leadership roles, work with community partners, and build professional networks.

## How Do Local Health Agencies Benefit?

The IPHA AmeriCorps Program offers local health agencies an opportunity to place one or more AmeriCorps Members in their organization. This is an excellent opportunity to get a full-time, skilled, motivated individual to serve at your agency for a fraction of the cost of adding an agency staff person. These individuals are recruited by IPHA, in consultation with each local health agency, from universities, community colleges, retirees and other local, state, and nationwide sources.

IPHA works with each participating health agency on an individual basis to explore and determine an agreed upon set of activities that the member will perform to best fit your agency and community needs.

In difficult fiscal times, hosting an IPHA AmeriCorps Member is an excellent way to strengthen your staff, expand your service capacity, offer a training employment opportunity for your community, and support public health workforce development!

## What is the Role of IPHA?

The Illinois Public Health Association, as the management agent, provides all administrative functions for the AmeriCorps Program including fiscal management. IPHA provides a full-time Program Director who is responsible for coordinating all training and orientation events, monitoring the AmeriCorps Members' activities, serving as a public health mentor, submitting reports to the state and federal government, and assuring that all members meet the requirements for training and development.

## How Much is the Local Health Agency's Investment?

The investment per AmeriCorps Member serving at your agency depends on the length of the term of service. The cash match investment for each term of service is as follows: 3 months = \$3,020; 6 months = \$6,040; 8 months = \$8,050; 11 months = \$11,400. Host agencies are required to provide in-kind in addition to the cash match which can include a combination of supervisor hours, training expenses, and travel expenses paid for by the host agency. The total cost to the program, including salaries, living stipends, health insurance, worker's compensation, fringe, travel, training, and supplies is over \$20,000 per member for the 11 month term of service.

**To learn more about hosting an IPHA AmeriCorps Member at your agency, contact:**

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