Host Site: Rebuilding Together Southeast Michigan
AmeriCorps Program: CapacityCorps
Title: AmeriCorps Outreach Coordinator – Oakland County
Location: Farmington Hills, MI

About Our Community

Rebuilding Together Southeast Michigan began in Oakland County and we have continuously served that community for the past 27 years. It is the second-largest county in Michigan and is part of a tri-county area (including Macomb county to the east and Wayne County to the south) known as Southeast Michigan. Oakland County contains some of the wealthiest neighborhoods in Michigan along with some cities and neighborhoods struggling with similar issues as Detroit in Wayne County.

During our 2017 strategic planning session, our Board set a goal to expand our service area to include Wayne County. While continuing our service in Oakland County, we began working in the Jefferson-Chalmers neighborhood in Detroit (Wayne County) in 2018 and, in 2019, further expanded our Wayne County service area to include all of Detroit’s City Council District 4. We completed 41 projects in 2019 and each year we utilize around 900 volunteers throughout our signature National Rebuild Day event, Minor Home Repair program, and seasonal Rebuild Day projects. AmeriCorps members selected will help us increase our capacity to serve more homeowners throughout Southeast Michigan.

Summary of Position

The AmeriCorps Outreach Coordinator strives to build trust and awareness among targeted client/homeowner populations most in need of our services and activate the local community to get involved. They identify and implement outreach strategies and techniques to increase homeowner applications, engage volunteers (both skilled and unskilled), and build community partnerships. The AmeriCorps Outreach Coordinator is the primary point of contact for all clients and volunteers, and ensures a good flow of communication before, during, and after the project. Rebuilding Together Southeast Michigan’s AmeriCorps Outreach Coordinator – Oakland County and AmeriCorps Outreach Coordinator – Wayne County both serve primarily from the main office in Farmington Hills while their outreach focuses on their respective service areas.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- Oversee the client application process, including: assisting potential clients with the application, managing homeowner application intake, completing initial interviews with clients, completing home assessments, and tracking the client application/approval process in the database.
- Develop and maintain community partnerships to support a strong pipeline of volunteers to participate in rebuilding events, including: conduct research to identify potential partners,
coordinate and participate in outreach meetings, and serve as main point of contact with partners for volunteering matters.

- Interview or survey homeowners and volunteers after project completion to capture their experiences with Rebuilding Together. Report findings to the team and suggest solutions for improving our delivery of a high quality of services to homeowners and volunteer experience to volunteers.

- Pursue a robust client and volunteer outreach strategy that will increase awareness of our services among our target populations, including: attending community meetings and other events; creating and distributing materials; contributing client- and volunteer-focused content for social media, newsletter, and website; presenting at community organizations and tabling at resource and volunteer fairs.

- Speak with interested homeowners before the application to answer their questions about our programs and provide client referrals to appropriate community service organizations and agencies.

- As a grassroots non-profit, all team members will have an active role in implementing larger rebuilding projects throughout the year. They will assist with project logistics several times throughout the year, including registering volunteers, checking in with homeowners throughout the project day, coordinating volunteer logistics such as lunches and bathrooms, assisting with set up/tear down, and taking photos.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

**Required**

- Proficient in Microsoft Word and Excel or similar
- Solid interpersonal skills and ability make connections and build relationships with both volunteers and clients
- Comfort with speaking and presenting in front of large groups--experience training or teaching adults/volunteers is a plus
- Ability to work with diverse clients, volunteers, and staff to create a friendly, helpful atmosphere
- Ability to work equally well on independent projects as well as on collaborative, team projects
- Positive and optimistic attitude, good problem-solving skills

**Preferred**

- General understanding of Oakland County's cities, municipal services, local community organizations, housing stock, and demographics
- Bachelor's degree or equivalent work/volunteering experience
- Experience with construction, home repair, and housing issues
- Ability to work on multiple tasks in a growing and changing environment, with flexibility/adaptability
- Volunteer service experience; managing or coordinating other volunteers is a plus.
- Able to absorb complex information quickly and communicate that information effectively
- Well-organized, detail-oriented, self-motivated, flexible
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- Ability to compose professional written communications for a variety of audiences, including social media (Facebook, Twitter, e-Newsletter)

Description of Physical Demands
- The majority of time will be spent in the office; they must be able to use a computer and phone for extended periods of time.
- They must be able to travel independently to meetings in the community and in client homes.
- They will assist with several rebuilding days during the term—as such they must be able to walk, climb stairs, stand, lift, and carry for extended periods of time.

Other Requirements
- Access to reliable transportation for daily commute.
- Access to reliable transportation for regular travel during the work day as part of core responsibilities.
- Use of a personal vehicle is recommended due to inadequate public transportation.
- Valid driver’s license and driving record to allow use of affiliate-owned or –rented vehicles or trucks.

Position Location
Our office is located in the city of Farmington Hills in Oakland County, Michigan. We complete the majority of our projects in Southfield, Farmington Hills, Pontiac, Farmington, Highland, and District 4 in Detroit. This upcoming year our goals include: increased services within Oakland County in Madison Heights, Hazel Park, and Oak Park; increased services in Wayne County; and further implementation of our expansion plan to serve more areas throughout Southeast Michigan.

Program Benefits
- Opportunity to address housing issues hands-on in your community.
- Work with and support 49 other AmeriCorps members across the country.
- Living allowance of $15,000 over an 11-month term of service, which amounts to $681 twice per month before taxes.
- Health insurance including dental and vision plans.
- Education Award of TBA May 2020 (was $6,095 for 2019) for qualifying education expenses or loans, upon completion of the term of service.
- Federal student loan forbearance and interest accrual payment.
- Positions are eligible for Public Service Loan Forgiveness.
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Background Check
CapacityCorps members are required to pass an FBI criminal background check with fingerprints, applicable state background checks, and an NSOPW check. For more information about disqualifying findings, visit our FAQ’s on our website, www.rebuildingtogether.org/capacitycorps.

Prohibited Activities
AmeriCorps members may not engage in any of the AmeriCorps Prohibited Activities (see below) directly or indirectly by recruiting, training, or managing others for the primary purpose of engaging in one of the activities listed below. AmeriCorps members will not recruit or coordinate volunteers for the purposes of raising funds for his/her living allowance, Rebuilding Together’s general operating expenses, or write grant applications for funding provided by CNCS or other federal agencies.

Any volunteer recruitment, training, management, or coordination listed above as completed by the AmeriCorps member pertains to volunteers engaged in work directly related to rebuilding project implementation only.

AmeriCorps Prohibited Activities

Prohibited Activities. While charging time to the AmeriCorps program, accumulating service or training hours, or otherwise performing activities supported by the AmeriCorps program or CNCS, staff and members may not engage in the following activities (see 45 CFR § 2520.65):

a) Attempting to influence legislation;
b) Organizing or engaging in protests, petitions, boycotts, or strikes;
c) Assisting, promoting, or deterring union organizing;
d) Impairing existing contracts for services or collective bargaining agreements;
e) Engaging in partisan political activities, or other activities designed to influence the outcome of an election to any public office;
f) Participating in, or endorsing, events or activities that are likely to include advocacy for or against political parties, political platforms, political candidates, proposed legislation, or elected officials;
g) Engaging in religious instruction, conducting worship services, providing instruction as part of a program that includes mandatory religious instruction or worship, constructing or operating facilities devoted to religious instruction or worship, maintaining facilities primarily or inherently devoted to religious instruction or worship, or engaging in any form of religious proselytization;
h) Providing a direct benefit to—
   i) A business organized for profit;
   ii) A labor union;
   iii) A partisan political organization;
   iv) A nonprofit organization that fails to comply with the restrictions contained in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 related to engaging in political activities or
substantial amount of lobbying except that nothing in these provisions shall be construed to prevent participants from engaging in advocacy activities undertaken at their own initiative; and

v) An organization engaged in the religious activities described in paragraph 3.g. above, unless CNCS assistance is not used to support those religious activities;

i) Conducting a voter registration drive or using CNCS funds to conduct a voter registration drive;

j) Providing abortion services or referrals for receipt of such services; and

k) Such other activities as CNCS may prohibit.

AmeriCorps members may not engage in the above activities directly or indirectly by recruiting, training, or managing others for the primary purpose of engaging in one of the activities listed above. Individuals may exercise their rights as private citizens and may participate in the activities listed above on their initiative, on non-AmeriCorps time, and using non-CNCS funds. Individuals should not wear the AmeriCorps logo while doing so.

Citations: