



Justice for Montanans AmeriCorps Member

Montana Legal Services Association – Legal Services Navigator

Justice for Montanans members help empower low to moderate income Montanans to advocate for their legal right and increase access to justice.

Term of Service: September 2018 – August 2019

Service Schedule: Member will serve a minimum of 1,700 hours over a 48-week term and receive a living stipend every two weeks. Member may take approximately 2 weeks of combined vacation and sick time as well as 10 holidays during the term which will not count towards the 1,700 hour requirement. Member will typically serve 40 hours per week. Member will serve in Helena, Montana.

Position Summary:

Make a difference for low-income Montanans and learn about the legal system as a member of Justice for Montanans serving with the Montana Legal Services Association. The Montana Legal Services Association (MLSA) is a nonprofit organization that provides legal services to low-income people throughout Montana. The member will help increase MLSA's capacity to provide services by performing intake through the MLSA HelpLine. The member talks with new or prospective clients, asks a series of questions and then uses this data to determine the best next course of action for that person. The member will provide support to the pro bono program by acting as a liaison to the pro bono programs and clients. All members will uphold the goals of the Justice for Montanans Program by increasing access to justice for low to moderate income Montanans.

Specific Position Responsibilities:

- Provide legal resource information to clients by telephone, mail and outreach
- Conduct client interviews in person and over the phone
- Help coordinate remedies with attorneys and partner organizations
- Assist in maintaining client related files and documentation
- Assist walk-in clients as needed
- Support attorneys with case management and attend court hearings as appropriate
- Support local pro bono programs
- Develop knowledge of Montana's legal system and legal information to share with client populations and other agencies as appropriate
- Serve as a LiveHelp navigator to provide remote assistance in finding legal information on MontanaLawHelp.org and other websites
- Recruit, train and coordinate volunteers and interns, including pro bono attorneys, law students, college students, and others
- Expand outreach efforts for various projects such as the Montana FreeFile program, Veterans Stand Downs, and many more



- Build relationships, attend meetings, and provide trainings with service agencies
- Attend trainings to broaden your knowledge of the legal system, techniques for working with clients in crisis, and to learn more about important resource providers
- Assist with the updating, maintenance and expansion of MLSA and JFM websites and social media presence to provide legal information to people throughout Montana.
- Perform other AmeriCorps-related duties such as reporting, timekeeping, and service projects

Minimum Requirements:

- Over 18 with a high school diploma or GED; college degree or equivalent work experience preferred
- A United States citizen, United States National, or legal permanent resident
- Ability to take initiative, handle multiple projects, track details essential to project completion, analyze information, and meet deadlines
- Strong ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing with diverse groups of people
- Demonstrated ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Basic computer proficiency
- Passion for increasing access to justice and assisting low-income individuals
- A driver's license and personal means of transportation within the state of Montana are highly recommended
- Must pass a national service criminal history check due to contact with vulnerable populations
- Qualified individuals with disabilities and those from diverse backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply. We provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals.
- Legal background or experience not required

Benefits:

- Living allowance of \$13,732 over 48-week term of service
- An AmeriCorps Education Award of \$5,920 upon successful completion of service. This award can be used to pay education costs at qualified institutions of higher education, for educational training and resources, or to repay qualified student loans. Members aged 55 and over may transfer the education award to a child, grandchild or foster child.
- Eligible for deferment on qualified student loans
- Guaranteed health benefits and child care assistance if qualified
- Hands-on experience and training for work in the legal field
- Opportunity to live, serve, and be part of the AmeriCorps team in the state of Montana

Questions? Contact Mēghan Scott: jfm@mtlsa.org or 406-442-9830 x143 To apply please visit www.justiceformontanans.org



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