



Justice for Montanans AmeriCorps Member

Montana Legal Services Association-Intake & Outreach/Indian Law Concentration

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**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 federally and privately funded nonprofit organization that provides legal services to low-income people throughout Montana. This position will do regular intake and outreach but focus on supporting MLSA's Indian Law Practice Group. The position will have occasional travel to Montana Indian Country. 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:**

- Support the Indian Law Practice Group Managing attorney with case management, intake, mailing documents and letters to clients, and filings in tribal court
- Manage MLSA's Indian Wills Project
- Draft wills for Native American clients and develop expertise in the American Indian Probate Reform Act
- Increase awareness of MLSA among Indian Country service providers with the aim of increasing referrals from service providers to MLSA
- Conduct outreach to Montana Indian Country, both urban and on-reservation, regarding MLSA's services
- Develop knowledge of tribal court systems and legal information to share with client populations and other agencies as appropriate
- Compile legal resources, forms, and information specifically for tribal members
- Interview clients and assist with intake processes for MLSA's general client population
- Provide legal resource information to clients by telephone, mail and outreach
- 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

- 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 alien
- 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](mailto:jfm@mtlsa.org) or 406-442-9830 x143

**To apply please visit** [www.justiceformontanans.org](http://www.justiceformontanans.org)