

Literacy Volunteers of Illinois
Volunteer Outreach for Community Action in Literacy
2022/2023

Call for Host Sites

Literacy Volunteers of Illinois (LVI), a statewide organization committed to developing and supporting volunteer literacy programs that help families, adults and out-of school teens increase their literacy skills, is seeking adult literacy programs interested in serving as host sites for the placement of AmeriCorps members through our **Volunteer Outreach for Community Action in Literacy (VOCAL)** program. The AmeriCorps program is a national program of the Corporation for National and Community Service; funding for the VOCAL program comes from the Serve Illinois Commission. The start date for the program year is September 1st.

The goal of VOCAL AmeriCorps is to assist community and faith-based volunteer literacy programs provide increased services in their communities through the placement of full-time, part-time and minimum-time members.

The program has two primary objectives in Economic Development, which are -

- 1) Adult Literacy Instruction – This can be one-to-one, small group or classroom in basic literacy, ESL and/or GED/HSE, as well as Citizenship and Life Skills including Digital Literacy.
- 2) Job Placement – This can include coaching and counseling, job club services, job development and placement, resume development assistance, and/or workplace behavior and other soft skills training.

The program has two secondary objectives which are -

- 1) Volunteer Recruitment and Support – This includes tutor and other volunteer recruitment, as well as in-service training, newsletters, recognition events, community outreach activities, and any other activities that bring and keep volunteers in your program.
- 2) Member Development – Given the current situation, our training program is not fully fleshed out. We do anticipate offering monthly “First Friday” training, whether it will be in-person or remote or a combination thereof remains to be seen. All full-time members are required to attend the training.

Reports on inputs and outcomes on these four objectives are due in March and September on forms provided by LVI.

The program has 12 full-time members and 12 part-time members. Full-time members serve 1,700 hours at a site and receive from LVI a \$16,502 per annum living allowance distributed biweekly and health insurance. On successful completion of the program they are eligible for a post-service educational award with a value of \$6,495. Part-time members serve 900 hours and receive from LVI a \$8,500 per annum living allowance paid biweekly. On successful completion of service they receive a post-service educational award of \$3,247.50. All members are covered under LVI's Worker Compensation Insurance.

Host Site Obligations

- (1) Provide meaningful service work (*up to 35 hours per week for full-time members, 20 hours for part-time members and eight hours for minimum time*) and performance criteria appropriate to the skill level of the member recruited and/or assigned (based on 52 weeks; for fewer weeks divide weeks to be served into 900 hours for part-time).
- (2) Provide daily supervision and comply with all service records reporting procedures.
- (3) Provide equipment and/or materials for use by the member to complete his/her work tasks.
- (4) Provide training opportunities beyond those offered all members by LVI. We recommend that \$200 per member be committed for registration fees.
- (5) Provide a safe, sanitary, and handicap accessible working environment.
- (6) Submit and/or ensure the submission of member and program progress reports on performance objectives, accomplishments, challenges and areas where support may be needed.
- (7) Provide an in-kind match (supervision, space, etc.) equal to the amount of the placement fee.
- (8) Report any problems or work-related accidents to LVI staff (members are covered under LVI's insurance policies);
- (9) Ensure member(s) compliance with all AmeriCorps rules and regulations outlined in the Code of Excellence and Member and Supervisor Manuals.
- (10) Coordinate and ensure member attendance at required LVI or Serve Illinois activities.

Fiscal Requirements

To generate the required cash match for member expenses and program staff there are member placement fees. The placement fee is an allowable cost for Secretary of State Literacy Office funded-grants. Should programs who have not budgeted for this be interested in changing their budget once they receive approval for their FY '23 program from the State Literacy office, they may do so. Contact your grant monitor or the Literacy Office for further information.

Placement Fees: Full-time - \$9,000 Part-Time - \$4,500

Questions regarding VOCAL can be directed to - Dorothy M. Miaso, Executive Director (312/857-1582)

Host Site Applications can be downloaded at lvillinois.org on the VOCAL AmeriCorps page.

For information on AmeriCorps, visit www.AmeriCorps.gov.

Applications will be accepted and reviewed and compatible programs approved on a first-come, first-served basis.