

## Detailed Description of Eligible NJ Bonner AmeriCorps Member Service Activities

### *A. Education*

#### • **Literacy Programs**

Bonner AmeriCorps members implement literacy programs based on evidence-based practices to increase literacy outcomes. The program must have the capacity to pre and post test participating youth to determine literacy gains.

Campus-based programs also have the option of requesting a 900 hour or 1700 hour Member to serve as the Team Leader for the cohort of 300 hour Members and other volunteers serving with literacy programs. The Team Leader can assist with researching and implementing evidence-based practices for literacy education programs, coordinating knowledge and skill-based training for Members and volunteers, maintaining on-going communication with the staff of the service sites, and recruiting additional volunteers to serve alongside Bonner AmeriCorps members.

#### • **College Access Programs**

We will consider placements in which Bonner AmeriCorps members serve with college access programs that use evidence-based practices to enhance academic outcomes for high school students and assist them with the college admissions process. Member roles may include assisting participating high school students with activities related to the college entrance process including SAT and ACT test preparation, college visits, admissions applications and essays, and financial aid applications.

Campus-based programs also have the option of requesting a 900 hour or 1700 hour Member to serve as the Team Leader for the cohort of 300 hour Members and other volunteers serving with college access programs. The Team Leader can assist with researching and implementing evidence-based practices for college access programs, coordinating knowledge and skill-based training for Members and volunteers, maintaining on-going communication with the staff of the

service sites, and recruiting additional volunteers to serve alongside Bonner AmeriCorps members.

### ***B. Job Training and Other Skill Development***

#### **• GED Preparation**

Bonner AmeriCorps members work one-one-one

with participants to help them prepare for GED testing or serve as coordinators for

GED preparation programs. GED programs should use evidence-based program

models and be able to document the number of individuals who receive their GED.

We will consider placements in which

Campus-based programs also have the option of requesting a 900 hour or 1700 hour Member to serve as the Team Leader for the cohort of 300 hour Members and other volunteers serving with GED programs. The Team Leader can assist with researching and implementing evidence-based practices for GED programs, coordinating knowledge and skill-based training for Members and volunteers, maintaining on-going communication with the staff of the service sites, and recruiting additional volunteers to serve alongside Bonner AmeriCorps members.

#### **• ESL Instruction**

Bonner AmeriCorps members work one-one-one with ESL students or serve as coordinators for ESL programs. ESL programs should use evidence-based program models.

We will consider placements in which Campus-based programs also have the option of requesting a 900 hour or 1700 hour Member to serve as the Team Leader for the cohort of 300 hour Members and other volunteers serving with ESL programs. The Team Leader can assist with

researching and implementing evidence-based practices for ESL programs, coordinating knowledge and skill-based training for Members and volunteers, maintaining on-going communication with the staff of the service sites, and recruiting additional volunteers to serve alongside Bonner AmeriCorps members.

### • **Job Training**

We will consider placements in which Bonner AmeriCorps members serve with job training programs. Members may assist with job skill instruction for participants, developing relationships with local employers, and helping participants put together resumes, conduct job searches and prepare for interviews. Job training programs should utilize the follow evidence-based practices:

- a focus on preparing candidates for employment in a particular industry sector;
- efforts made to develop relationships with local employers in the identified industry sector; and,
- services offered to support completion of the program and success on the job including assistance with childcare, transportation or housing needs.

Programs need to be able to document the number of individuals who receive employment as a result of participating in the job training program.

Campus-based programs also have the option of requesting a 900 hour or 1700 hour Member to serve as the Team Leader for the cohort of 300 hour Members and other volunteers serving with job training programs. The Team Leader can assist with researching and implementing evidence-based practices for job training programs, coordinating knowledge and skill-based training for Members and volunteers, maintaining on-going communication with the staff of the service sites, and recruiting additional volunteers to serve alongside Bonner AmeriCorps members.

### ***C. Food Security***

We will consider placements in which Bonner AmeriCorps members engage in a variety of activities designed to help individuals and families enhance their food security. Eligible activities include:

- ***Emergency Food Assistance:*** via food pantries, soup kitchens, etc.
- ***Referrals to Aide Programs:*** Food insecurity is often a result of inadequate income to support a healthy diet. At times, families may have to choose between paying their rent and utilities or buying food. Bonner AmeriCorps members may help clients connect with valuable community-based aide initiatives such as housing or utility assistance programs that provide financial assistance to low-income residents. Members may also help clients connect with job training and placement programs designed to help the un- and underemployed. Members may also teach financial literacy classes to help clients learn to budget appropriately for all household expenses including food.
- ***Assistance with Food Stamp Applications:*** To help clients achieve long term food security, Bonner AmeriCorps members may help clients through the process of applying for food stamps through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.
- ***Urban Community Gardens and Nutrition Education:*** Bonner AmeriCorps members may help local residents build and maintain community gardens. Members may help identify and prepare suitable land for community gardens, engage local farmers in teaching basic gardening practices, solicit donations of plant starts from farms and gardening centers, and assist residents with maintaining and harvesting produce. Members will also connect residents to nutrition education and cooking classes designed to help individuals and families learn to cook with the produce items they grow. Programs must have the capacity to administer a Food Security survey to clients.

Campus-based programs also have the option of requesting a 900 hour or 1700 hour Member to serve as the Team Leader for the cohort of 300 hour Members and other volunteers serving with food security programs. The Team Leader can assist with researching and implementing evidence-based practices for food security programs, coordinating knowledge and skill-based training for Members, maintaining on-going communication with the staff of the service sites, and recruiting additional volunteers to serve alongside Bonner AmeriCorps members.