AmeriCorps Member Position Description

Member Position / Title:
Community Engagement Coordinator

# of Member Slots in this Position:
1

Member Immediate Supervisor:
Renee Corrigan

Name: Days / Hours of Service:
Office hours are M-F, 9am-5pm. Position requires significant evening/weekend hours as well as travel; corps member will flex time for a total of 40 hours/week.

Member Immediate Supervisor Title:
Education & Outreach Director

Partner Organization Name:
Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center

Address: 404 S. Jefferson Davis Parkway **City:** New Orleans, LA **Zip Code:** 70119

Website: www.gnofairhousing.org

Organization/Agency Mission and/or Goals:

The Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center (GNOFHAC) is a nonprofit civil rights organization established in 1995 to eradicate housing discrimination. GNOFHAC's work throughout Louisiana includes education, investigation and enforcement activities. GNOFHAC is dedicated to fighting housing discrimination because it is an illegal and divisive force that perpetuates poverty, segregation, ignorance, fear and hatred. GNOFHAC is the only full-service fair housing organization in Louisiana. Housing discrimination is prevalent throughout Louisiana and contributes to segregation and systemic inequalities in everything from educational attainment, to employment access, to health outcomes and life expectancy. Our work to address segregation and access to opportunity helps to build healthier, more secure communities.

Program Mission and/or Goals:

The goals for the project are to expand GNOFHAC's outreach capacity to increase awareness of housing discrimination and fair housing rights statewide, and to increase meaningful community engagement between GNOFHAC and communities across Louisiana, in order to help build a powerful movement for fair housing in Louisiana.

Community Need:

The importance of housing choice cannot be overstated, as a person's neighborhood is inextricably tied to their life outcomes. A 2012 report by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies and the Orleans Parish Place Matters Team, *Place Matters for Health in*

Orleans Parish, found that life expectancy in the city varies by as much as 25 years depending on one's zip code. Notably, New Orleans zip codes with the highest life expectancies are overwhelmingly white, while those with the lowest are majority-African American, and this is a common pattern in cities across the United States. The high levels of residential segregation we see today are the result of generations of discriminatory housing policy and they continue to be perpetuated by high levels of housing discrimination in rentals, sales, mortgage lending, insurance and zoning policies. The National Fair Housing Alliance estimates that more than four million acts of housing discrimination occur in the United States each year, but only a tiny fraction of those incidents are ever reported. Many families don't know their housing rights, don't know the signs of housing discrimination (that can sometimes be subtle or hard to detect) and/or don't know that no-cost services are available to assist them in making and pursuing a complaint.

Member Position Summary:

The Community Engagement Coordinator will:

- Conduct statewide outreach to expand GNOFHAC's networks, partnerships, and visibility in various Louisiana communities, both urban and rural.
- Conduct targeted outreach to groups who experience high levels of housing discrimination (including immigrants and persons with limited English proficiency, people of color, families with children, persons with disabilities, Muslim communities, survivors of domestic violence, LGBT persons, formerly incarcerated and justice-involved individuals, and voucher holders).
- Assist with planning and conducting GNOFHAC's annual *Fit for a King* Fair Housing Summit in January and a series of community events for Fair Housing Month in April.
- Conducting community engagement related to various projects, such as a current research partnership to study hazard insurance and disaster vulnerability on the Gulf Coast and the *Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing in Louisiana*, which is a detailed report about patterns of segregation and inequality that HUD requires of various jurisdictions.
- Assist with a re-branding of GNOFHAC to make more clear the statewide nature of our work.
- Recruit, train and support outreach volunteers in communities outside of New Orleans to supplement limited staff capacity.

Necessary Training or Training Plan to be implemented prior to Member Placement:

Training on Fair Housing laws, housing policy and necessary skills will be provided by GNOFHAC.

Member Impact:

Corps member's work will increase the capacity of the only fair housing center in Louisiana to advocate for individuals and families that have been denied housing, harassed, treated unfairly or evicted because of who they are. Corp member's work will also help reduce systemic inequalities that are perpetuated by housing discrimination and entrenched segregation, including inequalities in access to quality education, job opportunities, accessible transit options, safe and healthy environments, healthy food and recreation facilities.

Essential Functions of Position:

- Develop yearly outreach plan and strategies to effectively reach key constituencies
- Research potential partner organizations and reach out to share information about GNOFHAC's work
- Maintain a database of organizations and key stakeholders contacted
- Build and maintain relationships with stakeholders in a variety of communities and fields
- Table at community events to tell people about fair housing and GNOFHAC's services
- Organize and conduct community engagement meetings
- Give "Know Your Rights" presentations to a wide variety of audiences
- Conduct fair housing workshops with youth
- Write blog posts, e-newsletters and social media posts
- Design flyers, PSAs and other outreach materials
- Evaluate success of outreach initiatives and update as needed
- Recruit, train and support outreach volunteers

Required Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

Excellent written and oral communication skills. Ability to relate comfortably to individuals of different racial/ethnic, economic and cultural backgrounds. Ability to connect with individuals from diverse backgrounds and explain housing discrimination and systemic inequality in a way that is clear and relevant to their concerns. Organized. Ability to multi-task and complete projects in a timely manner under pressure. Team player. Knowledgeable about Louisiana communities.

Required Academic and Experience Qualifications:

Computer literacy with a variety of basic office programs including Word, Excel and others. Experience with social media marketing, and/or promotional material design a plus. Demonstrated commitment to fair housing and/or civil rights.