



AmeriCorps Member Position Description

SAUL'S LIGHT

Member Position / Title: Program Development Coordinator

Member Immediate Supervisor: Kimberly Novod

Name: Days / Hours of Service: M-F, 9-5

Member Immediate Supervisor Title: Executive Director

Partner Organization Name: Saul's Light Foundation

Address: 219 Bermuda St, New Orleans, LA 70114

Website: www.saulslight.org

Organization/Agency Mission and/or Goals: The mission of Saul's Light is to help New Orleans families navigate the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) journey and support them through the trauma of infant loss.

Program Mission and/or Goals: We want to become a Service Louisiana Partner organization to further develop our virtual peer support programming, increase our ability to assist the families that we provide services to, and benefit from the knowledge and enthusiasm of the Serve Louisiana member and network. Moreover, we hope that the corps member will have a positive experience that will impact their future career development.

Community Need: As a result of the COVID-19 crisis, an all important safety net has been taken away from New Orleans' vulnerable families just when they need it most. Saul's Light's project proposal is to expand its work to create a virtual, peer support online community to offer our services to NICU families at all local and state hospitals. This includes, at each hospital, the dedication of a weekly, virtual parental peer support group, one-on-one peer support, individualized care packages, and access to the patient assistance fund (at partner hospitals) to cover transportation, lodging, food, and other needs. This project will be implemented in collaboration with the local hospitals, and our partner community mental health professionals and volunteers. We will rely on outreach, including through hospital staff and social workers and through Saul's Light's social media, to reach families who may benefit from these services. Founder and Executive Director Kimberly Novod, MPA will direct the project.

Families in our community will greatly benefit from this therapeutic option of processing their experience starting in the hospital and being connected to community resources upon their release. This support program will allow Saul's Light to follow up, disseminate much needed financial assistance, and provide continued holistic support throughout a family's baby's NICU stay and discharge.

The virtual support program will continue to be essential, even as the pandemic abates. In the NICU, unexpected emergencies often arise when a family is in need of support, but is unable to schedule an in-person meeting. In such a situation, the quick and easy option of the virtual support program will be immensely helpful. Moreover, it appears likely that in our changing world, social distancing measures may never completely be a thing of the past.

Member Position Summary: A typical day for a corps member placed with our organization will consist of regular interaction with Kimberly, collaboration with hospitals and other community partners, and efforts to link NICU families and peer mentors. Some of the day will likely be spent working at a computer either at the member's home and/or at the Saul's Light office in Algiers Point. The corps member will also help to sustain the already existing programming that are discussed above.

Member Impact: We expect that the services provided by the corps member will make a positive and long-lasting impact in the lives of the NICU and bereaved families that Saul's Light works with, and particularly with the families that are in dire need of the virtual peer support program. These families will likely see a decrease in anxiety and depression and an increase in self-esteem and quality of life. This program is only just beginning and with the corps member's help it will become a sustained, important part of Saul's Light work. We expect that we will only need one service term for this project. As the corps member builds the program, we will ensure that they are also training and updating others so that they can maintain the program after the corps member's term ends.

Essential Functions of Position: Required Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities: Ability to listen, learn, empathize with others undergoing traumatic experiences, familiar with and able to use computer programs as such as Word, Excel, and Powerpoint.

Required Academic and Experience Qualifications: None, though qualifications related to trauma and/or to maternal and child health is preferred

Required Transportation Needs: None, though access to a vehicle is preferred