2023-2024 AmeriCorps Member Position Description

**Partner Organization Name:** Westside Sponsoring Committee

**Corps Member Position Title:** Outreach Coordinator

**Supervisor:** Lady Carlson

**Days/Hours of Service:** Monday-Friday times vary - some evening work (40 hours per week)

**Physical Location:** 1520 Thomas H. Delpit Dr

**Organization Mission and/or Goals:**
Build a power organization in Iberville, West Baton Rouge and Pointe Coupee Parishes intentionally crossing the lines of race, class, religion, geography, gender and all the lines that tend to separate communities, creating a vehicle for civic engagement and community participation.

**Program Mission and/or Goals:**

To do the patient work of building relationships across the divisions of our communities by conducting one-on-one relational and small group (house) meetings and develop an agenda that addresses concerns that surface out of those meetings.

**Member Position Summary:**

*Volunteer Coordinator* - Member will learn how to conduct relational one-on-one and small group (house) meetings with leaders of the three Parishes. The goal is to build relationships with a broad group of leaders that cross the lines of race, class, religion, geography and all the lines that separate communities. Our organizations invest in the social capital of our communities - the network of relationships that connect us to each other. These meetings are not to make friends but to build an organization that can be at the decision-making table. The Corps member will learn how to conduct these meetings and look for leaders and surface issues that we can work on. In our very polarized communities we are developing leaders that want to be a part of positive change. We are affiliated with the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), the oldest and largest community organizing/training institute in the
country. The Corps member will be asked to attend local, regional and national IAF training sessions along with meetings with weekly meetings with supervisor. The member will be asked to conduct 25 weekly relational meetings and identify leaders that attend those meetings. This is an opportunity for the member to meet leaders from a diverse background and learn about rural parishes surrounding Baton Rouge.

*Technology Coordinator* – The Corps member will also be responsible for working with the supervisor to improve social media platforms and keep it updated.

**Essential Functions of Position:**

The most radical tool we have is the one-on-one relational meeting. These are meetings that build relationships and build trust in communities. These meetings will work to build trust across a diverse community that tends not to trust each other. And trust that is targeted toward blacks to black, black to white and language barriers. Conduct small group meetings again to build trust and identify leaders and issues. Learn the IAF methodology of organizing. Sessions include power - the ability to act; the world as is versus the world as it should be - we live in the world as it is but are striving for the world as it should be; self-interest - the self among and between and other IAF principles that will aid in learning how to organize a community. Learn to build relationships with mostly older black leaders, young Spanish-speaking leaders across a diverse population. The parish is very diverse and the Corp Member will learn about that diversity. The Learning Room Project is a documentary developed by Tulane University. The Corps Member is asked to attend a screening and work with supervisor to organize screenings in other venues. This project lets those serving life without parole to express their circumstances in their own words.

**Member Impact**

Our organizations are laboratories of democracy - democracy with a small d. Leaders in these parishes have for decades lived under what Alexis de Tocqueville in the 1800's called "tyranny of the minority" in his book "Democracy in America. Farmers and political families have controlled the decision-making process in these communities.

The Corps member will:

- Attend training sessions conducted by Ms. Carlson that talks about the history of Louisiana and the South;
- Attend Three Day Regional IAF Training to learn our methodology;
- Have a goal of 25 relational meetings per week working with Ms. Carlson. These meetings are a way for Corp Member learn about an area from the perspective of residents learning there. Our organizational philosophy is that the true experts are in a community and that "Metis" local knowledge comes from these families and not
from a bureaucrat that has never visited those neighborhoods. Ms. Carlson will work with Member to develop a relational meeting strategy over a period of time.

Skills, knowledge and trainings the corps member should expect to gain from this position

Working with diverse communities Organizing meetings and developing local agendas Work with Together Louisiana IAF Trainings Criminal Justice/Public Safety Reform

Ideal Candidate Qualifications
A willingness to come out of your comfort zone and work with communities that have different levels of educational achievement. Trusting there are people in their communities that have solutions but their voices have not been heard.

Required Transportation Requirements (ex: own vehicle or able bike to site)
These parishes cover a wide area and member really needs a car.