2022-2023 NYCHA Health Corps
Member Position Description

Host Site Name: New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC DOHMH)

Position Title: Maternal Health Equity Advocate

Location: Site Location 1: 42-09 28th Street
Queens, NY 11101-4132

Site Location 2: 485 Throop Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11221

Tentative Schedule: Monday – Friday (9:00 am to 5:00 pm) and at least 2 weekends per month.

# of member Slots in this Position: 10 (2 in each borough)

Need for the specific project on which AmeriCorps Member is serving:

In the United States, Black women are 9x more likely to die from a pregnancy related cause and it is known that racism and not race is the cause for these deaths. To address this crisis and improve health equity, the NYC Health Department Maternity Hospital Quality Improvement Network (MHQIN) seek to ensure that all birthing people/women and their families receive respectful and dignified care. The goal is to decrease maternal deaths and Severe Maternal Morbidity or near-death complications for Black and Brown New Yorkers. The NYC Health Department uses a community driven approach to allow for centering the voice of those mostly impacted. The health department seeks to have the active participation of neighborhood residents to address issues that directly affect them. As a community member, the AmeriCorps member’s role is to bring awareness about this maternal health crisis, be the voice and advocate for those who are often not included/invited to participate in discussions about their health and experiences and empower community members. This will be done through education about rights for respectful maternity care using the New York City Standards for Respectful Care and accompanying guide, and engage in convenings with healthcare providers/clinicians about ways to improve maternal health outcomes. Information obtained by the AmeriCorps member will be used by the health department to inform programmatic and interventions changes/improvements. Community engagement and partnership with local health departments and healthcare settings including clinicians is needed to address and eliminate the maternal health crisis.
Expectations and Goals for the specific project on which AmeriCorps Member is serving:

The goal of the community engagement strategy for MHQIN is to increase access and utilization of quality services across the maternal care continuum for community residents and providers, focused on neighborhoods (include TRIE – Taskforce on Racial Inclusion and Equity) and hospitals participating in MHQIN. Some desire outcomes of this project include:

1. Reaching and engaging at least 5,000 NYCHA residents to bring awareness to the maternal health crisis using NYC health department provided information including the New York City Standards for Respectful Care (NYC Standards) and accompanying guide.
2. Establishing and utilizing communication channels for outreach and subsequent community involvement by recruiting at least 10 community residents in each NYC borough to become Birth Justice Defenders. This would allow for sustaining the work after the AmeriCorps program ends.
3. Conducting at least 20 workshops/presentations (4 per borough) on rights for respectful care.
4. Attending at least two tabling/outreach events (2 in each NYC borough) to promote and the NYC Standards.
5. Increased knowledge and empowerment of NYCHA residents about rights for respectful care. NYC health department will provide a survey to be completed by those engaged to assess knowledge.
6. Improved NYCHA residents experience with receiving respectful maternity care.
7. Participate in at least 2 convenings organized by NYC health department that include local community-based organizations and healthcare staff/clinicians to address borough-specific maternal health issues.
8. Attend at least 2 NYCHA ‘Talking Circle Support Group’ with Tenant Resident Association and Tenant Association and identify any maternal health needs/issues

Workshops and presentations can be either in-person or virtual. At least 70% of time will be spent conducting in-person activities and remaining 30% will be virtual. This can change pending a public health emergency such as COVID-19 where all in-person activities may not be allowed and at which time all activities will be virtual.

Member Position Summary:

Each year in New York City, approximately 30 women die due to pregnancy-related causes and another 2,500-3,000 women suffer a life-threatening complication in childbirth. Black and Latina women in New York City is at disproportionate risk for death and complications related to their pregnancies and births compared to White women. This position will focus on increasing the knowledge and empower NYCHA residents about their rights for dignified and respectful care. Provide data about the maternal health crisis by conducting workshops and individual education sessions. Represent NYCHA complex during DOHMH led community-clinical convening focused on quality improvement efforts to reduce severe maternal morbidity for Black and Latina birth people/women in NYC. The person in this role will bring their lived experience, passion for birth justice or the experience of a family member or friend to this work.
Detailed Tasks:

- Conduct workshops/education sessions to NYCHA residents about the maternal health crisis in NYC using tools provided by NYC DOHMH
- Serve as a liaison between NYC DOHMH and NYCHA
- Attend NYCHA 'Talking Circle Support Group' with Tenant Resident Association and Tenant Association and identify any maternal health needs/issues
- Work in collaboration with other NYCHA Health Corp Birth Justice Advocates on addressing maternal health issues for NYCHA residents
- Recruit NYCHA residents to become Birth Justice Defenders in their borough
- Identify ways to sustain the work after the completion of the NYCHA Health Corps program
- Work with other NYCHA initiatives that support families and children
- Assist with understanding the impact and identify ways to improve the work of the Birth Justice Advocate role in NYCHA
- Support DOHMH with the development of public awareness campaigns focused on maternal health.

Required Skills for AmeriCorps Members (set for all program members):

- Strong commitment to national service and the mission of the host site
- Desire to work in the non-profit sector
- Desire to serve with diverse communities
- Excellent organizational and communication skills
- Ability to conduct community outreach and make presentations to community groups
- Willingness to take initiative to achieve goals
- Strong project management/multi-tasking abilities
- A clear plan for living on the AmeriCorps stipend in New York City
- Availability to lead and/or attend events during evening and weekend hours (frequency varies by position)
- Minimum high school diploma or equivalency
- Ability to pass a criminal background check
- US Citizen or lawful permanent resident (AmeriCorps regulations)
Preferred Academic or Experience Qualifications, Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Have conducted presentations or workshops on health-related topics
- Comfortable speaking in public
- Ability to work in teams or independently
- Preferable speaks more than one language

*Please note:* The duties and responsibilities in this service position description may be subject to change. In the rare event that there are any changes, members will be notified prior to beginning the service year and the position description will be amended. All changes will be reviewed and approved in advance by NYC Service.

1 Birth Justice Defenders are community members who are passionate about birth justice and educate their communities about and advocate for the rights of individuals to just, respectful, and dignified care during pregnancy, birth and postpartum. NYC Service will ensure that the member’s service doesn’t violent AmeriCorps prohibited and unallowable activities.