Host Site Name: Neighbors in Action

Position Title: Youth Programs Associate: Placemaking

Location: 1406 Fulton Street #204 Brooklyn, NY 11205

Tentative Schedule: Monday - Friday 11am – 6pm

# of member Slots in this Position: 2

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

The project is designed to provide culturally competent interventions to vulnerable (Black, Latinx, English learning, and undocumented or immigrant) youth in the community to reduce the likelihood of their involvement in violence while increasing pro-social opportunities that encourage and empower them in forming creative solutions for positive engagement with a special emphasis on NYCHA housing developments within the areas served by Neighbors In Action. The project will focus primarily on public health via the built environment. Projects will include group wellness workshops and activities designed to assist in changing the culture around violence with school-aged young people between the ages of 12-21, NYCHA health corps members at NIA will conduct outreach to community members in NYCHA developments, facilitate needs assessments via participatory action research with community members, develop space activation activities such as health, wellness and resource fairs, and lead placemaking projects such as area cleanups, gardening, and environmental design projects. The proposed project will emphasize place-based engagement but allow for virtual delivery, as needed. The proposed project is expected to provide services to decrease incidents of violence in the community, promote health and wellness and activate community spaces through placemaking and place keeping projects.

Expectations and Goals for the specific project on which AmeriCorps Member is serving:

Enrichment Opportunities: The project will provide enrichment opportunities and activities to keep youth engaged and progressing. These components will be facilitated by NYCHA Corps members in collaboration with NIA staff and community partners. Activities can include but not limited to book clubs, music/arts creation, financial literacy, cultural education, training, and workshops, etc.

Public Education: The project will develop and distribute public educational and promotional materials for participants, NYCHA residents and the surrounding community. These educational materials will include health and wellness resources, information about workforce development opportunities, invitations to participate in community developed environmental health research and announcements about opportunities and events in collaboration with NYCHA housing developments.
**Mobilization:** The project will regularly mobilize throughout the community to spread positive messaging, denounce violent and negative social behaviors and advertise NIA programs and opportunities such as NIA’s youth workforce development programs, health and wellness services and community organizing projects.

**Community Events:** The project will facilitate community events over the course of the year. Where possible, the project should support the efforts of other key stakeholders and community-based organizations within NYCHA housing developments and around the surrounding communities.

**Placemaking/Placekeeping Projects:** The project will facilitate various space activations including using a participatory design approach composed of facilitation steps that allow the NIA staff to co-design a project that re-imagines safety by elevating the voices of residents of NYCHA housing developments. The NYCHA Corps Member will coordinate, plan and facilitate placemaking, place keeping and space activation projects with NYCHA residents and youth participants and facilitate stewardship of community spaces.

**Member Position Summary:**

The NYCHA Health Corps members at NIA will leverage community relationships to develop placemaking projects in NYCHA housing developments. Corps members will conduct outreach, facilitate participatory action research and develop placemaking and placekeeping projects in and near NYCHA developments based on community input with an emphasis on public health via the build environment. Corps members will facilitate workshops on health and wellness with young people aged 14 - 24 and lead them in placemaking and placekeeping projects in NYCHA developments and surrounding areas.

**Corps member responsibilities may include but are not limited to:**

**Youth Programming Responsibilities**
- Conducting outreach, and developing surveys and other research materials
- Assisting with planning and co-facilitation of regular youth health and wellness workshops during the school year and summer
- Building relationships with schools, community-based organizations, and companies for participant recruitment, presentations, collaborations, and job and internship placements
- Supporting communications with participant families and program alumni including writing newsletters and identifying and sharing relevant resources
- Maintaining responsibility for participant case notes
- Making phone calls and other communications to participants and families
- Maintaining highly organized records, submitting research data for analysis and tracking community participation
- Documenting placemaking, placekeeping and space activation activities through social media, photo and video.

**Community Engagement Responsibilities**
- Work with the Community Engagement Liaison to recruit volunteers, design workshops and training for volunteers, create opportunities for volunteer engagement through activities like Community Canvasses, and build rapport among cohorts of volunteers from NYCHA housing developments
- Assist with planning of street festivals, resource fairs and other community events in Crown Heights and Bed-Stuy, including Kingston Avenue Festival and One Crown Heights

**General NIA Responsibilities**
- Attend and participate in NIA and Center for Court Innovation trainings, meetings, and conferences as assigned by supervisors
- Participate in additional NIA events and activities as needed

**Required Skills for AmeriCorps Members (set for all program members):**
- Strong commitment to national service and the mission of Neighbors In Action
- 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 foundation in 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:**
- Prior youth work experience and an understanding of the strengths-based perspective
- Able to work with people from diverse backgrounds in a culturally-competent manner
- Commitment to violence prevention, trauma-informed practice, anti-oppression, and community empowerment
- Experience with community organizing and project planning is preferred
- Familiarity with Central Brooklyn is a plus
- Comfort in an environment where projects and responsibilities change quickly
- Nuanced understanding and knowledge of anti-racism frameworks, mass incarceration, privilege and power dynamics

*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.