



**Service Announcement: Hmong Outreach Worker**  
**LISC AmeriCorps Member: East Side Neighborhood Development Company**

**The Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)** is dedicated to helping community residents transform neighborhoods into healthy and sustainable communities of choice and opportunity — good places to work, do business and raise children. LISC combines corporate, government and philanthropic resources to help community-based organizations revitalize neighborhoods. Since 1980, LISC has invested more than \$9.7 billion that has leveraged an additional \$31.3 billion to build or rehabilitate 271,000 affordable homes and develop 40 million square feet of retail, community and educational space nationwide in efforts to Build Sustainable Communities. This strategy extends to the LISC AmeriCorps program where we support placing AmeriCorps Members with local non-profit partners to assist in local efforts to revitalize neighborhoods across the country, creating vibrant places for people to live, work, and play. LISC’s AmeriCorps program seeks to attract talented individuals to serve for one year to help build organizational capacity. This is an excellent opportunity to gain experience and begin a career in the Community Development field.

The **East Side Neighborhood Development Company (ESNDC)** is a community development corporation in the Payne Phalen neighborhood of East St. Paul. ESNDC’s mission is to create “wealth and well-being in a thriving and engaged multi-cultural neighborhood.” ESNDC is working to raise housing resources and implement housing strategies that improve the quality of life in two twenty-block focus areas of the Payne Phalen neighborhood. The strategies for this work were developed under the guidance of a community leadership group that evolved out of ESNDC’s grassroots community engagement efforts in 2007-2009. ESNDC continues to engage residents in a wide variety of place making, community building, and organizing projects as ways of improving housing market appeal in these neighborhoods, hit hard by home foreclosures. ESNDC’s recent work has focused on creating a welcome environment for Hmong and Spanish speakers to take advantage of various housing programs, get involved in the broader community, and grow their leadership roles with an emphasis on fostering livable, safe, and healthy neighborhoods.

**AmeriCorps Member Activities**

The member at **ESNDC** will serve as a **Hmong Outreach Worker**. The member serving in this capacity will help to expand ESNDC’s outreach efforts into the Hmong community, with a focus on the neighborhoods surrounding the Bruce Vento and John A. Johnson Elementary Schools. ESNDC’s recent outreach efforts, particularly in the area surrounding the Vento Elementary School, have quickly uncovered a large population of Hmong households who, because their primary language is Hmong, are completely unaware of the variety of community resources (housing and otherwise) that are available to them. Experience in working with these households has demonstrated to us that the relationship of trust the family builds with ESNDC staff is directly correlated to whether there is follow-through on referrals and housing program applications. Families have specifically requested that ESNDC staff accompany and guide them in the application process, acting in the role of a “community navigator” and mentor. In return, loyalty towards ESNDC is developed and certain families are offering to become involved as volunteers in community events. We anticipate that a small group of “new leaders” will emerge as a result of this work, and an AmeriCorps member serving as a Hmong Outreach Worker will be in a unique position to help plug these individuals into opportunities for ESNDC’s civic engagement efforts.

The work of the Hmong outreach worker will include:

- Door knocking and outreach into the Hmong community
- Connecting Hmong people with ESNDC resources and partner organizations who can improve their housing quality of life

- Interpretation, both written and oral, of housing materials
- Interpretation for individuals at resource appointments and in community meetings
- Introducing and engaging Hmong families with their neighbors through resident initiated social and civic activities
- Showing Hmong community the compound effects of advocacy and neighborhood based social policy work.
- Recruiting members of the Hmong community to become involved as leaders in ESNDNC and other community organizations
- Maintaining relationships within the Hmong community, as a whole
- Initiating ESNDNC's staff into the ways and beliefs of the traditional Hmong culture

### **Minimum Qualifications**

- ◆ High school degree, GED certificate or agree to achieve GED within the year
- ◆ Minimum of 17 years of age, US citizen or permanent resident status
- ◆ Desire and ability to work with a diverse group of people
- ◆ Ability to work independently and in a team environment
- ◆ Computer skills
- ◆ Good written and oral communication skills
- ◆ Ability to work a flexible schedule (some night and weekends may be required)

### **Preferred Qualifications**

- ◆ Ability to communicate in Hmong and English
- ◆ A positive, creative and engaging work style
- ◆ Community organizing/outreach experience
- ◆ Familiarity with St. Paul's East Side community

### **Member Benefits**

Full time members are required to serve for a minimum of 1,700 hours and a full year at ESNDNC. Members will attend a national orientation the week of October 23-27 and monthly meetings and trainings hosted by the Twin Cities LISC office. ESNDNC will also make additional training opportunities available. Members will earn a stipend of \$18,000 and are eligible to participate in the AmeriCorps health insurance program and may apply for childcare benefits. Upon successful completion of the service year, members will be eligible for a \$5,350 education award to pay off existing student loans or return to school.

**Deadline to apply:** August 8, 2010

For more information on Twin Cities LISC, visit [www.tclisc.org](http://www.tclisc.org)  
 For more information on ESNDNC, visit [www.esndc.org](http://www.esndc.org)

To apply, please email a cover letter and resume to Chris Wiger at [cwiger@lisc.org](mailto:cwiger@lisc.org) or mail to:

Chris Wiger  
 Twin Cities LISC  
 570 Asbury St., Suite 207  
 St. Paul, MN 55104

*LISC & ESNDNC promote equal opportunity in selecting AmeriCorps members. We are committed to diversity and inclusion in the selection process.*