



**LISC**  
*Helping neighbors  
build communities*



**Service Announcement: Community Organizer**  
**LISC AmeriCorps Member: Blake Road Corridor Collaborative**  
**(Hosted by Intercongregation Communities Association)**

**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 **Blake Road Corridor Collaborative** is a working group of numerous governmental and community organizations and is co-led by two area social service organizations—**Intercongregation Communities Association** and Resource West. The work of the Collaborative has grown out of the interests of the Hopkins police chief and other key stakeholders regarding youth and crime in the area along the Blake Road Corridor in Hopkins. After undertaking a number of short-term initiatives to help stabilize the community—including improved infrastructure such as sidewalks along Blake Road, enhanced learning and recreation activities for youth, targeted crime prevention and outreach—the BRCC shifted its focus to long-term strategies and sought greater involvement by community members. In 2009, BRCC engaged a community planning process to:

- Stay connected to the interests and needs of the residents and businesses,
- Identify and support strategies to stabilize and improve the area, and
- Support local leadership development.

A Community Action Plan was created in February 2010 and represents the first step in that community planning process. The plan was informed by residents, businesses and other community stakeholders, who met over a year to discuss priorities and strategies for addressing issues most important to them, and identifies three goal areas for collective action: Preventing Crime and Improving Safety; Neighborhood Improvement and Development; Fostering and Empowering Youth. The community partners are now working to develop strategies for achieving these goals.

**AmeriCorps Member Activities**

The AmeriCorps member working with the **Blake Road Corridor Collaborative** will be hosted by **Intercongregation Communities Association (ICA)** and will serve as a Community Organizer. The member serving in this capacity will:

- Conduct outreach to residents, businesses, and organizations
- Develop and coordinate special events
- Support the development and implementation of specific strategies related to BRCC's goal areas
- Participate in community meetings, events and other public forums
- Maintain cooperation and participation with collaborating groups
- Develop communications materials

- Develop and support neighborhood leaders
- Other duties as assigned

### **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**

- ◆ Community Organizing experience
- ◆ Ability to communicate in a second language (Spanish or Somali)
- ◆ Ability to communicate effectively in person, on the phone, and in writing with a wide range of people
- ◆ Strong work ethic and attention to detail
- ◆ A positive, creative and engaging work style
- ◆ Sensitivity to racial, ethnic and class differences among people with whom he/she will work
- ◆ Familiarity with the area is helpful but not required.

### **Member Benefits**

Full time members are required to serve for a minimum of 1,700 hours and a full year at ICA. Members will attend a national orientation the week of October 23-27 and monthly meetings and trainings hosted by the Twin Cities LISC office. ICA 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 the Blake Road Corridor Collaborative, visit <http://blakeroad.org/>

For more information on ICA, visit [www.icafoodshelf.org](http://www.icafoodshelf.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, ICA and the members of the Blake Road Corridor Collaborative promote equal opportunity in selecting AmeriCorps members. We are committed to diversity and inclusion in the selection process.*