



## Service Announcement: Community Engagement Specialist LISC AmeriCorps Member: Cultural Wellness Center, St. Paul Location

**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 **Cultural Wellness Center (CWC)** is a non-profit community-based organization dedicated to developing cultural approaches for positively impacting health and health care, economic development, and community building. To achieve its mission of *unleashing the power of citizens to heal themselves*, the Cultural Wellness Center works with individuals, communities, families, professionals and partners with academic institutions, government agencies, philanthropists, and other non-profits.

### AmeriCorps Member Activities

The member at CWC will serve as an **Educational Systems Navigator**. In this capacity, the AmeriCorps member will work with African American families with children in many St. Paul elementary schools to support the children to learn, to build a community system of support, and to connect families with their culture and heritage.

#### Participating Schools:

- Maxfield Magnet Elementary
- Barack and Michelle Obama Service Learning Elementary
- Jackson Preparatory Magnet
- Benjamin E. Mays International Magnet School
- Museum Magnet

#### Specific activities will include:

- Learning and Modeling Community Building/Engagement with various cultural groups
- Build bridges between cultures and facilitate communication between groups
- Surface the assets/cultural capital that exists among/within community residents
- Recruit, follow-up with, and support participants
- Link engagement opportunities among different CWC projects

- Report to staff the progress and challenges of engagement

### **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**

- ◆ A positive, creative and engaging work style
- ◆ 2-3 years experience in recruitment or a related field with a proven track record of success
- ◆ Some familiarity with St. Paul Public Schools
- ◆ Acquaintance with the local residents and community resources

### **Member Benefits**

Full time members are required to serve for a minimum of 1,700 hours and a full year at the Cultural Wellness Center. Members will attend a national orientation the week of October 23-27 and monthly meetings and trainings hosted by the Twin Cities LISC office. The Cultural Wellness Center 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 1, 2011

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

For more information on the Cultural Wellness Center, visit [www.ppcwc.org](http://www.ppcwc.org)

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

Janayah Bagurusi  
Twin Cities LISC  
570 Asbury St., Suite 207  
St. Paul, MN 55104

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