AMERICORPS MEMBER POSITION DESCRIPTION

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH CORPS MEMBER

Member Name: TBD
Program Name: Iowa Community Corps
Host Site: Kothe Memorial Library Service
Location: Parkersburg, IA

Start Date: 1/15/2027
End Date: 8/12/2027
Member Term: Quarter Time
Living Allowance amt: $6,000
Education Award: $1,956.35

Position Summary: The Iowa Community Corps AmeriCorps program is a statewide effort to strengthen communities through increased access to resources to support health and wellbeing. AmeriCorps members serve directly with local organizations to expand their ability to reach and support the people they serve, while gaining professional training to launch or grow a career in community health.

Kothe Memorial Library plays a central role in the Parkersburg community by providing welcoming spaces, enrichment programs, and opportunities for youth to learn, explore, and connect. Through the Youth Mental Health Corps (YMHC), this position will help the library increase its capacity to support youth mental wellness by assessing local needs, designing youth-focused programming, and strengthening connections to mental health resources for community members ages 13–24. This position also offers members the chance to explore behavioral health careers while supporting meaningful, community-driven initiatives.

Schedule: Member will serve approximately 17 hours per week, including evening and weekend hours as needed to support youth programming and community engagement.

AmeriCorps Member Activities

Training & Onboarding

- Learn about existing programs, services, and youth engagement efforts at Kothe Memorial Library.
- Obtain Mental Health First Aid certification.
- Complete Community Health Worker training.
- Complete Youth Mental Health Community Health Worker training.
- Receive orientation to AmeriCorps, the Youth Mental Health Corps initiative, confidentiality and ethical guidelines, and best practices for youth programming in library settings.

Assess youth mental health needs & strengthen resource awareness

- Conduct a youth-focused needs assessment using surveys, informal interviews, and research to understand mental health challenges, resource gaps, interests, and barriers faced by local youth ages 13–24.
- Compile findings into a summary report for library leadership and partner agencies (such as Iowa HHS).
- Develop or update youth-accessible mental health resource materials (print and digital) that highlight verified community supports, hotlines, peer resources, and wellness activities.
- Help increase awareness of library-based mental health resources by designing informational materials, displays, or outreach tools for staff to use in the community.

Develop and implement youth mental health programming

- Based on results of the needs assessment, work with library staff and partner agencies to implement new youth programming that strengthens connection, belonging, and mental wellbeing.

- Develop or identify evidence-informed, youth engagement activities that align with identified needs (examples may include creative expression workshops, mindfulness activities, peer connection events, stress-management skill building, etc.).
- Pilot activities during evening or weekend hours, gather feedback from participants, and identify ways to improve engagement and accessibility.
- Create sustainable program materials such as facilitator guides, activity plans, checklists, promotional content, or evaluation tools for future use by library staff and volunteers.
- Track participation and evaluate impact using simple surveys or reflection tools.

Strengthen community engagement and youth partnerships

- Help identify and build relationships with local organizations that serve youth (schools, afterschool programs, churches, clubs, youth groups).
- Work with staff to develop outreach tools that highlight library youth programs and mental health resources.
- Support staff in coordinating opportunities for youth involvement in library activities, advisory groups, or community events.
- Collaborate with Iowa HHS and community partners to align programming with broader youth wellbeing initiatives.

Desired Skills/Qualifications:

- Interest in youth wellbeing, community health, mental health promotion, or library services.
- Comfort engaging with diverse youth and families in a welcoming, inclusive environment.
- Strong communication skills (reading, writing, typing).
- Ability to collaborate with library staff, community partners, and youth audiences.