



## **AMERICORPS JD PROGRAM - New York State Family Security Project**

**ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION:** Lawyers for Children (LFC) gives youth in foster care and those who are the subjects of high-conflict custody and visitation disputes the representation and resources they deserve—a voice in the decisions that affect them, guidance in evaluating their options and support for the next steps in their lives. By advocating, litigating, educating and empowering, we help youth in foster care flourish, and we act as a force for systemic change. Our mission is to continue to reach the increasing numbers of children who suffer in the foster care system, enabling them to achieve the basic "rights" of childhood - safety, love and a true sense of family.

### **POSITION SUMMARY:**

The New York State Family Security Project will engage 106 law students to serve as AmeriCorps members around the state of New York who are focused on fostering family security and community education through the delivery of high-quality legal services.

### **AmeriCorps JD: New York State Family Security Project**

New York State Family Security Project law student members will improve family stability and community safety in the state of New York through direct immigration legal services or by providing general civil legal services to members of immigrant communities related to issues such as housing, public benefits, family law, and other areas of legal need. They may also support staff attorneys with representing clients in immigration court and before U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS); screening, intake and preparing applications; providing brief legal advice and legal aid; educating the community on the impact of evolving immigration law and policy; and engaging pro bono attorneys to provide legal assistance to immigrants and their families.

### **Attitude and General Responsibilities**

- Support program staff, your supervisor, and administrative staff in duties as appropriate and necessary.
- Consult with your supervisor if you have any ideas, issues, or concerns, offering analysis and solutions whenever possible.
- Practice sound health habits, including getting sufficient rest, to effectively perform the position requirements.
- Respect confidentiality of clients, staff, and other AmeriCorps members.

### **Program leadership**

- Make connections with individuals and volunteers in the community for program outreach and program enhancement.
- Assist AmeriCorps members and staff in programming and activities
- Train and assist volunteers when appropriate.

### **Program-specific duties**

Our summer law student members assist LFC's staff attorneys with their front-line litigation caseloads providing legal representation in the New York City Family Courts in foster care, abuse, neglect, termination of parental rights, adoption, custody, guardianship and visitation proceedings. Typically, this includes:

- legal research and writing, including motion practice;
- monitoring cases to insure compliance with Court orders;
- assisting with intake;
- trial preparation;
- the opportunity to appear on the record (rising 3Ls only); and
- client contact

#### **Citizenship training and responsibilities**

- Participate in AmeriCorps training and national service events as required and requested by the New York State Commission on National and Community Service

#### **Program training**

- Participate in orientation training.
- Participate in substantive legal issue training as provided by Equal Justice Works

**Skill requirements:** Essential functions include the ability to:

Lawyers For Children's summer legal internships are full-time, 10-week positions that will begin on June 5th. Although rising 3Ls are preferred, rising 2Ls with relevant experience are also encouraged to apply.

**Program Benefits:** The New York State Family Security Project AmeriCorps JD program is an AmeriCorps-funded program that provides law students with the opportunity to earn an AmeriCorps education award of \$1,252 that can be used to pay educational expenses or student loans. Students may seek up to \$4,399 in additional compensation for their service, for a total of up to \$5,651 in compensation. The \$4,399 in additional compensation may be funded by a Federal Work Study Award, the student's law school, local bar foundation, and/or other public interest fellowship award. In addition, students are welcome to hold outside employment to supplement their income.

Students must complete 300 hours of service and complete these hours by September 1, 2018 unless prior approval is given by Equal Justice Works. Requirements to serve include completion of a National Sex Offender Public Registry check, state criminal background check(s), FBI Fingerprint criminal background check, and submission of proof of U.S. citizenship or legal permanent residency.

**LOCATIONS:** 110 & 112 Lafayette Street, New York, New York 10013

**TO APPLY:** 1) Please submit a detailed cover letter, resume and writing sample to Glenn Metsch-Ampel, General Counsel & Deputy Executive Director, at [gmampel@lawyersforchildren.org](mailto:gmampel@lawyersforchildren.org). 2) Once you have secured an AmeriCorps JD service placement at Lawyers For Children, apply to be enrolled in the AmeriCorps JD program through our [Student Application Manager](#). More information is available at <http://www.equaljusticeworks.org/amicorpsjd>.

Lawyers For Children is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin, age, disability or veteran status.

Application Deadline: February 1, 2017, but candidates are encouraged to apply as soon as possible, as offers are made and positions are filled on a rolling basis.