



THE IMAGINE JUSTICE PROJECT

AmeriCorps Position Description

- Youth Development Specialist -
Prairie Ridge Community Coalition

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Imagine Justice Project

Young people often come into contact with the criminal justice system as a result of normal adolescent behavior, such as taking risks and pushing boundaries. Due to institutional racism and implicit bias, this happens more often for Black and Brown youth through the over-policing of communities of color, racial profiling and disproportionate minority sentencing. The isolation and stigma surrounding criminal justice system involvement create additional barriers preventing youth and young adults from achieving their full potential. Protective factors, such as participation in positive youth development programs and connection to caring adults, can create safe and supportive environments for youth that prevent and reduce contact with the criminal justice system.

The Imagine Justice Project is a collaborative Pierce County effort to strengthen youth development and advance equitable, community-centered justice systems. One of the primary strategies of the Imagine Justice program is to leverage AmeriCorps volunteers to build the capacity of local organizations to provide culturally relevant response, trauma-informed positive youth development programs and services.

AmeriCorps Team

An AmeriCorps member is an individual who engages in community service through an approved national service position. The Imagine Justice Project is recruiting 20 individuals to serve as AmeriCorps members in positive youth development programs across Pierce County. The majority of positions are fulltime positions, which complete 1700 total service hours over a period of approximately 11 months. Some shortened and part time positions are also available. Members are eligible to receive a living allowance, healthcare benefits, childcare benefits, as well as significant training and coaching. Upon successful completion of their service terms, members earn a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award from the National Service Trust that members can use to pay for higher education expenses or apply to qualified student loans.

POSITION INFORMATION

Position Title: Youth Development Specialist

Service Term:

This is a 1700-hour fulltime position, at approximately 40-hours per week for 11 months. The term is expected to begin August 22nd, 2022 and continue through July 15th, 2023. Alternative start and end dates may be negotiated based on applicant availability and organizational needs.

**Days/Hours of Service:**

The typical schedule is Monday and Wednesday from 10:30 am – 7:00 pm, and 8:30 am – 4 pm on Tuesday Thursday and Friday, including one 30-minute unpaid lunch break, and two 15-minute paid rest breaks. Hours are based around program needs, so there is some schedule flexibility. Some evening and weekend hours may be required for special events and activities.

Every other Friday AmeriCorps members will be expected to come together as a team for training, project planning, and team building. Alternate Fridays are optional days to come together with the AmeriCorps team.

Program Description:

Our coalition is building programming and partnerships to build and strengthen connections with youth in our vulnerable neighborhoods. The programs are developing in two primary ways – 1) building and sustaining a year-round teen space to encourage positive protective factors and be a place with for safe relationship and conversation, and 2) developing and supporting programming and work with community families that encourages healthy choices, child development and strong families. This includes working on our summer activity program and events throughout the year.

Host Site Description:

Prairie Ridge Community Coalition is a grant funded community organization working from Prairie Ridge, an unincorporated Pierce County community outside of Bonney Lake WA. Utilizing partnerships with other organizations and funding from multiple sources, we focus our work on reducing violence to and from youth. This work can take many forms – strengthening parenting skills in families, making fun and safe spaces for kids and families to grow, providing education and prevention information to promote healthy choices, encouraging community cohesion, and making connections to resources needed for at risk and marginalized community members. We do much of our work at a centralized location in the Prairie Ridge location, giving people a consistent place to meet.

Service Location:

Pierce County is located in the Puget Sound region of Washington State and is home to the iconic 14,000-foot tall Mt. Rainier. This area is the traditional lands of the Coast Salish people. With a population of approximately 800,000, it is the second most populous County in the state with Tacoma being Pierce County's largest City.

Much of the work will be done out of the Prairie Ridge Community Service Center and Recreation Hall buildings.

Position Description:

Work on program development and implementation for summer activity program focused on 5 – 12 year old youth. Develop relationships throughout the community for the purpose of connecting youth to community mentors. Provide all required reporting and feedback to the Coalition Coordinator regarding youth served through mentorship. Attend community meetings (online or in person) to build relationships with other organizations for the benefit of youth work in our programs. Work with youth support personnel in coalition youth programs, providing additional connections with youth as well as program development ideas and implementation. Assist coalition coordinator in program marketing and tracking. Assist with data gathering for program planning in the future. Develop programming to



support prevention and intervention for different age groups. Lead community trainings in youth related topics.

Responsibilities and Related Tasks:

- Attend monthly community organization meetings to network with organizations
- Network in the community to develop relationships with business and organizations that can support youth in mentorship.
- Work with others, inside and outside of the school district, for the development of sustainable programming to support at risk youth.
- Complete any self or supervisor directed training to support trauma informed work
- Participate in regular professional development, team-building, and service activities
- Develop and implement strategy to connect with youth through social media and interaction to encourage involvement in pro-social activities
- Assist with activities directed at resourcing for families and youth including resource acquisition and event organization and execution
- Track information regarding youth and families served and provide to supervisor in agreed upon intervals
- Intentionally develop healthy relationships with neighborhood youth
- Provide prevention education for youth and families
- Maintain positive relationship with program partners
- Update social media posts weekly and implement a communication plan

Benefits:

- Living allowance of \$18,000 for complete service term. The living allowance is paid in equal installments on the 5th and the 20th of each month. Each installment is approximately \$818.18, totaling \$1,636.36 per month during service term (approximately 11 months).
- Access Segal AmeriCorps Education award in the amount of \$6,495 upon successful completion of service term. This award must be used within seven years of service completion and may only be used to pay educational expenses at eligible post-secondary and technical institutions OR repay qualified student loans
- Optional health insurance coverage for individual
- Optional childcare assistance (must meet specific eligibility requirements)
- Optional student loan forbearance during service term
- AmeriCorps Member Assistance Program (MAP) which includes virtual counseling and coaching, financial and legal assistance, and other resources

ELIGIBILITY

Required Qualifications:

- Age 18 or older at start of service term
- High School Diploma or equivalent upon start of service term, OR agree to obtain diploma or equivalent prior to using Segal AmeriCorps Education Award
- US Citizen or permanent resident
- Proof of complete COVID-19 vaccination



- Commitment to building skills and knowledge related to diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Ability to travel to service site(s) as well as other training or activity locations across Pierce County
- Ability to identify with and interact with youth in the context of mentoring them in difficult situations
- General Computer Skills including email and Microsoft Office

Desired Qualifications:

- Represent the diversity of clients being served through personal characteristics and/or lived experience. This may include, but is not limited to: different races, different religious backgrounds, LGBTQ, poverty, history of violence (to or from them).
- Previous experience working with youth or young adults
- Familiarity with the Pierce County community
- Skills and/or knowledge related to youth development, trauma-informed care, or diversity, equity and inclusion
- Skills in visual graphic work to support program marketing
- Social Media competence and appropriate online presence

Criminal History:

The Imagine Justice Project values individuals with lived experience that relates to the clients and communities we serve. All AmeriCorps positions are subject to the National Service Criminal History Check (NSCHC) process. Applicants who do not consent or provide false information are not eligible to serve in an AmeriCorps position. Additionally, any applicant who has been convicted of murder, or who is registered or required to be registered on any sexual offender registry will also be disqualified from any AmeriCorps service position.

Must be able to pass a criminal background check and fingerprinting required by the school district(s). Any violent crime, or crime involving youth, will disqualify you for this position.

Service Environmental & Physical Requirements:

Working with youth will take place at the schools, as well as throughout our Community Service Center, Recreation Hall and parks. The community area has some safety issues and we work to minimize those for our staff. There will be opportunities for physical activity as well as projects requiring physical activity. The position will be required to be onsite for youth work. Office work can be done from home if internet is available and work time is productive. A minimum of 20 lbs. of lifting is required.

Equal Opportunity

AmeriCorps and the Imagine Justice Project is available to all, without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, disability, gender identity or expression, political affiliation, marital or parental status, genetic information and military service. Reasonable accommodation will be provided to the known mental or physical disabilities of otherwise qualified members.



CONTACT INFORMATION

IMAGINE JUSTICE PROJECT:

*Safe Streets Campaign
714 S 27th St
Tacoma, WA 98409
Safest.org*

*Kaitlan Ohler
Imagine Justice Project Coordinator
kohler@safest.org
(253) 389-2407*

AMERICORPS HOST SITE:

*Prairie Ridge Community Coalition
14205 215th Ave E
Bonney Lake WA 98391*

*Mary Beth Holmes
Coalition Coordinator
marybethholmesprc@gmail.com
(206) 200-4229*