

Legal Services of the Hudson Valley Legal Fellowship with Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps VISTA - Mt. Vernon, New York

<http://www.lshv.org>

Date Posted: July 19, 2016

Job Type: Legal Fellowship

Schedule Type: Full-Time

Overview

Legal Services of the Hudson Valley is a not-for-profit law firm which provides civil legal services to low-income clients in a seven-county region of the lower Hudson Valley in New York State. The Mt. Vernon office provides representation to residents of Westchester County, primarily in the areas of housing, domestic violence related legal matters, government benefits, elder law, and disability matters.

Founded in 1967, LSHV is the primary provider of free civil legal services to 580,000 eligible poor and low-income individuals in Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess, Orange, Rockland, Sullivan and Ulster counties. LSHV has eight offices, a staff of 130, including 83 attorneys and 19 paralegals. Along with experienced and dedicated volunteer lawyers, LSHV last year handled over 14,200 cases benefiting over 26,170 people including over 9,600 children, and more than 2,500 senior citizens.

Job Description

Legal Services of the Hudson Valley has an opening based in our Mt. Vernon office, for a full time VISTA Legal Fellow working on Tenant Engagement and Community Development (TECDev). The VISTA Legal Fellow will work with tenants in certain HUD-financed properties in Westchester County, New York, to create opportunities for residents and engage residents in anti-poverty and quality of life programming. They will equip tenants to advocate for themselves regarding housing conditions, educational opportunities, economic opportunity, crime prevention, public health, youth development, and other areas. They also will work to develop LSHV's capacity to assist, inform, educate, and engage tenants of these properties regarding their rights, responsibilities, and options.

Based on Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps guidelines, the term of service will begin in early November of 2016 for one year (with a possible renewal for one more year).

Responsibilities and Duties

- Providing legal services in support of community organizing work for tenants who reside in Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) properties that have converted or are in the process of converting from their original sources of HUD financing to long-term project-based Section 8.
- Providing legal and programmatic information to tenants on topics including increasing educational opportunities for adults and children; expanding access to job opportunities through job training, job placement, and expungement; increasing crime prevention resources; expanding access to improve public health and healthcare, including securing public benefits; expanding access and resources for residents with disabilities and senior citizens; and increasing resources for youth development.
- Engaging in capacity building to assist in building infrastructure, expanding community partnerships, coordinating training, securing long-term resources as determined by local

needs, and creating systems that will remain in place after the term of service is complete.

- Addressing housing conditions issues requiring attention from landlords or government agencies.
- Advocating for increased resources for community improvements such as day care centers, playgrounds, commercial district improvements, and public safety.
- Advocating for increased resources for community improvements relating to quality of schools and government services.
- Creating tenant groups or associations.
- Providing "Know Your Rights and Responsibilities" workshops and other capacity building legal services.
- Assisting residents in transition from public housing to private management companies, which could include limited representation in administrative matters.
- Providing mediation/conflict resolution services among residents, landlords and others relating to living conditions and community improvements.

QUALIFICATIONS

The Fellow will be required to have excellent oral and written communication skills, as well as interpersonal, organizational and negotiation skills and the ability to work as a team member. Diverse economic, social and cultural experiences and a second language are preferred. The Fellow must be a graduate of an accredited law school. Admission to practice law in New York or pending admission is preferred.

COMPENSATION

- VISTAs make a commitment to live among and at the economic level of the people served
- AmeriCorps VISTA provides living allowance of \$16,716
- LSHV will provide additional financial support of \$16,716 for living allowances such as rental assistance and transportation.

Other benefits:

- \$5,550 AmeriCorps Legal Education Award upon successful completion of service
- Participation in Equal Justice Works training opportunities and conferences, as applicable

Please apply at our Career Center by following this link, and include a cover letter, resume, writing sample and three references:

https://workforcenow.adp.com/jobs/apply/posting.html?client=LSHVADP&jobId=56088&lang=en_US&source=CC3

Legal Services of the Hudson Valley is proud to be an equal opportunity employer that celebrates our employees' differences. Applicants of diverse race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, disability and veteran status, are strongly encouraged to apply. Our differences make us better.