Douglass Community Association and Local Initiatives Support Corporation are seeking a full-time AmeriCorps member to serve as an Employment Coordinator. The candidate will ideally begin service on October 1, 2018 and serve a minimum of 1700 hours though the end of his/her term on July 31, 2019. The exact start and end date is confirmed by the Member Agreement of Participation. The individual selected to serve is not considered to be an employee of Douglass Community Association or LISC.

**ORGANZIATION BACKGROUNDS**

Named in honor of Mr. Frederick Douglass, the Douglass Community Association was founded in 1919 to address the social, recreational, and cultural needs of World War I Black soldiers and their families who were returning to a racially segregated Kalamazoo. Almost a century later, the Douglass Community Association continues to provide culturally relevant and age appropriate services to support, empower, and uplift individuals, families, and youth on Kalamazoo’s Northside. Our vision is All Kalamazoo youth, adults, and families will have the intellectual, physical, and emotional supports needed to achieve their full potential.

Nestled next to the Kalamazoo Valley River Trail, the Douglass is a prime location to meet the community’s needs while providing optimum services and programs specifically designed to address the emotional, intellectual, and recreational needs of individuals who are mostly under-resourced and underserved.

With residents and partners, LISC forges resilient and inclusive communities of opportunity across America – great places to live, work, visit, do business and raise families. Over the last 38 years, LISC and its affiliates have invested approximately $20 billion in businesses, affordable housing, health, educational mobility, community and recreational facilities, public safety, employment and other projects that help to revitalize and stabilize underinvested communities. These investments have leveraged more than $50 billion in development activity and helped families and communities raise their standards of living. LISC investments impact the lives of nearly 7 million Americans. Headquartered in New York City, LISC’s reach spans the country from East coast to West coast in 31 markets with offices extending from Buffalo to San Francisco. Our rural programs make an impact in 44 states, and are supported by LISC’s talented and dedicated workforce. Visit us at [www.lisc.org](http://www.lisc.org)

**AMERICORPS MEMBER ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The member selected to serve in this capacity will be responsible for: Connecting community members including youth with opportunities for employment and economic services that they may not be aware of, or have had access to. The member will provide one-on-one and workshop setting services to clients. The member will serve as a bridge to connect organizations that are providing employment services and economic services with members in the community. This includes referring community members to employment readiness programs, financial services and employment listings with a goal of assisting community members in achieving self-sufficiency. The member will connect with the service providers to assure that information is current and relevant.

**PERFORMANCE, CAREER DEVELOPMENT, AND SERVICE REQUIREMENTS**

This is an AmeriCorps position. LISC and Douglass Community Association will not allow the member to engage in activities that are considered prohibited under the terms of the grant while serving as a LISC AmeriCorps member.

Members will be provided with goal(s) at the onset of the service assignment based on the activities and responsibilities noted above. Members will track goal attainment monthly through an on-line system (training provided). Members will also discuss professional performance in the form of a mid-term and final appraisal. Members are required to track time and submit on-line (training provided) timesheets twice per month.

Members will perform day to day service at Douglass Community Association and serve a minimum of 40-42 hours per week. Normal service hours are Monday – Friday from 9am – 6pm with 30 minutes for lunch per day. There will be opportunities to serve evenings and weekends.

Members will have an immediate supervisor and a local LISC supervisor throughout the term of service as identified by LISC and Douglass Community Association

Members are expected to attend and participate in all LISC AmeriCorps sponsored activities including but not limited to:

* Attending a local onboarding session coordinated by LISC and an onsite orientation to our organization;
* Attending a national leadership conference tentatively scheduled for March 2019;
* Attending all locally sponsored monthly meetings;
* Participating in nationally sponsored webinars;
* Actively participating in at least two team coordinated service projects (one for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service and one for National AmeriCorps Week); and,
* Engaging in any other LISC events as determined by the local LISC office.

**DESIRED SKILLS**

* Desire and ability to work with a diverse group of people, particularly those living in low-income distressed neighborhoods
* 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)

**PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

To be eligible to participate as a LISC AmeriCorps member the candidate must meet all eligibility requirements to serve as a National Service participant including but not limited to:

* Be eligible to earn 100% of the education award associated with this description
* Be eligible to perform the term of national service associated with this description
* Have unexpired proof of status as a US citizen or possess unexpired permanent resident status and be able to provide documentation as determined by CNCS during the pre-enrollment period
* Possess a high school degree, GED certificate or agree to achieve GED during the term of service
* Be at least 17 years of age (note there is no upper age limit)
* Be able to complete at the hours within the timeframe of the service term and serve the full term

**NATIONAL SERVICE CRIMINAL HISTORY SEARCH REQUIREMENT**

If a candidate has a criminal record, it does not necessarily make a candidate ineligible for service. Only candidates who are subject to registry on the National Sex Offender Public Website or have been convicted of murder may not participate as an AmeriCorps member. Only candidates being offered and then accepting the position must consent to a search of the National Sex Offender Public Website, a State Level Criminal History Search and an FBI search. Consent is provided via the LISC AmeriCorps application. Candidates must be cleared by CNCS prior to the first day of service.

**PROGRAM BENEFITS**

Upon successful completion of the term of service, the member will be eligible for a $5,920 education award to pay off existing, eligible student loans or return to school. Members are eligible to place existing student loans (loans must qualify and not in a state of default) into AmeriCorps forbearance. The position pays a total stipend of $17,000. The stipend is taxable and paid in 20 equal checks twice a month from LISC. Direct deposit is required. A health care benefit is available for the participant only (dependents are not eligible). For members with children under the age of 13, there is a child care subsidy benefit available which is dependent on the participant meeting all eligibility requirements (This benefit is administered by a contracted provider via the Corporation for National and Community Service).

Additional benefits for alums can be found here: <https://www.nationalservice.gov/special-initiatives/employers-national-service/alumni> and information on Public Service Loan Forgiveness can be found here: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/public-service>.

**HOW TO APPLY:**

Interested candidates should send letter of interest and resume to: Chéree Thomas, at cthomas@douglasscommunity.org or Douglass Community Association 1000 West Paterson Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007.

We are committed to diversity and inclusion in the selection process.

*This program is available to all, and we treat all persons without regard to race, color, religion, creed, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, ancestry, citizenship status, age, marital status, veteran status, disability, genetic information, or any other characteristic or status protected by applicable federal, state or local law.*