



STEVEN M. FULOP
MAYOR OF JERSEY CITY

CITY OF JERSEY CITY
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY HALL | 280 GROVE STREET | JERSEY CITY, NJ 07302
P: 201 547 5500 | F: 201 547 5442



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Contact: Jennifer Morrill
Press Secretary
M: 201-376-0699
E: jenniferm@jcnj.org

15 Spots Available For This Summer’s AmeriCorps VISTA Associate Program, Applications Are Now Being Accepted

***Looking to Give Back to Your Community While Gaining On-Site Training? Volunteers are Being Recruited to Address the Needs of our City’s Youth Through the Summer 2017
Volunteers in Service to America Program***

JERSEY CITY – **Mayor Steven M. Fulop** is announcing the open application process for the city’s VISTA Summer Associate program, with up to 15 Summer Associates being accepted for summer 2017. The program’s goal is to target the needs within the city, focusing on at-risk and low-income youth. Recruitment runs through June 30th, 2017.

The eight to 10 week program stems from the year-round Volunteers in Service to America, or VISTAs. **Mayor Fulop** brought the federally-funded AmeriCorps program to Jersey City over two years ago to better address the needs of low-income residents. The mission of the VISTA program as mandated by Congress in 1964 is, “building permanent infrastructure in non-profit organizations to help them more effectively bring individuals and communities out of poverty.”

“This project is about making a difference in our community,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “It connects volunteers with a variety of program offerings serving the needs of our city’s youth. This is an opportunity for volunteers to serve their communities, while also advancing their job skills and workforce development.”

A **Mayoral Advisory Group** will work with the **Jersey City Youth Council** to oversee the work being done throughout the period of service. Those hired will be available to the community on a full-time basis, 40 hours per week. Summer Associates receive a subsistence allowance, and are eligible to receive a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award or end of service stipend. All applicants must apply using the my.americorps.gov portal. Links can be found on Jersey City’s social media sites and website.

Applications are now being accepted for the following positions:

Saturday Jump Start (2 Associates): Summer Associates would help develop and coordinate weekly sessions, recruit youth participants, and collect program data.

Summer Works Youth Employment Programs (3 Associates): Summer Associates will assist with coordination, documentation and curriculum development for the city’s Stop the Drop, Jersey City Summer Internship and Summer Arts Programs, including the support and development of youth employment training activities.

(more)

(2)

Summer Fun (8 Associates): Summer Associates will work with summer fun staff to help enhance enrichment opportunities and improve experiences for youth participating in the program. Specifically, associates will focus on implementation of enrichment and literacy promoting activities at high-priority sites. In addition, associates will work alongside program staff on activities related to: tutoring, training of junior camp counselors, delivering programs for special needs camps; data collection to track and monitor progress, and marketing and social media communication activities.

Jersey City Youth Court Program (1 Associate): The Summer Associate will work with program staff support activities related to the annual Youth Justice Conference, which drew over 100 participants in 2016. Additionally, the Sumer Associate will analyze 2016 data, help develop community service opportunities for respondents and participate in general outreach activities at local schools and community-based programs to attract and encourage a greater number of students to participate in the 2017 cohort.

Community Court (1 Associate): The Summer Associate will support the program director on activities related to resource development, and community outreach. Community Service is a large component of the program and support will be required in identifying and working with local and accessible social services and partners to ensure that members of the community court members fulfill their community service hours.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary for Mayor Steven M. Fulop at jenniferm@jcnj.org or 201-376-0699.////