

VETERANS LEGAL CORP AMERICORPS*JD PROGRAM

AGENCY DESCRIPTION: Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization that provides free legal services to eligible clients in civil cases through five regional offices. Land of Lincoln is funded by numerous partners, including the Legal Services Corporation, Illinois Equal Justice Foundation, CNCS AmeriCorps and Equal Justice Works, United Way, Area Agencies on Aging.

POSITION SUMMARY:

The Veterans Legal Corps will engage 260 law students to serve as AmeriCorps members around the country working to expand the delivery of legal services to veterans, their families, and other individuals who need it most.

AmeriCorps JD: Veterans Legal Corps

Veterans Legal Corps JD members will improve the lives of low-income and homeless veterans by providing legal assistance that ultimately leads to higher incomes, better health, safer and more secure housing, and family stability. JD members will support Equal Justice Works Fellows in securing VA disability benefits and/or SSDI/SSI benefits for veterans with complex physical and mental health challenges, eliminating legal barriers to housing, reducing unwarranted – or waiving unreasonably high – child support orders, preventing foreclosures and evictions and eliminating legal barriers to employment.

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.
- Practice sound health habits, including getting sufficient rest, to perform the position requirements.
- Respect confidentiality of clients, staff, and other AmeriCorps members.

Program leadership

- Connect 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.

Responsibilities and Duties

The AmeriCorps*JD member will:

- 1) Assist Veterans Legal Corps Fellows in providing high quality legal assistance to financially eligible clients on issues including landlord tenant matters, home foreclosures, problems with health and disability benefits, child support and other family law matters, consumer and medical debt, legal matters related to financial planning, drivers' license reinstatement, and expungement/sealing of criminal records issues.
- 2) Conduct legal research, draft legal memoranda and documents, engage in case investigation, conduct client interviews, and develop case strategy.
- 3) Attend and observe (and when possible conduct) court proceedings, depositions, negotiations, and client meetings.
- 4) Develop materials to publicize the project to many audiences.

Citizenship training and responsibilities

- Participate in AmeriCorps training and national service events as required and requested by the Illinois state commission.

Program training

- Participate in orientation training.
- Participate in substantive veterans legal issue training as provided by Equal Justice Works, Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation, and Illinois Armed Forces Legal Aid Network (IL-AFLAN)

Skill requirements:

- The Fellow must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- Strong interpersonal and organizational skills

- The ability to work as a team member
- Prior experience in managing independent projects or assignments desired
- Knowledge of veterans' benefits law and/or experience with veterans and military families preferred
- Military service or related-military background, including status as a military dependent encouraged

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 National Sex Offender Public Registry check, state criminal background check(s), FBI Fingerprint criminal background check, and submission of proof of U.S. citizenship.

Program Benefits: The Veterans Legal Corps AmeriCorps JD program is an AmeriCorps-funded program that provides law students with the opportunity to earn an AmeriCorps education award of \$1,230 that can pay educational expenses or student loans. Students may seek up to \$4,422 in additional compensation for their service, for up to \$5,652 in compensation. The \$4,422 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.

TO APPLY: Please send a resume and cover letter to:

Susan Zielke
Managing Attorney
Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation, Inc.
302 North First Street
Champaign, Illinois 61820
szielke@lollaf.org

Apply for the AmeriCorps JD program through our [Student Application Manager](#). More information is available at <http://www.equaljusticeworks.org/amicorpsjd>.

Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance 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.