

## **VETERANS LEGAL CORP POSITION DESCRIPTION 2017-18**

**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: Veterans Legal Corps Fellow**

Equal Justice Works and AmeriCorps have partnered together to provide the Veterans Legal Corps Fellowship opportunity to aid the legal needs of veterans and military families across the nation. The Veteran Legal Corps (VLC) Fellow will provide civil legal assistance to veterans and military families.

One Fellowship is available in the Eastern Regional office, in Champaign, Illinois. Based on Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps guidelines, the term of service will begin in September 2017 for one year (with a possible renewal contingent upon continued AmeriCorps funding). Position requires completion of NSOPR, state(s), and FBI Fingerprint criminal background checks and compliance with all CNCS Federal Regulations throughout the fellowship program.

### **Responsibilities and Duties**

The AmeriCorps VLC Fellow will:

- 1) Provide high quality direct representation 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. (65%) Target populations will include:
  - Veterans who are patients of the Illiana Healthcare System, the area VA Hospital and clinic system;

- Veterans who are homeless or who are at risk of becoming homeless;
  - Veterans who live within our 16 county catchment area and qualify for our legal services; and
  - Families of Veterans.
- 2) Work with community partner agencies, including case management staff at the VA hospitals, VA clinics, and Veterans' Service Organizations in the area to create protocols and facilitate referrals. (10%)
  - 3) Develop materials to publicize the project to many audiences. (10%)
  - 4) Deliver "Ask a Lawyer" presentations at Veteran outreach events on legal topics of broad appeal and create educational materials to be shared with host staff statewide. (10%)
  - 5) Refer cases to the externship supervisor for assignment to Americorps\*JD and law student externs. Work with Americorps\*JD and law student externs on various projects. (5%)
  - 6) Other administrative tasks related to AmeriCorps and Equal Justice Works program compliance. (5%)

### Qualifications

The Fellow will have to have excellent oral and written communication skills, and interpersonal, organizational and negotiation skills and the ability to work as a team member. Demonstrated commitment to public interest work and strong desire to assist indigent clients ideal. 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. Diverse economic, social and cultural experiences and a second language are preferred. The Fellow must be admitted to practice law in Illinois.

### **COMPENSATION up to \$45,000 which includes:**

- AmeriCorps living allowance of \$24,930

- Supplemental benefits paid by Land of Lincoln of up to \$20,070 for housing, student loans, and other permissible reimbursable living expenses.

*Other benefits:*

- \$5,775 AmeriCorps Legal Education Award upon successful completion of service
- AmeriCorps provided childcare assistance (if income eligible)
- Land of Lincoln professional development and training assistance
- Student loan forbearance and interest accrual payment for eligible loans upon successful completion of service
- Participation in Equal Justice Works training opportunities and conferences
- Land of Lincoln fringe benefits, including health insurance (medical, dental, Rx), disability insurance, life insurance, and flex benefit plan

**TO APPLY:** Please send a resume, cover letter, and a list of three (3) references with mailing and/or email addresses and telephone numbers, law school transcript and legal writing sample **by August 31, 2017**, to:

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

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.