



Public Health and Environmental Justice Education Coordinator 1 Full Time AmeriCorps Position Available

Applications Due: 5pm, January 6th, 2012

Start Date: January 30th, 2012

Position Title: Public Health and Environmental Justice Education Coordinator (as Service Corps AmeriCorps position)

Position Location: Position will be acquired through the Service Collaborative of Western New York. Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper (1250 Niagara St, Buffalo, NY 14213) will act as host site during the AmeriCorps term of service.

Work Schedule: A one year AmeriCorps term (January 30th – December 31st, 2012). Working hours are full time – Monday through Friday, 9:00am – 5:00pm. Flexibility in schedule is required, as project necessitates availability during some evenings and weekends, especially in the spring and summer.

Service Collaborative of Western New York Summary: The Service Collaborative of WNY is an independent non-profit organization that creates opportunities for all individuals to serve, challenging citizens to turn their ideals into action and their passion into positive change. Through transformational service and civic responsibility, the Service Collaborative of WNY is designing a sustainable future for our nation's communities. The Service Collaborative of WNY offers several terms of AmeriCorps service and program options for individuals with various educational and work related experiences while earning funds for your further education in higher learning. For more information, please visit: <http://www.tscwny.org/>

Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper Summary: Since 1989, Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper has worked towards the protection and restoration of the Buffalo and Niagara Rivers and their tributaries. Riverkeeper's Citizen Action Program focuses on providing residents of the region with opportunities to increase their awareness about water pollution issues and actively participate in the restoration of the rivers.

<http://bnriverkeeper.org/>

Public Health and Environmental Justice Project Summary: The Buffalo and Niagara Rivers have been impaired by more than a century of heavy industrial pollution. Their toxin-laden sediment, containing PCBs, PAHs, industrial organics and heavy metals, resulted in the EPA designating the rivers as Areas of Concern in 1987. A significant beneficial use impairment (of both the Buffalo and Niagara River Areas of Concern) is fish consumption. Until remediation goals for fish are met, risk avoidance strategies have been established and disseminated in the form of fish consumption advisories to reduce public exposure. However, these consumption advisories are insufficient for the growing number of families who subsist on locally caught fish. In Buffalo, low compliance and increased exposure may be closely tied to food insecurity.

Nearly thirty percent of Buffalo's residents live below the federally-specified poverty line, nearly twice that of Erie County and New York State as a whole (14% each) (US Census 2010). This concentration of poverty is surpassed only by Detroit among the nation's largest cities. 39% of households with children under the age of eighteen receive food assistance of some kind. The state of contamination of locally caught fish is especially onerous for Buffalo's subsistence fishing community, as they consume and use these resources in different cultural, traditional, religious, historical, economic, and legal contexts than the "average American." The general perception among populations that utilize these impaired waterways for subsistence are that these fish, regardless of pollution, are the most abundant, cost-effective, nutritious source of lean protein available in the Buffalo-Niagara Region. These subsistence anglers, and the secondary consumers with whom they share their fish, face the perplexing dilemma of whether to eat their locally caught fish, contaminated to the point of unacceptable health risks with legacy industrial toxins, or forgo consuming their catch, and, in turn, forgoing the related health benefits. And, for some, avoiding fish in accordance to New York State Fish Consumption Advisories may also mean forgoing a meal.

In 2010, Buffalo Niagara RIVERKEEPER has received a grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to enhance the existing Fish Consumption Advisory. In the first phase of the project, a Population Exposure Assessment was implemented using interviews and observations to identify populations that consume fish from urban waterways in the Niagara and Erie Basin looking at factors that cumulatively affect the efficacy of fish consumption advisories and fish consumption such as culture, ethnicity, age, gender, food security, socio-economic status, and literacy

level. The second phase of this project will analyze data collected during the Population Exposure Assessment and, working collaboratively with community members and interested parties, synthesize study results to create an enhanced public health education campaign focusing on fish consumption advisories. For more information:

<http://bnriverkeeper.org/programs/local-fishing/environmental-justice/> and <http://bnriverkeeper.org/programs/local-fishing/can-i-eat-the-fish/>

Position Summary: We are seeking a dedicated person to join our organization through Western New York AmeriCorps as the Public Health and Environmental Justice Education Coordinator. This position will work in coordination with Riverkeeper's Public Health and Environmental Justice program by assisting in education and outreach regarding fish consumption advisories, food security, environmental justice, and other related topics. The Education Coordinator will also aid in the development of public health outreach materials and with the facilitation of public educational programs, (specifically to Buffalo's diverse refugee population in collaboration with Jericho Road Ministries). Other aspects of the job include sociological research, data analysis and management, and support of other Riverkeeper projects, specifically the Forest Buffer program.

Specific Job Responsibilities:

- Conducting formative, cultural research characterizing the subsistence angler population in the Buffalo Niagara region to serve as a basis for determining the potential for health risks to various groups and the need for targeted outreach strategies to reduce any such risk.
- Researching sociological and environmental aspects of public health as they relate to poverty, environmental justice and food insecurity. Coordinator will also be extensively trained in these topics.
- Assisting in the development of simplified and accessible public health information, specifically, the New York State fish consumption advisory.
- Collaborating with local community and refugee organizations for the targeted translation and adaptation of outreach materials to high-risk and marginalized communities in the Buffalo Niagara Region.
- Assisting in the development, promotion, and facilitation of multilingual, educational public health programs collaboration with local family health clinics and community organizations. The primary purpose of these programs is the dissemination of risk communication regarding exposure to legacy chemicals from the consumption of locally caught fish and to educate populations about risk avoidance strategies including alternative fish preparation methods, species identification, and meal spacing.
- Collecting, processing, analyzing and reporting data using federally mandated quality control measures.
- Assisting in the development of written guidance (or meta data) compiling culturally specific information regarding certain demographics' perceptions of risk, patterns in public understanding, and trends in knowledge acquisition.
- Maintain related website pages and research and write program updates and articles for websites, e-newsletters, and reports.
- Manage and oversee tabling and participation at area events. Manage and lead presentations to appropriate groups and create promotional display boards, banners, and signs. Research and determine participation in area events.
- Assist in implementation of other Riverkeeper programs, specifically the forest buffer restoration project.
- Assist in proposal writing for grants and other partnership opportunities.
- Assist in management of student interns on special projects.

Experience/Education: The ideal candidate for this position will be a self-motivated, organized, flexible, high-energy person with excellent interpersonal skills for interacting with the public and Riverkeeper staff. A background in education, sociology, public health, environmental science or political science is preferred. Demonstrated work with public health campaigns, community based participatory development and research, community organizing, program development, and event planning are advantageous.

Minimum Requirements/Qualifications:

- Applicant must have completed a four year, college degree from an accredited school.
- As per AmeriCorps requirements, applicant must be between 18 and 30 years of age.
- Applicant must be a U.S. Citizen, national or lawful permanent resident. Applicant must provide the following documentation as a part of ServiceCorps requirements: birth certification, driver's license or state photo ID, social security card and high school diploma or college degree.
- Applicant may work with children and must undergo a national criminal history check.

- Willing and able to participate in physical labor of various degrees for service projects

Proficiencies/Critical Skills:

- Excellent written and verbal communication
- Demonstrated ability to interact and work with individuals from diverse backgrounds
- Demonstrated research experience
- Demonstrated educational and/or community organizing experience
- Creativity, flexibility, and strong collaborative skills
- Ability to work weekends and evenings
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite, particularly Excel. Website design a plus.
- Ability to multitask, and prioritize to handle multiple deadlines

AmeriCorps Service Term Benefits:

- Education Award offered upon completion of term: full time - \$5350.00
- Bi-weekly living stipend of \$453.00 before taxes
- Pre-Collegiate classes available at ECC at no cost
- Loan Forbearance during term of service, provided they are not in default
- Health care insurance and Child Care available if eligible
- For more information please visit:
http://www.americorps.gov/for_individuals/benefits/benefits_ed_award_details.asp

Additional Notes:

- Members are allowed to have another job or attend school (referring to graduate or additional education, post Bachelor's degree) during this term
- Must sign a contract committing to serve as a THE SERVICE COLLABORATIVE OF WNY, INC. member placed with the host site location during their term of service.
- Upon successful completion of the term, the member is eligible, but not guaranteed to re-enroll as a member with the site or THE SERVICE COLLABORATIVE OF WNY, INC.
- All THE SERVICE COLLABORATIVE OF WNY, INC procedures and policies apply.

Application Procedure:

- Please email a cover letter and resume/CV as one attachment to Katy Brown, kbrown@bnriverkeeper.org by **5pm on Friday, January 6th, 2012.**
- Interviews will occur in the office or via Skype during January 11th – January 18th, 2012
- Applicants must be able to start work the week of January 30th, 2012.
- For more information about position, please contact Katy Brown at kbrown@bnriverkeeper.org

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE!