



LEAP Initiative



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA
INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

Service Position Title: School Readiness Social-Emotional Skill Builder

Service Position Summary:

AmeriCorps LEAP members are part of a team of advocates, coaches and champions for preschool children identified as falling behind in social and emotion regulation skills critical to Kindergarten success. Members receive training in the Mind Up curriculum and TACSEI tools to implement social-emotional learning (SEL) strategies through 1:1, small group and teachable moments with children throughout the daily preschool classroom schedule. LEAP members promote routine reading at home to increase quiet bonding time and word awareness with a six-book distribution to all children. Members share topic information and encourage parent engagement in site-related family events and recruit parent volunteers as needed. Data is collected on all member service activity using child assessments, parent satisfaction surveys and attendance logs to monitor progress in reaching LEAP grant performance objectives.

Essential Functions:

- Building early childhood assets and social/emotional school readiness competencies by:
 - Working under the guidance of the teacher in providing daily classroom support through imbedding support throughout the day; developing activities focused on social skill or emotional regulation themes for 1:1 and small group work; and sharing best practice of social/emotional curriculums used in classroom;
 - Leading individual, small group and large group activities with children, documenting children's development through observation and implementing specific recommendations from teacher and mental health professionals;
 - Creating classroom materials that support children's achievement of social skills and emotion regulation necessary for academic learning and Kindergarten;
 - Assess children's progress and development in achieving social-emotional competencies with baseline benchmark, mid-year and year-end curriculum assessments.
- Members attend monthly training and service meetings as a professional learning community for team building, leadership, training and best practice sharing to further develop skills and deepen strategies for success.

Qualifications:

- At least two years post high school and have a desire to work with young children;
- Display leadership skills, including but not limited to communication, organization, problem solving, dependability, commitment, and flexibility;
- Self-motivated and able to work effectively independently, as well as, with a team;
- Possess a non-judgmental attitude toward families living in poverty;
- Prior experience with volunteerism;
- Comfortable in serving as part of a team;
- Meet AmeriCorps qualification criteria.

Benefits: Members who serve in 1700-hour, full time positions receive a monthly living allowance, health care benefit, student loan forbearance and interest paid while serving; and a Segal Education Award. Members over 55 years of age can transfer their education award to a child or grandchild's college cost. Our program can make half-time (900 hours @ 20 hours per week) and reduced half-time (675 hour 16-18 hours per week) positions available for qualifying candidates who can't serve full time.

Requirements: Must have mobility to interact with children; must pass background check required for working with children.

We are committed to recruiting and engaging individuals without regard to disability, gender, race, religion or sexual orientation. Reasonable accommodations provided upon request. This document is available in alternative formats.

To obtain an application please visit:

<http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameriCorps> or contact Barbara Gunderson, barbarag@smifoundation.org

For additional information call Barbara at 507-455-3215 Ext. 134