



2023-24 SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATE – POSITION DESCRIPTION

POSITION SUMMARY: [Spark Health Corps](#) is a [Public Health AmeriCorps](#) State and National program designed to provide systemic and targeted, community responsive, mental health support to K-12 youth while simultaneously impacting workforce development of aspiring mental health professionals entering or reentering the field. Participating schools have been selected as those with the fewest resources, and who will benefit from the implementation of strong systemic wellness strategies, culturally responsive social-emotional curriculum, parental and family engagement, and ethically compliant crisis response.

Spark Health Corps is seeking to engage 20 Public Health AmeriCorps Members as School Mental Health Associates in paid service in schools throughout the state of Colorado. Associates will serve in person in a school setting from August through May based on the school calendar. The mode of service delivery will primarily occur within a school building, and there may be opportunities to engage in expeditionary activities with staff and students outside of the school building. Ideal candidates will be enrolled in a master's level or higher program in a mental health field or will have earned their masters degree in a mental health profession and are looking to sharpen their clinical and/or school-based skills while completing national service. **Spark Health Corps service meets requirements for graduate level internship.** Individual Clinical Supervision is available through the Spark the Change Colorado Volunteer Supervision program. Candidates should have a passion for youth, improving school-based mental health interventions, and will demonstrate adaptability to their school site's needs as well as completing required professional development and other AmeriCorps requirements.

WELCOME STATEMENT: Spark the Change Colorado, our partners, and AmeriCorps are committed to diversity, equity, inclusion and access. We seek to create an inclusive, equitable and welcoming work environment for all individuals. Given the nature of structural inequality and how it presents in the workforce, we specifically encourage folks from traditionally marginalized groups to apply to this opportunity even if you do not meet all of the desired qualifications. We recognize that underrepresented groups such as women and BIPOC may be less likely to apply to a role if they don't meet 100% of the listed qualifications. If this Public Service opportunity aligns with your interests and career trajectory, and you meet a majority of the qualifications, we would love to see your application! Reasonable accommodations will also be made as requested.

RESPONSIBILITIES - School Mental Health Associates will have opportunity to:

- Deliver universal mental health support activities to all students as a proactive and preventative approach to whole person wellness, delivered via evidence-based best practice social-emotional (SEL) curriculum that is attentive to culturally appropriate needs and normed for school populations and immediate presenting concern
- Support staff and systemic wellness through a whole person lens using best practice supports
- Deliver targeted interventions to high need students requiring intensive and individualized assistance (with supervisor approval)
- Provide mental health support workshops and resources for K-12 teachers and school staff
- Provide holistic resource support for students and communities and involve consultation, training and support for families and guardians whenever appropriate
- Attend all required training, in-service, and staff meetings; and maintain confidentiality according to FERPA regulations
- There may be additional responsibilities available based on school need.

MEMBER REQUIREMENTS:

- Associates must reside in the state of Colorado during the service year
- Associates must pass a background check to work with school-age children, and enroll in AmeriCorps
- Ideal candidates will be:
 - pursuing a career in school counseling, school social work, school psychology, or another mental health profession or
 - currently licensed or a candidate for licensure in a mental health field or
 - undergraduates seeking alternative pathways to attaining a Special Services Provider (SSP) credential may be eligible to apply with at least five years of experience
- Exceptional oral and written communication skills; friendly, helpful, professional
- Strong organizational and administrative skills and attention to detail
- Flexibility, resourcefulness, positive attitude, strong work ethic and proven ability to initiate problem solving
- High integrity, sound judgment and ability to maintain confidentiality
- Strong computer: Microsoft Office 365, Google Suite, Zoom & Teams
- Enthusiastic ambassador for mental health and overall wellness
- Cultural humility and a strong desire to learn from others
- Individuals who are multilingual and members who are indigenous and First Nations are especially encouraged to apply

SERVICE TERM COMMITMENT: This is a part-time paid service position. Associates must complete service based on their slot commitment (675 hours or 450 hours) during their service term; and will conduct approximately 16-20 hours/week of on-site service during the school calendar year.

MEMBER BENEFITS:

- Semi-monthly living allowance of up to \$371.25 paid during service term
- Segal AmeriCorps Education Award up to \$2,626 upon successful completion of service term.
- Option to temporarily postpone repayment of qualified student loans through forbearance while serving as an AmeriCorps Member
- Extensive, regularly scheduled group and licensed clinical supervision
- Network building, continuing education and professional development provided on a regular schedule; additional opportunities may be provided based on member interest and/or need.
- Advancement of mental health career trajectory in a school-based setting
- Established pathway towards Colorado Department of Education (CDE) Special Services Provider (SSP) licensure
- Opportunity to make an immediate impact on the mental health & wellness of students, educators, and communities

TO APPLY: send resume & cover letter to Barb Knapp BKnapp@sparkthechangecolorado.org

Questions or for more information visit our website [HERE](#)