

One Utah Service Fellowship - Youth Engagement Support Program Program Introduction

The program is designed around a cohort-based structure, meaning that all 50 AmeriCorps members will serve over the same time period and be placed at partner host sites across the region. This cohort model fosters a sense of community, shared purpose, and mutual support throughout their service year. Members will participate in bi-weekly professional development sessions together for shared learning and development, peer collaboration, career exploration and cohort-led initiatives. The hope is that this cohort model will:

- Promote teamwork and leadership development
- Encourage cross-site learning and innovation
- Build a strong sense of belonging and purpose
- Enhance retention and satisfaction among AmeriCorps members

The program is led by the Youth Engagement Support Team at the One Utah Service Fellowship in partnership with the National Youth Mental Health Corps and UServeUtah. Philanthropic funding is providing significant funding to support this endeavor, along with partner sites contributing a host fee and providing in-kind support and operational resources.

The inaugural year begins October 1, 2025 and will end May 30, 2026. MHSN AmeriCorps members and partner host sites are asked to commit to this 7-month period. Options for service are 300 hours (12 hours/week) or 900 hours (37 hours/week).

The program expects the first two weeks of the year to include on-boarding with the One Utah Service Fellowship and trainings in Suicide Prevention, Trauma Informed Practices, and Youth Support in Educational Settings.

Members will also have time set aside to attend host site onboarding as needed, which will be arranged during initial partnership coordination.

Starting in November, members will begin participating in the bi-weekly professional development sessions with OUSF, which will be approximately four hours. These sessions will continue throughout the year of service.

While federal and state funding is uncertain at this time, we are hopeful to be able to improve upon year one and launch the program again with additional funds in 2026 – 2027 and beyond.

Responsibilities and Expected Costs of Partner Sites

As a host site for one or more MHSN AmeriCorps Members, your organization plays a critical role in the development of the program and supporting youth mental health across Utah.

AmeriCorps members placed at your site will engage in direct service activities such as behavioral health education, peer support, and resource navigation, all under the guidance of trained professionals. Partner host sites will be a variety of youth serving organizations, including behavioral health providers, schools, community-based and youth development organizations.

1. Supervision & Support

- Designate a Site Supervisor to provide administrative and site specific support to the AmeriCorps member(s).
- Conduct regular check-ins with members to provide guidance, feedback, and support.
- Participate in initial and ongoing training provided by the One Utah Service Fellowship to understand AmeriCorps regulations and expectations.
- Foster a supportive environment that encourages member growth and learning.
- Support member participation in bi-weekly professional development sessions with the One Utah Service Fellowship throughout the service year.

2. Evaluation & Reporting

- Assist in the implementation of evaluation tools to measure youth outcomes and member impact.
- Provide timely feedback and data to One Utah Service Fellowship for grant reporting and program improvement.

3. Collaboration & Communication

- Maintain open communication with One Utah Service Fellowship program staff, including the Program Director, Placement Coordinators, and YMHC Program Assistant.
- Participate in periodic partner meetings to share best practices and address challenges.

4. Expected Costs

While grant funding covers the majority of program expenses—including member stipends, training and administrative oversight, Partner sites are expected to:

- Provide in-kind support and operational resources, including:
 - Supervision and staff time to support the member (a designated staff liaison (e.g., a counselor)
 - Workspace and equipment (e.g., desk, computer, office supplies)
- Contribute to the living allowance stipend if requesting a larger stipend than the minimum (\$4,500 for 300 Hour Placement or \$13,500 for 900 Hour Placement).

Potential Benefits for Partner Host Sites

1. Expanded Service Capacity and Cost-Effective Staffing

- AmeriCorps members provide direct support to youth, helping sites serve more individuals and expand programming without increasing payroll costs.
- Members assist with education, peer support, and resource navigation, enhancing the site's ability to meet mental health needs.
- Members receive stipends and training funded by the program, not the host site.
- Sites contribute the host fee and in-kind support (e.g., supervision, workspace), but avoid the full cost of hiring additional staff.

2. Professional Development Pipeline

- Members will become Certified Youth Peer Supporters and receive training in mental health first aid, trauma-informed care, and other professional development opportunities, making them well-prepared contributors.
- Host sites can mentor future professionals in behavioral health, potentially recruiting from this talent pool for future roles.

3. Community Recognition & Collaboration

- Participation in a regional initiative like the Youth Mental Health Corps enhances the site's visibility and credibility.
- Sites become part of a collaborative network, opening doors to partnerships, funding, and shared resources.

Position Description for OUSF AmeriCorps Member

The One Utah Service Fellowship is an AmeriCorps program that provides opportunities for young adults to participate in sustainable and high-impact service, addressing the critical priorities and needs in Utah while supporting debt-free pathways to higher education.

The Mental Health School Navigator is placed at a high school or middle school to provide individualized support to a caseload of 20-40 students who could benefit from 1-on-1 engagement but are not receiving it elsewhere. Through certifications in Mental Health First Aid and Youth Support in Educational Settings, the member works directly with students to increase engagement, offer access to resources, provide mental health services, and help them stay on a path toward academic and personal success.

Program Overview:

The Mental Health School Navigators with the OUSF YES Team play a key role in Utah's statewide commitment to improving the well-being and mental health of youth while building ramps to behavioral health careers. AmeriCorps members in Youth Mental Health Corps will work directly with students to develop trust, share resources for digital and media literacy and help students navigate social challenges online such as harassment, bullying and bias. The National Youth Mental Health Corps is an innovative, public-private collaboration, with a robust set of partners including UServeUtah as 1 of 18 states, the Schultz Family Foundation, Pinterest, and the National Council for Mental Wellbeing.

Job Summary:

These positions serve from mid-October through the end of May. Various Utah counties are available.

300 Hour Term:

- This position averages 12 hours per week for 7 months

900 Hour Term:

- This position averages 37 hours per week for 7 months

Responsibilities may include:

Student Engagement Strategies and Assessment

- Conduct one-on-one meetings with caseload students to support their emotional well-being and overall success in school. These check-ins may include discussing mental health needs, coping strategies, academic progress, behavior, and overall school experience.
- Develop and maintain a weekly meeting schedule for 20-40 students that allows each student to receive weekly support.
- Build strong relationships with caseload students.
- Address challenges to learning by connecting students with in-school and local community service supports.
- Help individuals and families navigate and connect to mental health resources.
- Develop education and training materials on mental health issues.
- Conduct community outreach and workshops.
- Help schools and organizations establish norms and practices to support programs and policies around healthy social media use.

- Provide school-wide engagement
- Engage parents/guardians through phone calls or meetings.
- Track all students' progress within OUSF's database, school databases, and other spreadsheets.

Communication

- Communicate and interact with students in an age and developmentally appropriate way.
- Build professional relationships and communicate regularly with classroom teachers, school supervisors and school site personnel regarding student schedules, interventions, student progress, etc.
- Build professional relationships and communicate regularly with OUSF staff and members.

Attendance

- Demonstrate regular, timely attendance and adherence to hours as scheduled.
- Commit to service for the full service term, serving the total commitment of hours within the term.
- Participate in all required OUSF sponsored training sessions, meetings, and coaching sessions, including peer professional development and member meet-ups; travel as necessary.

Qualifications

Be 18-24 years of age

Have a high school diploma or GED

Pass State & Federal background checks

Be a U.S. Citizen, National, or Legal Permanent Resident

Member Benefits and Responsibilities

General Benefits:

- Fellows may qualify for loan deferment and interest forbearance on federally- guaranteed student loans, with potential interest repayment while serving
- Access to Member Assistance Program: Includes free telephonic mental health counseling, professional assessments, webinars, and exclusive discounts

- Certifications in Mental Health First Aid and Youth Support in Educational Settings

300 Hour Term:

- Fellow will receive a living allowance twice monthly of \$346.15
- Upon completion, successful fellows earn an education award of \$1,565.08, which can be used for education costs up to cost of attendance or for eligible student loan repayment

1200 Hour Term:

- Fellow will receive a living allowance twice monthly of \$1,038.46
- Upon completion, successful fellows earn an education award of \$3,697.50, which can be used for education costs up to cost of attendance or for eligible student loan repayment