

Greater Cincinnati Youth Mental Health Corps

Info Sheet for Potential Partner Host Sites

Program Description

Greater Cincinnati Youth Mental Health Corps is a new initiative that will place 24 AmeriCorps members (12 three-quarter-time and 12 half-time) in Cincinnati and surrounding communities in Southwest Ohio. The program aims to increase the behavioral health workforce pipeline and address the growing youth mental health crisis by providing education, peer support, and resource navigation.

The program is designed around a cohort-based structure, meaning that all 24 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. All members will receive the [Certified Youth Peer Supporter](#) certification, which requires direct lived experience with behavioral health challenges (such as mental health or substance use disorders) and be between the ages of 18-30. 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 Talbert House in partnership with Hopeful Empowered Youth (HEY!) and is being supported by ServeOhio and its administration of AmeriCorps in Ohio. Local funders are also 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 September 1, 2025 and will end August 31, 2026. AmeriCorps members and partner host sites are asked to commit to this 12-month period. The 12 three-quarter-time members will be expected to **serve 25-30 hours per week** over the course of the service year to meet the 1,200 hour requirement. The 12 half-time members will be expected to serve approximately **18-20 hours per week** to fulfill the 900 hour requirement.

The program expects the first two weeks of the year to include on-boarding at Talbert House and a 40 hour in-person training to allow the members to become Certified Youth Peer Supporters. Members will also have time set aside to attend host site onboarding as needed, which will be arranged during initial partnership coordination. Starting in October, members will begin participating in the bi-weekly professional development sessions at Talbert House and other sites across the region, 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 the Greater Cincinnati Youth Mental Health Corps, your organization plays a critical role in the development of the program and supporting youth mental health across Southwest Ohio. 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. Partner host sites will participate in a **speed interview event** to help match potential members and organizations. (Tentative date- August 28th - please mark your calendar!)

1. Supervision & Support

- Designate a Site Supervisor to provide administrative and site specific support to the AmeriCorps member(s). A Talbert House Peer Support Supervisor will also provide technical support to the member.
- Conduct regular check-ins with members to provide guidance, feedback, and support.
- Participate in initial and ongoing training provided by Talbert House 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 at Talbert House 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 Talbert House for grant reporting and program improvement.

3. Collaboration & Communication

- Maintain open communication with Talbert House program staff, including the Program Director, Associate Director and Peer Support Supervisor.
- 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:

- Contribute a host fee of \$2,500 per member placed*
- Provide in-kind support and operational resources, including:
 - Supervision and staff time to support the member
 - Workspace and equipment (e.g., desk, computer, office supplies)

**If the host fee is too burdensome for your organization, we can discuss a payment plan or sliding scale.*

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.

4. Potential to bill Medicaid for Certified Youth Peer Supporter

- Agencies may be able to bill Medicaid for the time AmeriCorps members spend delivering direct services. This opportunity can be explored further in coordination with Talbert House. Strengthening the sustainability of the program is an important long-term goal.

If your organization has questions or is interested in serving as a Partner Host Site for the inaugural year of the Greater Cincinnati Youth Mental Health Corps, please contact Nikki Boberg by Monday, July 28th at Nichol.Boberg@talberthouse.org