

# Intro to Public Legal Fellowships

Equal Justice Works is the largest provider of public interest postgraduate opportunities in the nation. We offer more full-time legal positions in public service than any other organization. The Equal Justice Works programs use grants from public funds to employ hundreds of public interest attorneys, law students, paralegals, and community organizers. Legal Fellows and interns serve veterans, disaster victims, immigrant children, and other low-income clients across the nation.



*For three decades Equal Justice Works has created opportunities for public interest lawyers committed to building a more just society. We believe that the poorest and most vulnerable among us deserve the same access to justice and quality legal representation as the privileged. To achieve this, we offer a continuum of opportunities for law students and lawyers that provide the training and skills that enable them to provide effective representation to underserved communities and causes.*



## Elder Justice AmeriCorps

Elder Justice AmeriCorps is a new program that provides high quality legal services to low-income older adults who have been the victims of abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

Equal Justice Works received \$1.4 million to deploy 150 AmeriCorps Members– 25 full-time practicing lawyers and 125 minimum-time law students – and an additional 300 pro bono volunteers to provide civil legal aid to an estimated 8,000 low-income adults.

Equal Justice Works will partner with nationally renowned organizations that specialize in training lawyers who serve vulnerable adults and address elder abuse in a multi-disciplinary approach. In addition to representing clients, Fellowships will include work creating and supporting multidisciplinary teams of social workers, medical professionals, and law enforcement; leading know your rights sessions at senior centers, nursing

homes, assisted living communities, and other community-based settings; and recruiting and training pro bono attorneys.

[Visit our website to apply for an open Elder Justice AmeriCorps position!](#)

## VISTA Affordable Housing Preservation Project (VAHPP)

Funded by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the goal of the VISTA Affordable Housing Preservation Project (VAHPP) is to preserve, maintain, and improve Section 8 affordable housing across the United States. VAHPP offers a great national service opportunity for individuals interested in community lawyering, housing rights, and community development.

Candidates interested in applying for VAHPP Legal Fellowships should [apply online](#). The VAHPP program also has postgraduate opportunities for candidates interested in applying for Community Organizer positions.

More information about VISTA living allowances and benefits can be found [here](#). If you have any questions about the process, please contact [VISTA@equaljusticeworks.org](mailto:VISTA@equaljusticeworks.org).

## VISTA Tenant Engagement and Community Economic Development (TEC-Dev) Project

The TEC-Dev Project funds Legal Fellows focused on tenant engagement & community economic development in publicly-funded housing. This program expands the scope of the VISTA program to many new locations.

Equal Justice Works oversees VISTA Legal Fellows and Community Advocates collaborating to provide capacity building services to legal aid organizations to assist, inform, educate, and engage tenants of Department of Housing and Urban Development Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) properties regarding their rights, responsibilities, and options. VISTA members also receive training and technical assistance from Equal Justice Works.

Candidates interested in applying for TECDev Legal Fellowships should [apply online](#), or follow up directly with host sites. A list of both legal and community advocate sites can be found [here](#).

More information about VISTA living allowances and benefits can be found [here](#). If you have any questions about the process, please contact [VISTA@equaljusticeworks.org](mailto:VISTA@equaljusticeworks.org).

## Veterans Legal Corps

The Veterans Legal Corps program continues to improve the lives of low-income and homeless veterans by providing critical legal services that help individuals achieve higher incomes, improve healthcare, secure housing, and improve family stability.

Veterans frequently face complicated legal problems stemming from physical and mental injuries sustained during military service. When these legal problems go unresolved, they can quickly multiply, creating insurmountable barriers to successful civilian life. Lawyers play key roles in resolving the complex and intertwined legal issues veterans face. The ultimate goal of the Veteran

Legal Corps is to improve the lives of veterans – once relied upon to serve their country as members of the armed forces – and enable them to return to civilian life as successful community members.

Veterans Legal Corps Fellows provide legal assistance to low-income and homeless veterans with issues related to disability benefits claims, barriers to housing and employment, debt, family law, and other legal issues.

The first class of Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Veterans Legal Corps members began their service in August 2013 and most served for two years.

[Click here to apply for the Veterans Legal Corps program.](#) If you have any questions about Veterans Legal Corps, please email AmeriCorps Legal Fellowships at [americorpsmail@equaljusticeworks.org](mailto:americorpsmail@equaljusticeworks.org).

## Employment Opportunity Legal Corps

Equal Justice Works' Employment Opportunity Legal Corps attorneys remove barriers to employment for unemployed or underemployed people who are actively seeking to join the labor market. Specifically, Fellows are involved in expunging minor criminal records, correcting errors in criminal records, and restoring driver's licenses and occupational licenses, along with pursuing other legal remedies.

[Click here to apply for the Employment Opportunity Legal Corps](#), program. Please email Toya Lynch, Senior Program Manager of Public Programs, at [tlynch@equaljusticeworks.org](mailto:tlynch@equaljusticeworks.org) with any questions.

## Disaster Legal Corps

Fellows in our Disaster Legal Corps program build on many years of AmeriCorps and Equal Justice Works history serving victims of disaster by providing legal services to victims in areas destroyed by tornadoes, storms, and other natural disasters. Disaster relief services primarily focus on helping disaster victims access FEMA benefits and resources.

[Click here to apply for the Disaster Legal Corps program.](#) Email [americorpsmail@equaljusticeworks.org](mailto:americorpsmail@equaljusticeworks.org) with any questions.

## justice AmeriCorps

The justice AmeriCorps program is a joint initiative of the Corporation for Nation Community Service and the Department of Justice Executive Office for Immigration Review that expands access to representation for unaccompanied immigrant children. Equal Justice Works places AmeriCorps attorneys across the country, where they are providing legal screenings, direct representation, and placement with pro bono attorneys for these vulnerable children.

justice AmeriCorps helps immigrant children who have crossed the U.S. border without a parent or guardian as they navigate complex immigration court proceedings. These children, some as young as five, fled extreme violence and poverty in their home countries. They are not guaranteed any representation in court, but without legal assistance, the likelihood that they will be sent back to these horrific conditions is high.

This initiative of justice AmeriCorps is a partnership led by Equal Justice Works, which includes the Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC), Kids In Need of Defense (KIND), and the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI). Through this partnership, a cadre of 46 full-time legal professionals — lawyers and paralegals — serve as AmeriCorps members in 21 cities across the United States with the greatest need: Atlanta, Baltimore, Baton Rouge, Boston, Charlotte, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Knoxville, Miami, Minneapolis, New Orleans, Newark, New York, Oakland, Philadelphia, San Antonio, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington, D.C.

Check out the [justice AmeriCorps website](#) for more info!