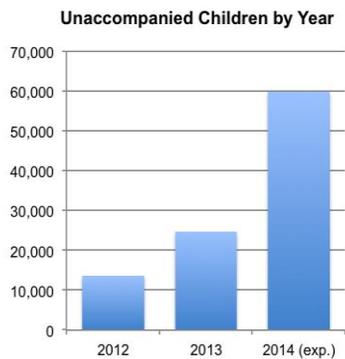


## justice AmeriCorps

*In response to a \$2 million grant from the Department of Justice to AmeriCorps, Equal Justice Works seeks to create a cadre of 100 AmeriCorps lawyers and paralegals in 29 cities who will provide critical legal assistance to approximately 5,000 children who have crossed the U.S. border without a parent or guardian and must otherwise navigate the immigration courts alone.*



**The Need:** The U.S. Government expects 60,000 unaccompanied minors to cross the southwest border in 2014—more than double the number in 2013. Many of these children, some as young as five years old, are fleeing violence, abuse, and persecution, or have arrived in the country as part of a labor or sex trafficking ring. These children are not guaranteed legal assistance in court and the vast majority are unrepresented. In the last few weeks, the issue of children crossing the border has been covered in more than 25,000 articles, stories, and editorials in local, national, and international media publications such as The New York Times, The Washington Post, ABC News, NBC News, USA Today, CNN, and Fox News.

Many of these children have legitimate claims to defend against deportation but are unable to present those claims in a complex process that involves hearings where people must present evidence and legal arguments. Some small government grants fund “know your rights trainings” for the children and help facilitate pro bono representation, but the need for legal representation far exceeds the number of available lawyers. And lawyers make a huge difference in immigration court.

**The Opportunity:** In early June, the Department of Justice (DOJ) and AmeriCorps jointly announced “justice AmeriCorps,” a program to “improve the efficient and effective adjudication of immigration court proceedings involving unaccompanied children.” DOJ provided AmeriCorps with \$1.98 million (\$19,800 per AmeriCorps member) for each of the next three years to fund 100 lawyers and paralegals to work in immigrations courts in 29 cities. There is no funding available to cover the costs to run the program, provide training and support for the lawyers and paralegals, or evaluate the impact of the program.

**Our Approach:** Equal Justice Works has a proven, 20+ year track record of executing high-quality programs, recruiting excellent lawyers, and adhering to AmeriCorps grant reporting guidelines. We have connections to 198 law schools—virtually every law school in the country—allowing us to recruit very talented lawyers for our programs. We have systems in place to deal with the complex reporting and compliance requirements from AmeriCorps. Placement organizations rely on us to be an intermediary to AmeriCorps because the burden would otherwise be too large. We currently run AmeriCorps programs involving 80 lawyers, 720 law students, and 40 host organizations who serve in the Veterans Legal Corps, the Disaster Legal Corps, and the Employment Opportunity Legal Corps.

While we are experts in running these AmeriCorps programs, we partner with organizations that are subject-matter experts and host organizations where the lawyers and law students work. We are working with Kids in Need of Defense (KIND), Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC), and

other organizations with good reputations and expertise providing legal services to unaccompanied minors who face deportation.

**Program Design and Budget:** The goal is to place 100 high-caliber lawyers/paralegals who will work in organizations in the 29 cities identified by DOJ to provide direct representation to children who face deportation. We estimate that we need to raise a match of \$2.8 million per year.

Increasing Salaries. In order to recruit high-quality lawyers and paralegals, we believe it is essential to increase the compensation from \$19,890 to approximately \$41,000. For 100 lawyers, that would require \$2,111,000.

CLINIC, KIND, and potential host sites don't have money to supplement the living allowance. We are working to raise the supplemental amount because it will be critical to attract high-quality host sites with expertise in immigration court and in working with children. In addition to helping recruit great lawyers, this supplement will ensure that experienced, effective host sites participate.

Program Costs and Training. Program costs would be \$430,000 per year for recruitment, selection of host sites and corps members, monitoring the grant, providing substantive support, and ensuring compliance with AmeriCorps regulations and reporting. We estimate \$100,000 in indirect costs and \$200,000 for training and other required costs.

Program Budget	
<b>CNCS AmeriCorps Federal Grant</b>	<b>\$1,989,000</b>
<b>Items Needed for Successful Outcomes</b>	
Increase Compensation from \$19,890 to \$41,000	\$2,111,000
Training	200,000
Program Support	430,000
Indirect Costs	100,000
<b>Total Needed</b>	<b>\$2,841,000</b>
<b>Grand Total Budget (all sources)</b>	
	<b>\$4,830,000</b>

**Urgency:** Time is of the essence—the application deadline is July 22. In order for us to put in a competitive application, we need to secure commitments by July 15, contingent on a successful grant application. AmeriCorps will announce its funding decisions by late September, and the programs can commence shortly thereafter. Money would not be due until October 2014, and it will be possible to spread payments over time.

**Eligible Cities:**

- |                         |                    |                 |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Arlington, VA           | Dallas, TX         | Memphis, TN     | <b>Philadelphia, PA*</b> |
| <b>Atlanta, GA*</b>     | <b>Denver, CO*</b> | Miami, FL       | Phoenix, AZ              |
| <b>Baltimore, MD*</b>   | Detroit, MI        | New Orleans, LA | Portland, OR             |
| <b>Bloomington, MN*</b> | El Paso, TX        | New York, NY    | San Antonio, TX          |
| <b>Boston, MA*</b>      | Hartford, CT       | Newark, NJ      | San Diego, CA            |
| <b>Charlotte, NC*</b>   | Kansas City, MO    | Omaha, NE       | San Francisco, CA        |
| Chicago, IL             | Las Vegas, NV      | Orlando, FL     | Seattle, WA              |
| Cleveland, OH           |                    |                 |                          |

*\*Denotes priority location*

The Notice of Funding Opportunity can be found at:

<http://www.nationalservice.gov/sites/default/files/upload/JusticeAmeriCorpsNOFO.pdf>