Make a Difference in Local Communities
While Launching Your Career in Sustainability!

CivicSpark is a Governor's Initiative AmeriCorps program dedicated to **building capacity for local governments to address community resilience issues such as: climate change, water resource management, and access to opportunities**. CivicSpark is managed by the Local Government Commission in partnership with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research.

> "Climate change is a global challenge that requires strong, sustained local action. This program gets young people into the communities across California to help reduce emissions and boost energy efficiency."
> California Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.

The CivicSpark Fellowship offers a unique opportunity for recent college graduates to gain valuable experience in the sustainability field, gain professional and technical skills, and have a strong statewide network of professionals, all while having a lasting impact on local communities. Fellows implement critical projects across California on a wide range of topics, including: water resources and policy, climate adaptation and mitigation, affordable housing, and rural broadband.

The program offers three thematic tracks: Climate (50 Fellows), Water (20 Fellows), and Opportunity Access (20 Fellows). All Fellows will spend 1,700 hours over 11 months serving full time with their project partner. The regions being served by CivicSpark include: Central Coast, Greater Los Angeles, North Coast, Sacramento, San Francisco Bay Area, San Joaquin Valley, and Sierra Nevada.

> "I'm grateful for CivicSpark. I'm grateful that this program encouraged me to leave my comfort zone and pursue new and exciting things. I'm grateful for the LGC team and the other Fellows who always had time to answer a quick question or simply lend an ear. I'm grateful that I now have a springboard to work in sustainability, and a better idea of which types of work I excel in. I wouldn't trade my year with CivicSpark for anything."
> Alyssa Pfluger, 2016-17 Water Fellow

Our Model

Gap Assessments
Fellows interview staff and review key documents to finalize the project scope.

Volunteer Engagement
In parallel with their project, Fellows support increased volunteerism in the region.

Service Projects
Based on the Gap Assessment results, Fellows implement a specific capacity-building project.

Transitioning Expertise
Fellows provide training to staff and/or share results with key stakeholders to sustain progress.

2018-19 Service Year Calendar

April 2, 2018
Fellow applications for the 2018-19 service year open! Positions are filled on a rolling basis with preference given to early applicants.

June 1, 2018
Priority deadline for Fellow applications.

Mid-August, 2018
All positions are filled for the 2018-19 service year.

Early September, 2018
The service year begins with an orientation for the 2018-19 CivicSpark Fellow cohort.

Mid-September 2018
Local projects get underway!

Mid-August 2019
Projects wrap up and the 2018-19 CivicSpark cohort graduates!

Project Examples

Climate

Climate Action Plan Implementation: Implementing Climate Action Plan measures in Emeryville, Hayward, Santa Monica, Piedmont, Union City, Walnut Creek, the Sierra Nevada, Los Angeles County, Merced County, San Luis Obispo County, Santa Barbara County, and many more.

Sea Level Rise Adaptation: Supporting the research and creation of an adaptation plan for sea level rise for the City of Alameda.

Water

Disadvantaged Communities Involvement Program (DCI): Completing a strengths and needs assessment to better engage and allocate resources for overburdened communities in the Santa Ana River Watershed.

Water/Energy Nexus: Identifying and implementing water and energy saving projects in San Mateo County schools and public buildings through an auditing program.

Opportunity Access

Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities: Providing technical assistance for the Affordable Housing / Sustainable Communities (AHSC) grant program.

> "From adventures to everyday moments, I've gotten so much out of my CivicSpark AmeriCorps fellowship. This isn't a pencil-pushing, busywork sort of job - it's a get-your-hands-dirty with the data and seize-the-opportunity for every experience sort of job. I have gotten so much more out of this service year than I expected."
>
> Gilee Corral, 2015-16 Climate Fellow

Benefits

» $16,000+ Living Allowance (before taxes) spread evenly over 11 months

» $5,920 Segal Education Award upon completion

» SNAP (Food Stamps) for eligible participants

» Forbearance on existing qualifying student loans and payment of interest accrued during service term

» Health insurance

» Childcare assistance for qualifying Fellows, paid to an eligible provider of your choice

» Significant professional development training

» Network development with regional and statewide contacts in the climate change and water management industries

» Connection to a network of hundreds CivicSpark alum, and hundreds of thousands of AmeriCorps alums

Qualifications

AmeriCorps Requirements

» Be a citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident alien of the United States of America

» Ability to pass FBI, CA DOJ, out-of-state (if applicable), and NSOPR background checks prior to service

CivicSpark Requirements

» A 4-year degree from an accredited college or university

» Commitment to the full term of service (11 months)

» Capability to work in a professional office setting

» Strong communication (both verbal and written) and teamwork skills

» Subject area coursework and/or professional experience in related field

Additional preferred qualifications are listed on our website.

*This is an equal opportunity position and we prefer to place a candidate who already lives in the community to be served.

Contact

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Local Government Commission
Leaders for Livable Communities

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH · STATE OF CALIFORNIA

California Volunteers

www.civicspark.lgc.org