Request for Applications (RFA): Colorado Public Health Works Host Site Participation

Issued by: Trailhead Institute in partnership with the AmeriCorps State Commission Serve Colorado and the Colorado Office of Apprenticeship.

Program Overview

Colorado Public Health Works is a workforce development initiative designed to expand the capacity of public health organizations across Colorado by placing AmeriCorps members and Apprentices in host sites to serve as Community Health Workers and Peer Support Specialists. The program aims to strengthen local public health infrastructure, improve health equity, and provide career pathways for individuals entering the public health field.

Host Sites can receive up to $10/hour in living allowance reimbursement for apprentices who serve in their organizations for any length of time.

Eligibility to Apply

Eligible host sites include:

- Local Public Health Agencies (LPHAs)
- Nonprofit organizations
- Tribal health departments
- Community-based organizations
- Educational institutions
- Non-profit health care providers

Host Site Responsibilities

Host sites must:

- Provide supervision and mentorship to AmeriCorps members/apprentices.
- Offer a safe and inclusive work environment.
- Support members in completing required training and apprenticeship components.
- Collaborate with Trailhead Institute for recruitment, onboarding, and reporting.
- Pay members bi-monthly and invoice Trailhead Institute for reimbursement.
- Ensure members are aware of tax responsibilities and service agreement terms.

Program Details

Service Term: 6 - 12 months

Member Roles - Host sites may choose to offer one of the following roles:

- Community Health Workers
- Peer Support Specialists

Training: Members will complete formal training and on-the-job learning for the apprenticeship program.

Living Allowance: Sites disperse the subaward for the benefits of the living allowance to all enrolled participants.

Benefits: Apprentices are hired as W2 employees. Sites must offer benefits similar to those provided to other employees (e.g., workers comp, disability, dental, life insurance). Apprenticeship requires one (1) minimum wage increase equivalent to $.15 per hour and can be determined by the host site based on available funding within three months of completion.

Employers will need to meet the minimum wage requirement and increase by $.15 to be considered Registered Apprentice Program (RAP) employers.

Job Placement: As a workforce strategy, apprentices will be hired after their apprenticeship ends and credentialing is acquired.

Application Requirements

Applicants must submit:

- Organizational Profile
- Proposed Scope of Work for CHW(s)
- Supervision Plan
- Site Capacity and Readiness
- Commitment to Equity and Inclusion
- Budget and Cost-Sharing Plan
- Financial Risk Assessment

Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- Alignment with program goals
- Capacity to support positions
- Commitment to underserved communities
- Quality of supervision and training environment
- Financial and operational readiness
- Request for number of positions and amounts to meet appropriations

Short Interview

Share a time when you and your team are available to meet for 45 minutes to talk more about your application. This will give our team a better understanding of your needs as a workforce program partner.

Timeline

- RFA Release Date: October 22nd, 2026
- Application Deadline: November 20th, 2026
- Notification of Award: December 10th, 2026
- Member Start Date: January 18th, 2027

How to Apply

Visit Trailhead Institute's Colorado Public Health Works page for the full application: APPLICATION FORM

Questions, please email workforce@trailhead.institute or visit our FAQ.

Notice of Award

All awardees will be given a draft agreement to review and/or process through appropriate agreement protocols.

Onboarding for new host sites will be held virtually during the week of December 14th.

As a subrecipient of this award you will be required to complete the Trailhead Institute Financial Risk Assessment.