



MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSION ON LGBT YOUTH SAFE SCHOOLS FELLOW

Massachusetts Promise Fellows deliver the resources that young people need to be successful in life by **mobilizing** and **organizing** community activity, **creating** and **leading** powerful initiatives, and **training** and **inspiring** citizen volunteers.

The Massachusetts Promise Fellowship achieves this by placing Fellows with non-profit organizations and state/local government agencies that focus on fulfilling the needs of our youth by providing; *a caring adult, a safe place, a healthy start, a marketable skill, and an opportunity to give back.*

SERVICE DESCRIPTION

The Massachusetts Commission on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Youth is established by law as an independent agency of the Commonwealth with one core mission: to recommend and advocate to all branches of state government effective policies, programs, and resources for LGBT youth to thrive. As part of its mission, the Commission is responsible for the Safe Schools Program for LGBT Students and the newly-formed Massachusetts Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA) Network, in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Through the GSA Network, students at high schools across the Commonwealth meet regionally and participate in an annual statewide GSA Student Leadership Camp, where they build on one another's strengths and collaborate on ways to make changes to the policies and practices of their schools and improve school climate. The Fellow will be responsible for expanding the GSA Network and establishing a strong relationship between community-based and school-based work. The Fellow will work directly with student leaders in the GSA Network, empowering youth to engage with their schools in creating safe spaces for LGBT students. The Fellow will also be central to the Commission's efforts to build capacity both in schools and in communities, by creating a civic engagement curriculum that can be replicated by GSA advisors and other community partners.

ESSENTIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- Plan and coordinate a three-day GSA Student Leadership Camp for 50+ youth from across the Commonwealth and six regional conferences for students and advisors that feature community-building, skill-building, and advocacy and leadership training
- Work with a core group of youth leaders from different GSA's and AGLY's to expand and strengthen the new GSA Network through coalition-building, community outreach, and social media networking
- Provide technical assistance to youth on building successful communication platforms and a robust web presence for the GSA Network
- Build and teach a civic engagement curriculum in collaboration with state-based LGBT youth-serving organizations
- Conduct an assessment with youth leaders on the barriers to positive school climate and the changes that can be made within schools and districts to address those barriers

- Provide feedback to the Safe Schools Program Director on the needs and strengths of specific schools and their surrounding communities
- Plan and execute a strategy to recruit youth to participate in the 2014 Leadership Camp
- Travel at least once/month for Fellowship meetings, retreats, and training throughout the Commonwealth

QUALIFICATIONS

- Excellent organizational and communication skills
- The ability to work independently and to manage multiple projects
- Strong attention to detail
- An interest in and commitment to national and community service
- A professional with demonstrated initiative and follow through
- Experience working with LGBT youth issues and populations
- Ability to see the big picture without losing sight of the details
- Strong critical thinking and problem solving skills
- Experience with public speaking and willingness to present information in public settings
- The desire to work with diverse constituencies
- Flexibility and a sense of humor
- Ability to travel to different locations across the state
- Experience working with web design, database management, or social media a plus
- Must be willing to comply with a criminal background check and FBI fingerprint check
- Must be a US Resident, US National or Permanent Resident Alien

BENEFITS

For a one year full-time commitment and 1700 hours of AmeriCorps service Fellows receive:
 A taxable living allowance of \$269/week ♦ Comprehensive health care benefits ♦
 Excellent training opportunities ♦ FREE courses at Northeastern University in the College of Professional
 Studies ♦ Loan forbearance and a \$5,550 educational award

CONTACT INFORMATION

Apply ASAP! Applicants are hired on a rolling basis. Send a letter of interest, resume and contact info for three references **ASAP and before May 24th, 2013** electronically to:

Hannah Hussey
 Massachusetts Commission on LGBT Youth
 250 Washington St., 4th Floor
 Boston, MA 02108
 Email: Hannah.Hussey@state.ma.us
 Website: <http://www.mass.gov/cgly/index.html>

MORE INFO

- Interviews will take place during April and May of 2013
- Hiring decisions will be made on or before June 14th, 2013
- Program start date is August 2013
- **Visit www.masspromisefellows.org for detailed program information**

The Massachusetts Promise Fellowship is committed to providing equal opportunities. We serve and partner with diverse organizations, and are dedicated to non-discrimination. It is our policy to ensure that all individuals with whom we are in contact are treated without regard to age, color, disability, gender, marital status, national origin, religion, sexual orientation or expression, or veteran status. We require that all our partners make reasonable accommodations for any and all individuals with a permanent or temporary disability.