



restoring resources. changing lives.

Independent Contractor Position Description

Position:	Youth Mental Health Consultant
Program:	Summer Youth Corps (SYC)
Location:	Hybrid, including Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center (Finland, MN) and locations across Minnesota
Primary Contact:	SYC Program Manager
Compensation:	Fixed rate for participation at orientation; hourly rate thereafter negotiable, DOE, DOQ, and depending on services provided. Position is grant funded and total is not to exceed \$10,000.
Schedule:	Seasonal (May-August); Part time (10 hours/week typical)
Benefits:	Not eligible for CCMI benefits

Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa (CCMI) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and AmeriCorps grantee that engages hundreds of youth and young adults each year in programs and initiatives that improve access to outdoor recreation, restore natural habitat, protect waterways, and respond to community needs and natural disasters. **Our mission** is to cultivate a community of emerging leaders in service to people and the planet. Learn more at conservationcorps.org.

Our values embody safety, justice, stewardship, community, and leadership. In working to fulfill our mission, we believe that it is important we commit to the following:

- Using equity as a lens for the work we do and decisions we make
- Building a shared vision surrounding Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion goals with our partnering organizations and communities, and
- Providing an equitable training environment and high-quality programming to all our participants.

Summer Youth Corps (SYC) is a conservation workforce development program for youth, ages 15-18, led by AmeriCorps members, ages 19-30. SYC is a residential program based in northern Minnesota and operated across greater Minnesota and neighboring states. SYC serves about 40 youth and 12 AmeriCorps members in small group “crews” of 7-8 youth members and 2-3 crew leaders. Crews run non-stop between June 29th and August 9th during which they complete a variety of conservation-based projects while spike camping across the region.

Position Summary:

SYC recognizes the need for mental health support within our programming and acknowledges that expertise in the field is needed. Contractor outcomes will be driven by the expertise of the mental health consultant (MHC). The MHC will work to break the stigma of mental health counseling while connecting youth to therapeutic services (through referrals and in collaboration with the youth’s parent or guardian) and will provide direct service to crew members voluntarily in the form of group and individual sessions. The consultant will provide non-therapeutic advice to SYC Program field and

conservationcorps.org

60 Plato Blvd E, Ste 210, Saint Paul MN 55107 | 651 209 9900

office staff on the region's social-emotional learning, trauma-informed care, and social services infrastructure.

Services provided may include but are not limited to mental health assessments, counseling (individual and group), emergency phone services, and training. Services will be confidential within reason, and information will only be shared with SYC staff as it may relate to work readiness, assessment of the individual's ability to perform their job duties, and overall safety. Services must not be punishment, mandated, or seen as a substitute for a relationship with a qualified, licensed therapist or other mental health provider, especially those who can prescribe medications. Services must be voluntary and held in a private enough place where the individual cannot be overheard or seen as otherwise emotional whenever possible.

Timeframe: The MHC will primarily work at an hourly rate and will be involved in youth crew leader training between May 27 and June 13, crew member orientation June 29 – July 3, and throughout the summer season (approximately 10 hours/week). The MHC will provide programmatic feedback based on the youth's experiences and perceived needs. We hope to make this a long-term resource and will utilize the MHC's expertise to plan similar contracting opportunities in the future.

Professional Responsibilities/Competencies:

- Uphold professional boundaries, including eliminating conflicts of interest
- Maintain strict confidentiality, including establishing private spaces to have individual sessions in person and over the phone
- Mandatory Reporting
- Maintain case notes for all individual and group sessions
- Communicate with program staff without breaching confidentiality
- Connect youth to long-term services in the region
- Adolescent behavioral health and trauma

Qualifications:

- Masters level degree and valid license to practice counseling (e.g. LPC, LPCC) or social work (e.g. LISW, LICSW) in the state of Minnesota
- Business owner or individual who can provide their own certificate of workers compensation, liability, and/or other insurance
- 3-5 years of work experience in Minnesota, including familiarity with local mandatory reporting protocols
- Demonstrated experience in navigating conflict of interest, professional boundaries, and confidentiality
- Demonstrated experience in providing therapeutic services and consulting nonprofits whose direct mission is not of a therapeutic nature
- Strong background in adolescent behavioral health and trauma-impacted populations
- Intercultural literacy
- Familiarity with the unique demands of the work that SYC engages in (physical, mental, and emotional)
- Preferred experience - Outdoor education, conservation, or field experience

To respond to this solicitation, please submit qualifications and a short statement of how your skill set aligns with our needs to Kelsi Klaers, Youth Programs Director, by email at kelsi.klaers@conservationcorps.org

conservationcorps.org

60 Plato Blvd E, Ste 210, Saint Paul MN 55107 | 651 209 9900

Respondents must understand this is an independent contractor opportunity with a non-federal entity. An Independent Contractor Agreement (ICA) will be drafted upon selection of a Respondent. Each ICA must have a W-9 on file for each contract, and proof of insurance is required for all contractors doing any work on Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa property with no minimum dollar amount. This Solicitation is not considered a formal procurement method per 2 CFR §200.320(b) as the contracted dollar amount will not exceed the simplified acquisition threshold.

conservationcorps.org

60 Plato Blvd E, Ste 210, Saint Paul MN 55107 | 651 209 9900