



SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATE – POSITION DESCRIPTION 2024-25

Organization: Spark Health Corps (SHC)

Location: Partner Host Site Schools across Colorado; Denver Public Schools

Service Period: August to May (aligned with 24-25 School Calendar)

Position Type: Paid, part-time (avg. 18-25 hours/wk), flexible schedule

Paid Stipend and Education Award: Up to \$800/month (675 hrs) or \$540/month (450 hrs), plus a Scholarship Award payment up to \$2,817 (675 hrs) or \$1,956.35 (450 hrs) upon successful completion of service term.

POSITION SUMMARY: The Spark Health Corps (SHC) program, through a Public Health AmeriCorps State and National grant, offers a fulfilling graduate-level service opportunity that meets the requirements for graduate level internship. This initiative is strategically designed to enhance mental health support within K-12 education, particularly focusing on schools with limited resources. Our program emphasizes the development of a robust systemic wellness framework, culturally attuned social-emotional learning, active family and parental involvement, and ethical crisis management. As a School Mental Health Associate with Spark Health Corps, you will be engaged in paid service at one of our partner Host Site schools across Colorado.

SHC School Mental Health Associates serve in person in a school setting from August through May based on the school calendar. The mode of service delivery will primarily occur at their assigned school, and there may be opportunities to engage in expeditionary activities with staff and students outside of the school building. Individual Clinical Supervision, Task Supervision, and Group Supervision will be provided. Candidates should have a passion for youth, improving school-based mental health interventions, and will demonstrate initiative and adaptability to their school site's needs, as well as completing required professional development and other AmeriCorps requirements.

WELCOME STATEMENT: Spark the Change Colorado, our partners, and AmeriCorps are committed to diversity, equity, inclusion and access. We seek to create an inclusive, equitable and welcoming work environment for all individuals. Given the nature of structural inequality and how it presents in the workforce, we encourage individuals from historically underrepresented groups to apply even if you do not meet all of the desired qualifications. We recognize that groups such as women, BIPOC and LGBTQIA2S+ may be less likely to apply to a role if they don't meet 100% of the listed qualifications. Reasonable accommodations will also be made as requested.

POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES:

School Mental Health Associates will have opportunity to:

- Deliver universal mental health support to all students as a proactive and preventative approach to whole person wellness, delivered via evidence-based, best-practice social-emotional (SEL) curriculum that is culturally responsive and normed for school populations and immediate presenting concerns.
- Work with program to tailor activities to meet the needs and requirements of Newly Licensed Candidates Seeking Supervisor, and MSW Foundation or Advanced Standing Students
- Support staff and systemic wellness through a whole person lens using best practice supports
- Deliver targeted interventions to students requiring intensive and individualized assistance (with supervisor approval)
- Provide mental health support workshops and resources for K-12 teachers and school staff
- Provide holistic resource support for students and communities and involve consultation, training and support for families and guardians whenever appropriate
- Attend required training, in-service, and staff meetings; maintain confidentiality per FERPA regulations

- There may be additional responsibilities available based on school need.

MEMBER BENEFITS:

- **Paid Stipend and Education Award:** Bi-monthly stipend payments up to \$800/month (675 hrs) or \$540/month (450 hrs), plus a Scholarship Award payment up to \$2,817 (675 hrs) or \$1,956.35 (450 hrs) upon successful completion of service term.
- **Extensive Supervision:** Weekly Individual Clinical Supervision, On-site Task Supervision, and Weekly Group Supervision with the Spark Health Corps cohort.
- **Flexibility:** to tailor your internship experience to meet both your University academic requirements and professional development goals.
- **Associate Cohort:** you'll be part of a collaborative and dynamic group Spark Health Corps School Mental Health Associates that work in schools across the state and meet weekly.
- **Training and Professional Development:** including 3-day in person orientation, Trauma Informed CBT, Mandatory Reporting, QPR Training, Mental Health First Aid (adult & youth), Motivational Interviewing, Suicide Assessment, IEP Processes, and more.
- Eligible for **forbearance on your qualified student loans** during your term of service.
- Eligible for **Extension credit** (varies by GSSW program).
- Additional opportunities may be provided based on member interest and/or need.
- Make an immediate impact on the mental health & wellness of students, educators, and communities.

MEMBER REQUIREMENTS:

- Ideal candidates will be:
 - pursuing a career in school counseling, school social work, school psychology, or other mental health profession
 - currently licensed, or a candidate for licensure in a mental health field
 - working in the education system and exploring a school mental health career
 - seeking a supervised GSSW internship in school social work
- Strong organizational and administrative skills and attention to detail
- Flexibility, resourcefulness, positive attitude, strong work ethic, proven ability to initiate problem solving
- High integrity, sound judgment and ability to maintain confidentiality
- Cultural humility and a strong desire to learn from others
- Individuals who are multilingual, indigenous and/or First Nations are encouraged to apply
- Associates must reside in the state of Colorado during the service year
- Associates must pass a background check to work with school-age children, and enroll in AmeriCorps

SERVICE TERM COMMITMENT: This is a paid, part-time position. Associates must complete service based on their time commitment during their service term (term options: 675 hrs or 450 hrs); and will provide approx. 16-24 hours/week of on-site service during the school calendar year.

TO APPLY: send resume & cover letter to Barb Knapp BKnapp@sparkthechangecolorado.org

Questions or for more information visit our website [HERE](#)