



Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest Partner Agency Advisory Council Charter

Purpose and Goal

The purpose of the Partner Agency Advisory Council is to offer insights, ideas, and perspectives to JVC Northwest staff on practices, policies, and procedures of the Jesuit Volunteer/AmeriCorps program, and to generate effective practices among partner agencies.

The Council's goal is to serve as a voice of our partner agencies to help us ensure that programming, practices, policies, and procedures are relevant and realistic given the needs of and demands on agencies, clients, and the JV/AmeriCorps members they host. Ultimately we plan to rely on the council's feedback in order to strengthen the program.

Composition

The Partner Agency Advisory Council will consist of 10-13 invited members including site supervisors, primary partner contacts, and agency heads, with representation from all states in the region.

Time Commitment

Partner Agency Advisory Council members will be invited to serve for a one- to three-year term. In order to promote continuity of the Council, terms shall be so staggered that approximately one-third end each year.

The Council will meet semi-annually via conference call, and will communicate via email and individual or small-group calls as needed.

Expectations for Advisory Council Members

Advisory Council members and JVC Northwest staff can expect the following of other Advisory Council members:

- Meet semi-annually via conference call
- Support the mission of JVC Northwest
- Serve as a consultant to the Director of Programs
- Serve as an ambassador for the JVC Northwest program by sharing information about our work
- Participate in Advisory Council conference calls, individual phone calls (as-needed), and email discussions (as-needed).

Expectations for Director of Programs

Advisory Council members can expect the following of the Director of Programs:

- Agendas to be sent out ahead of conference calls
- Minutes to follow after conference calls
- Plenty of notice (at least one month) for calls
- Timely responses (within 3-5 days) to comments/questions/requests
- An open mind and listening ear!

History of Program

Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC) Northwest began in 1956 with a few committed volunteers who helped build and teach in the new Copper Valley School in Copper Valley, Alaska, a boarding school for Native Alaskan and European-descent Alaskan students. The first volunteers were recruited and supported by the Jesuits of the Oregon Province and the Sisters of St. Ann.

The Jesuit Volunteer program expanded out of Alaska in the 1960s working with Native American communities throughout the Northwest, as well as serving in inner city placements in Washington, Oregon, and other states and countries. JVC Northwest has been the catalyst for hundreds of other faith-based volunteer organizations, including other JVC regions, and served as a model for national service programs like the U.S. Peace Corps, VISTA and AmeriCorps. In JVC Northwest's 60 year history, over 6,500 people have served in our program.

Today JVC Northwest recruits, places and supports volunteers working with people on the margins of society and with vulnerable places in two programs: Jesuit Volunteers and Jesuit Volunteer EnCorps. Currently 148 Jesuit Volunteers (JVs) in the Northwest are committed to serving for one year in over 100 shelters, schools, health, and social and ecological service organizations in inner cities, rural areas and Native American and Native Alaskan communities providing essential skills, willing hands and great idealism for a better world. They serve in 22 locales throughout Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Washington and Oregon.

Since August, 2010 JVC Northwest has been a National Direct AmeriCorps program under the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), enabling the vast majority of Jesuit Volunteers to also be AmeriCorps members. This grant has made it possible for JVC Northwest to go where the need is greatest and to enable our partner agencies to extend their services at a greatly reduced cost. The Jesuit Volunteers/AmeriCorps members reside for the service year in 10 intentional communities of four to eight people and commit to living out the values of community, simple living, social and ecological justice, and spirituality/reflection. Living expenses, a modest monthly stipend, health insurance and travel home at the end of their service year is provided to the JVs/AmeriCorps members, as well as an extensive orientation and three annual retreats.

JVC Northwest participates under the AmeriCorps Funding Priority called Multi-focus Intermediaries, where JVC Northwest is the intermediary, and our Partner Agencies are members of a consortium. Under this priority funding category, "a single eligible applicant (intermediary) develops an application and oversees the implementation of an AmeriCorps program that engages multiple grassroots non-profits/eligible applicants (consortium) that, individually, do not have the necessary organization or fundraising capacity to apply for and run an AmeriCorps program." (2016 Notice of Funding Opportunity Glossary, page 8). Therefore, collectively, our Partner Agencies are called The Consortium, and this advisory council is comprised of a select group of Partner Agencies or "Consortium members."

Main Contact:

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