



Intermountain AmeriCorps **RELOCATING**

Where will you live? Before you can be effective serving in your new community, we realize that it is necessary to have all your basic needs met. Intermountain AmeriCorps, however, does not have the capacity to provide housing for 45 new members in 20 different communities. Thus it is up to each individual member to find a place that meets his or her needs in terms of cost, location, and desired living environment. On the other hand, we want to do everything we can to make the process of finding a place to live as easy as possible.

None of our members have ever gone homeless. They either stay with other members or rent on a short-term basis until they are able to find more suitable housing. Intermountain AmeriCorps has an amazing network of concerned individuals that won't let you go without a place to lay your head each night. Upon arriving here it is also easier to meet other members to room with and take advantage of local resources, but once again take the time to know what you are getting into beforehand.

Here are some of the things that we have set in place in order to assist you. Once you are accepted into the program we can provide you with even more resources in terms of housing and relocation information:

- On our website we have listed all of the subsidized housing units in the communities that we serve (note that not all communities have subsidized housing). As an AmeriCorps member you qualify for subsidized housing. Some units are fully subsidized (monthly payments of \$4-\$35) and others are only partially subsidized (ex: you pay 1/3 of your income or a flat rate). As with many federal programs the application process is slow and there are sometimes long waiting lists. Subsidized housing is by far the best option, but there are never enough spaces for everyone in September. Most members get in eventually, but it can take anywhere from 1 week to 6 months. Thus if you are interested in living in subsidized housing please take the initiative and contact the housing complex where you desire to live and ask for an application. Apply early and do follow-ups on a regular basis.
- We also have a list of current members that are willing to be housing contacts for their local communities. As soon as you are accepted and know what site you will be serving at, we encourage you to contact them to see if they have any leads on housing opportunities in their area.
- We also have a network of current AmeriCorps/VISTA members and some community members that would be willing to give you a place to stay (or at least a floor to sleep on) when you first arrive.

Hopefully this information gives you a better perspective as to what the housing situation is in this area and what steps you need to take in order to ensure you have a place to live. We are more than willing to assist you with any concerns/questions you may have, knowing full well that this letter will not answer all of the doubts and uncertainties floating through your mind. Finding housing will be your first real challenge as a new member, but rest assured that it will work out in the end and you will officially be living in beautiful North Central Washington!