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Volunteer Mississippi appreciates your support of National Service Programs in our great state! We look forward to working with you and seizing opportunities for growth together.

So, what's going in May 2020?

FORMULA GRANT APPLICATIONS:

Thank you SO much to all of our programs who worked tirelessly to complete their applications for the 2020-2021 Program Year! This cycle has been quite the journey; you responded quickly, adjusted creatively, and showed tremendous professionalism throughout the process. We were proud to submit Mississippi's Formula Portfolio last week, and look forward to a successful and high impact 20-21 program year!

ASC MEMBER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:

The AmeriCorps Member Assistance Program (MAP) is designed to support programs in providing accessible and quality mental health services to members and employees of their respective organizations. Services include 24/7 toll-free telephonic access to services, unlimited in-the-moment telephonic counseling services with master's degree level counselors, mobile app, text, chat, and video counseling, medical advocacy, financial & legal assistance, life coaching, work/life resources and referrals, and face-to-face counseling services (the last item available with the premium package). The Commission will cover the Partner Service Fee - all the program has to handle is the per-member-cost (either \$5 or \$10 per member, depending on the plan you select). Let us know if you'd like to participate as soon as possible - enrollment is coming up in July. We encourage you to consider this mental health support

opportunity for both members and employees!

MEMBER RECRUITMENT FAIR:

Volunteer Mississippi will host a virtual member recruitment fair for individuals interested in serving with AmeriCorps! It will include a variety of interactions and should be a great outreach tool. We are in the planning phase right now, so let us know if you have input or recommendations!

OLA'S RETIREMENT:

Our beloved Grants Officer, Ola Cupstid will retire from many years of State Service on June 30. She has been a vital part of the Volunteer Mississippi Team, and we will miss her expertise, candor, generosity, and -most of all- loving spirit. We'd like to thank Ola for ALL of her hard work over the years, and invite you to do the same. Please be sure to give her a hug from afar!

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES:

The Commission acknowledges that political activities play a positive role in healthy communities, that politics form defining characteristics of many community organizations, and that political thought and action are central to many AmeriCorps members' lives.

It is important that AmeriCorps programs and their members do not appear to be taking sides politically. As such, there are a number of limitations on activities that AmeriCorps programs can support in which members can engage while earning service hours, or when otherwise representing AmeriCorps. This is just a reminder that members are free to pursue these activities on their *own initiative*, on *non-AmeriCorps time*, and using non-AmeriCorps funds. The AmeriCorps logo should not be worn while doing so.

REMINDERS:

- Weekly Program Check-In Zoom Calls: every Wednesday at 11am CST
- Resources are added to Basecamp regularly - check often!
- All queries and correspondence about AmeriCorps should be directed to acms@ihl.state.ms.us.



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