



## **Hands On Gulf Coast AmeriCorps Member – Hancock County Long Term Recovery Committee Case Work Assistant**

**Background:** Points of Light & Hands On Network leads an international movement of people who roll up their sleeves, get hands on, and solve community problems everyday. Through their Volunteer Center National Network and Hands On Action Centers, the organization supports a network of 370 organizations covering 88% of the US market and eight countries. These organizations mobilize millions of volunteers who partner with more than 12,000 nonprofits, schools and community organizations every year. They put people at the center...repairing homes, ensuring green spaces and partnering with nonprofits, students and faculty to transform schools and communities. Points of Light & Hands On Network encourages people from all walks of life — businesses, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, low-income communities, families, youth, and older adults — to volunteer and be the change in their communities. For more information, visit [www.HandsOnNetwork.org](http://www.HandsOnNetwork.org) or [www.PointsOfLight.org](http://www.PointsOfLight.org).

**Hands On Gulf Coast (HOGC)** began as Hands On Network's response to the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Based in Biloxi, Mississippi, HOGC has been in operation since February 2006, continuing a partner's operation opened in September 2005. Every week, volunteers from across the country come to Biloxi to work with HOGC in cleaning and rebuilding damaged homes, revitalizing public spaces, and supporting local community organizations. Some deployed volunteers are housed at the HOGC Civic Action Center, a unique and welcoming volunteer community. As recovery from Hurricane Katrina progresses, HOGC is working towards becoming a locally run organization that engages local volunteers in improving their own community through service. HOGC is committed to giving both deployed and local volunteers the chance to participate meaningfully in the recovery of the Gulf Coast; we are also committed to aiding the recovery process in a way that supports the visions, traditions, and efforts of local residents.

**Description:** Hancock County Long Term Recovery Committee's mission is to restore the quality of life to the citizens of Hancock County in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Hands On Gulf Coast and Hancock County Long Term Recovery Committee is currently seeking AmeriCorps members to assist a team of recovery efforts in the selection and management of local homeowners in the recovery process. The Case Work assistant will work closely with Hancock County long Term Recovery Committee staff, other non for profit relief organizations, and various donors to ensure that available resources are effectively serving the needs of residents affected by Hurricane Katrina.

**Positions Available:** 2 Full Time (1700 hr, approximately 11 months) AmeriCorps member positions in Hancock County Mississippi, to serve from January 7, 2008 to November 23, 2008.

### **Responsibilities:**

- Assess the construction and financial needs of residents of the Gulf Coast region and connect them with resources
- Work with construction supervisor to coordinate the construction needs of clients.
- Coordinate client issues and opportunities with other case managers and agencies in Hancock County and liaison with other relief agencies to create and sustain relationships and make contacts.
- Develop and maintain a comprehensive list of the resources that exist for Hancock County.
- Pursue relevant grants and develop a resource library for residents.
- Provide a constant presence and listening ear, establishing with this consistency the trust necessary to succeed in case management.

### **Qualifications:**

- Background in/knowledge of construction field preferred
- U.S. Citizenship
- At least a GED or willingness to attain
- Previous leadership or volunteer experience
- Demonstrated desire to address community needs
- Interest in working in a post-disaster region
- Ability to work proactively on an independent project

- Ability to work creatively and collaboratively with other team members
- Valid drivers license
- Personal vehicle preferred

**Benefits:**

- \$12,000 Annual Living Stipend
- \$4,725 Education award upon successful completion of service
- Housing assistance available for applicants moving from outside of the area
- Health Insurance
- Forbearance of qualified federal student loans deferred

For additional information, or to apply, contact Hands On Gulf Coast (228) 257-6094 or [americorps.apps@handsongulfcoast.org](mailto:americorps.apps@handsongulfcoast.org).