CivicSpark is a Governor’s Initiative AmeriCorps program dedicated to building capacity for local public agencies to address emerging environmental and social equity resilience challenges. Fellows spend 11 months serving directly in or with public agencies to address challenges in the areas of climate, water, affordable housing, and community mobility.

All projects focus on developing resources through at least one of the following activities: research, planning, and implementation.

- Fellow contributions to research allow agencies and communities to make clear, well-informed decisions.
- Fellow assistance in planning projects provides agencies and communities with a roadmap for achieving optimal outcomes in addressing the challenge area(s).
- Fellow support on-the-ground may involve designing, launching and evaluating programs that effectively implement roadmap strategies, helping the community reach milestones in achieving their resilience goals.

CivicSpark offers a unique opportunity for individuals interested in sustainability and helping local communities thrive to build meaningful professional experience through national service. In addition to gaining valuable experience in the sustainability, public, and community-based sectors, Fellows also develop professional, technical, and leadership skills, build a strong statewide network of peers, and leave a lasting impact in local communities.

“Climate change is a global challenge that requires strong, sustained local action. This program gets young people into the communities across California to help reduce emissions and boost energy efficiency.”
Former California Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.

Our Model

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gap Assessments</th>
<th>Volunteer Engagement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fellows interview staff and review key documents to finalize the project scope.</td>
<td>In parallel with their project, Fellows support increased volunteerism in the region.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Service Projects</th>
<th>Transitioning Expertise</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Based on the gap assessment results, Fellows implement a specific capacity-building project.</td>
<td>Fellows provide training to staff and/or share results with key stakeholders to sustain progress.</td>
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</tbody>
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2020-21 Service Year Calendar

November 11, 2019
Priority Application Opens!

February 29, 2020
Deadline for priority applications

April 1, 2020
Fellow regular application opens

June 30, 2020
Deadline for Fellow regular applications

Late July, 2020
All positions filled for 2020-21 service year

Early September 2020
2020-21 Fellow Orientation and start of projects

March, 2021
Projects get underway

Late July, 2021
Projects wrap-up and the 2020-21 cohort graduates

“I’ve somehow landed my dream job, working in the nexus of sustainability and policy, and CivicSpark made this possible for me.”
Zachary Reda, 2018-19 Fellow, Sustainability Manager, City of Pleasanton
Project Examples

CivicSpark has supported a wide variety of projects, below is a small sample, more can be found on our website: civicspark.lgc.org/fellow-project-concepts

Climate Action Plan Implementation: Implementing Climate Action Plan measures in Emeryville, Hayward, Santa Monica, Piedmont, Union City, Walnut Creek, the Sierra Nevada, Los Angeles County, Merced County, San Luis Obispo County, Santa Barbara County, and many more.

Sea Level Rise Adaptation: Supporting the research and creation of an adaptation plan for sea level rise for the City of Alameda.

Disadvantaged Communities Involvement Program (DACI): Completing a strengths and needs assessment to better engage and allocate funding and resources in support of overburdened communities in the Santa Ana River Watershed.

Water/Energy Nexus: Identifying and implementing water and energy saving projects in San Mateo County schools and public buildings through an auditing program.

Regional EV and Fuel Cells: Accelerating adoption of electric and alternative fuels vehicles for a robust alternative fuels market in the broader North Coast region.

Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities: Provide technical assistance for the Affordable Housing/Sustainable Communities (AHSC) grant program.

Benefits

• $20,000 Living Allowance (before taxes) spread evenly over 11 months
• $6,195 Segal Education Award upon completion
• Health insurance
• SNAP (Food Stamps) for eligible participants
• Forbearance on existing qualifying student loans and payment of interest accrued during service term
• Childcare assistance for qualifying Fellows, paid to an eligible provider of your choice
• Professional development training
• Network development with regional and statewide contacts in the community resilience industries
• Connection to the network of CivicSpark alum and AmeriCorps alums

Qualifications

AmeriCorps Requirements
• Be a citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident alien of the United States of America
• Ability to pass FBI, CA DOJ, out-of-state (if applicable), and NSOPR background checks prior to service

CivicSpark Requirements
• A 4-year degree from an accredited college or university
• Commitment to the full term of service (11 months)
• Ability to work in a professional office setting
• Strong communication (both verbal and written) and teamwork skills

Additional preferred qualifications are listed on our website.

Contact

General inquiries: info@civicspark.lgc.org
Fellow FAQs: http://civicspark.lgc.org/fellow-faq/

As an AmeriCorps program, CivicSpark is administered by CaliforniaVolunteers, and funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service. CivicSpark is managed by the Local Government Commission (LGC) in partnership with the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR) with partners in regions all across California.