



AmeriCorps Community Training for Overdose Rescue (ACT)

Prospective Team Member Information Packet

Thank you for your interest in the AmeriCorps Community Training for Overdose Rescue (ACT) program! We look forward to learning more about you during the recruitment process, and we'd like to share some more information about us. This packet provides detailed information about the ACT program, the applicant screening and on-boarding process, and the role of an Overdose Rescue Trainer.

Despite being preventable and treatable, overdoses from heroin and other opioids continue to cause an alarming number of deaths in our region, devastating many in our communities. ACT aims to stop overdose deaths, reduce harm caused by heroin and other opioids, and strengthen community engagement in addressing public health challenges. Our ACT AmeriCorps members serve a critical role in meeting these goals, and ACT is committed to providing our AmeriCorps members with an enriching and impactful service experience.

We'd be happy to further discuss any questions you may have! We are looking forward to forming our FALL 2021 team!

In community partnership,

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Information Packet Contents

What is the AmeriCorps Community Training for Overdose Rescue (ACT) program?

An AmeriCorps Term of Service with ACT

Member Benefits

Overdose Rescue Trainer - Role and Daily Activities

Program Changes due to the COVID-19 Outbreak

Selection Process for ACT Service Members

Important Dates for FALL 2021 Service Term

Required Documents

Contact Information

Additional Information and Resources

Glossary

What is the **AmeriCorps Community Training for Overdose Rescue (ACT)** program?

Our Mission

To provide community members in southeast Michigan with information, training, and tools to stop overdose deaths and reduce harm related to opioids.

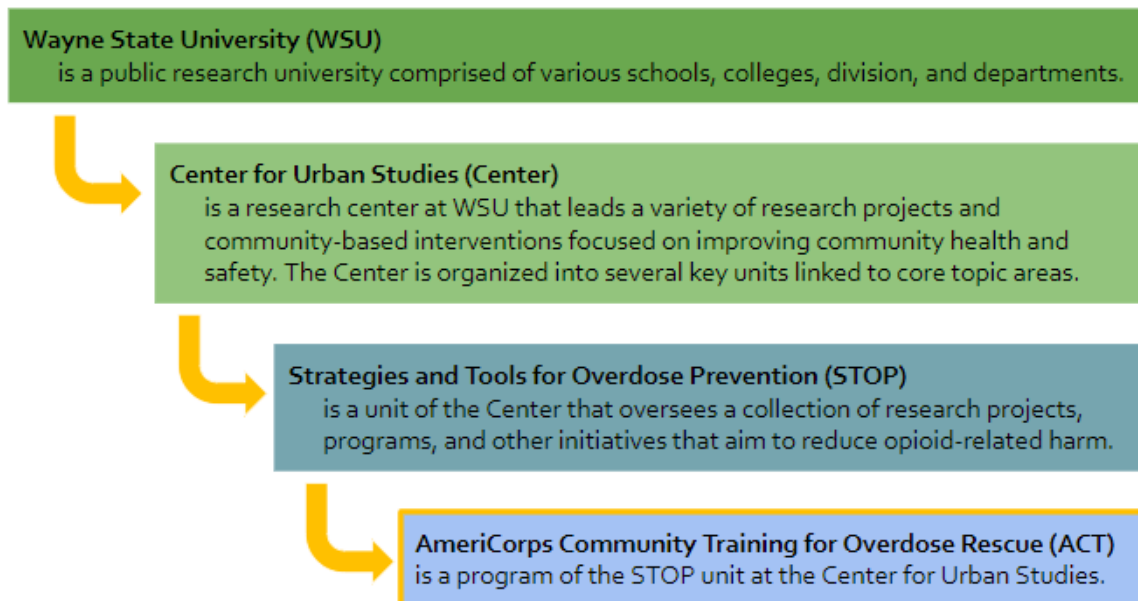
Key Objectives

Each year, ACT will:

- Deliver 17,000 hours of service to the community by recruiting leaders across the region to commit to and successfully complete an AmeriCorps service term as an Overdose Rescue Trainer
- Train 750 community members in Overdose Rescue preparedness strategies
- Distribute 750 Overdose Rescue Kits containing life-saving Narcan nasal spray (an overdose-reversing medicine).

Organizational Framework

The AmeriCorps Community Training for Overdose Rescue (ACT) program is administered by the Center for Urban Studies at Wayne State University (see the organizational diagram below). The ACT program is funded by AmeriCorps – a federal agency that supports community service and volunteerism by awarding grant funding to community-level organizations across the country to implement service-based programs. As an AmeriCorps sponsored program, ACT is part of a national network of independent programs that all incorporate community service as a key strategy for addressing critical community challenges.



Note: Please refer to the Glossary at the end of this packet for more information about key terms.

An AmeriCorps Term of Service with ACT

An AmeriCorps member position is a paid opportunity to develop real-world skills and experience through hands-on service. ACT members volunteer to serve with the program as an *Overdose Rescue Trainer* – teaching others in the community how to provide aid during an opioid overdose emergency to help save lives.

As an ACT service member, you will sign up to serve 20 hours per week during a six-month term of service. This is considered a quarter time service slot, which requires a member to serve a minimum of 450 hours to complete their term and earn member benefits. After completing a quarter time term, members may extend their service by enrolling in another term (selection for an additional term of service is dependent on performance during previous terms).

The service terms for this program year are:

<i>Term</i>	<i>Start Date of Service</i>	<i>End Date of Service</i>	<i>Apply by</i>
Winter 2021	January 4, 2021	June 27, 2021	November 13, 2020
Spring 2021	March 15, 2021	August 22, 2021	February 5, 2021
Summer 2021	June 14, 2021	December 12, 2021	May 14, 2021
Fall 2021	August 23, 2021	March 6, 2022	July 23, 2021

Note: Please refer to the Glossary at the end of this packet for more information about key terms.

Member Benefits

Although members do not receive a traditional wage, AmeriCorps offers members many benefits throughout their term of service, as well as other alum benefits after the service term is complete. Benefits include:

- **A living allowance in the amount of \$3,250**
 - The living allowance will be distributed bi-weekly, in the form of a check.
 - Members should expect to receive \$225-\$275 per biweekly paycheck before taxes (paycheck amount depends on the number of pay periods within the term).
 - The living allowance is subject to federal, state, and city taxes. The actual amount of your paycheck will depend on the number of allowances you claim when you complete a federal, state, and city W-4 form as part of your hiring paperwork. You can use this website to better estimate your biweekly pay: <https://www.paycheckcity.com/calculator/salary/>
- **A Segal Education Award in the amount of \$1,678.⁵⁷**
 - The award can be applied towards pursuing further education or to pay off existing, qualified student loans. The award can typically be used at any institution that accepts federal aid.
 - This is not a cash award. Rather, it is disbursed directly by the National Service Trust to the college/university of your choice and some qualifying training/certification programs or to your lender.
 - Some institutions match this award with additional funding support (listed here): <https://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameri-corps/segal-ameri-corps-education-award/matching-institutions>.
 - Members must successfully complete their service requirements and serve a minimum of 450 hours during their term to qualify for the Segal Award.
 - This award is also subject to taxes and it will be taxed in the year you use it.
 - You have 7 years after completing your term to use the award.
- **Loan forbearance on qualified student loans**
 - During your term of service, you can request that qualified federal student loans be put into forbearance, meaning you will not need to make payments on your loan during your service term.
 - Once service has begun and you are enrolled as an AmeriCorps member, you will be able to request forbearance of qualified loans in the MyAmeriCorps system.
 - Upon successful completion of your term, you may also request the interest accrued on your qualifying loan while in forbearance during your term be paid by the National Service Trust.
- **Extensive professional development**
 - A unique component of being an AmeriCorps member is receiving guided support and career development training.
 - At the start of the term, members will receive comprehensive training about overdose rescue, community outreach and engagement strategies, public speaking and meeting facilitation, and other topics to ensure members are prepared to successfully carry out program activities.
 - The ACT program will also provide members with additional learning opportunities and skill-building during the term that can be applied to future roles. The program intends to enhance social and civic competencies including communication, leadership, and team collaboration.

Note: Please refer to the Glossary at the end of this packet for more information about key terms.

Overdose Rescue Trainer - Role and Daily Activities

ACT members hold weekly Overdose Rescue training sessions that anyone from the community may attend, and they also arrange private training sessions for groups/organizations.

- Each training session lasts approximately one hour.
- During the training presentation, we cover information about the magnitude of the overdose crisis and its impact on our community, how to recognize the signs of an overdose, how to respond to an overdose including how and when to administer Narcan, how to perform CPR, and aftercare considerations for overdose survivors.
- At the end of the training, all participants receive an *Overdose Preparedness Kit* containing instructions for providing aid, information about local treatment and recovery services, and a dose of Narcan - a medicine that reverses overdose and is administered with an easy-to-use nasal spray device.
- Training sessions may be attended by anyone in Southeast Michigan, and are particularly important for people who are likely to encounter an overdose emergency – safety patrol groups, employees of local businesses, transit workers, librarians, street outreach teams, etc.

Typical service tasks

ACT members engage in the following tasks to successfully train people in the community:

- Recruit community members and groups to participate in Overdose Rescue training sessions by conducting outreach throughout metro-Detroit to promote the ACT program. Outreach methods may include distributing flyers, social media promotion, phone calls, emails to organization representatives, short presentations at community meetings, etc
- Develop tailored messaging to help appeal to specific audiences
- Collaborate with teammates to plan, prepare for, and promote the training session
- Coordinate the logistics for training sessions and facilitating the training events
- Deliver Overdose Rescue training presentation to participants and answer questions
- Distribute Overdose Preparedness Kits to training participants

In addition to carrying out training sessions, members build their own knowledge and experience in a variety of areas in a team environment. During orientation and throughout the service term, members build foundational knowledge about the overdose crisis, harm reduction, and public health. Members also learn about intersectional issues related to the overdose crisis (ex: mental health, incarceration, homelessness, maternal health, veteran populations, etc.). As a team, members discuss articles and other media related to these topics. Guest speakers provide different perspectives on the overdose crisis and the efforts to address this issue. These aspects of the service member experience provide many opportunities for peer leadership and professional development.

Program Changes due to the COVID-19 Outbreak

All program activities are currently taking place in a **virtual** setting during the coronavirus pandemic until it is safe to resume in-person activities. During “teleservice”, team members collaborate with each other and program staff via Zoom, email, and other remote communication tools, and all community outreach and overdose rescue training sessions are conducted online. We ask that members set a schedule for service as they would during normal in-person hours, and plan to serve an average of 20 hours per week remotely. Members are expected to have reliable internet access, check their program email daily, and complete all required tasks by their due date. We plan to resume in-person service and activities once guidelines from the university and state indicate that it is safe to do so. We appreciate your patience and flexibility as we adjust to new procedures and changes.

Note: Please refer to the Glossary at the end of this packet for more information about key terms.

Selection Process for ACT Service Members

The candidate review and selection process involves the following stages:

- Interested candidates can complete an **application** at any time through our website at stopoverdosedeadths.org. Applications are reviewed on an ongoing basis. ACT begin new service terms quarterly. Applications submitted after deadline for the term will be considered for the next term.
- Program staff will review your application for eligibility and inform you if you've been selected for a **phone interview**. During this 25-minute interview, we will discuss your application, your prior experience and qualifications, and your expectations of the role.
- You will then be notified if you are selected to participate in a **group interview**, and we will contact your **references**.
- Candidates who attend the group interview will also undergo a **criminal history check**, as required by the AmeriCorps agency. Candidates will be required to provide a state-issued photo I.D., proof of citizenship or permanent resident status (i.e.: U.S. passport or birth certificate, green card), and their signed social security card. See section on *Required Eligibility Documents* below for more information.
- Selections will be announced after the group interviews, and new members will then attend an **enrollment session** to review and complete onboarding paperwork before starting service.
- **Orientation** for new members takes place during the first week of service. Orientation activities are mandatory for all new members. After orientation, you will serve an average of 20 hours per week according to your availability.

Note that during the coronavirus pandemic, all aspects of the screening process are being conducted remotely with no in-person contact (with the exception of an individually scheduled 10-minute fingerprinting appointment during the enrollment process that is required to complete the AmeriCorps-mandated criminal history check).

Important Dates for FALL 2021 Service Term

Applications for the FALL 2021 cohort will be accepted until **07/23/21, 4:30PM EST**

Phone interviews will be scheduled from **06/28/21** through **07/28/21**

Group interviews will take place on (candidates must attend one of these dates):

July 27, 2021 at 1pm

July 29, 2021 at 10am

Selections will be announced no later than **07/30/2021**.

New members must complete the enrollment RSVP and provide ACT staff their state-issued photo I.D., proof of citizenship or permanent resident status (i.e.: U.S. passport or birth certificate, green card), and their signed social security card. These must be received by **7/28/21 at 5:30pm EST**

Enrollment Sessions will be held (new members must attend one of these dates):

August 4, 2021 at 10am

August 5, 2021 at 1pm

The Fall 2021 service term begins **08/23/21(August 23, 2021)**

New members must attend orientation sessions during the first week of service **August 23-27, 2021 from 10am-3pm each day**.

Members serve 20 hours per week until the term end date **March 6, 2022**

Note: Please refer to the Glossary at the end of this packet for more information about key terms.

Required Eligibility Documents

As the screening process moves forward, we will need to verify your eligibility for AmeriCorps. If you are invited to the group interview phase, you will need to provide copies or scans of the following:

1. Documentation to confirm you are a US Citizen , National, or Lawful Permanent Resident Alien
 - If you are a US citizen: either US passport OR birth certificate showing US birth
 - If you are a US National or Lawful Permanent Resident: State Department Certification (N-550; N-560; N-561; or N-570) U.S. Citizen Born Abroad, OR INS Form (showing naturalization/citizenship), OR Alien Registration Receipt Card/Permanent Resident Card (I-551)

AND

2. a valid (unexpired) government-issued photo ID (driver's license OR state ID);

AND

3. your social security card (signed).

Contact Information

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Note: Please refer to the Glossary at the end of this packet for more information about key terms.

Additional Information and Resources

Please visit our website and social media pages to become more familiar with our program:

<http://www.stopoverdosedeadths.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/stopoverdosedeadths/>
<https://www.instagram.com/stopoverdosedeadths/>

Below are some resources that provide more information about the overdose crisis and the philosophy behind the ACT program's approach:

Articles:

Read the article announcing the launch of our ACT program in Fall 2019

<https://today.wayne.edu/news/2019/06/14/americorps-grants-to-help-combat-opioid-crisis-further-urban-safety-initiatives-32584?>

The science of addiction: How opioids – and environment – change the brain

<https://www.knoxnews.com/story/news/health/2018/01/26/opioid-epidemic-addiction-science-environment-brain/1021225001/>

Fentanyl-Linked Deaths: The U.S. Opioid Epidemic's Third Wave Begins

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2019/03/21/704557684/fentanyl-linked-deaths-the-u-s-opioid-epidemics-third-wave-begins>

The Opioid Crisis Is Getting Worse, Particularly for Black Americans

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/12/22/upshot/opioid-deaths-are-spreading-rapidly-into-black-america.html>

Without Medical Support, DIY Detox Often Fails

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2017/07/03/533793801/without-medical-support-diy-detox-often-fails?>

Websites:

Visit <https://www.hri.global/what-is-harm-reduction> and <https://harmreduction.org> for more information about Harm Reduction (see definition in glossary below).

Videos:

Harm Reduction 101 (2:34)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXJJj_igFmE

The harm reduction model of drug addiction treatment | Mark Tyndall (16:31)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cfzkBGgxXGE>

Finding the Hook: Changing Perceptions of Harm Reduction Strategies (3:40)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tMF9Cfn_SRk

How Naloxone Saves Lives in Opioid Overdose (5:39)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zWe_IPniEq4

Motorcycle Crash Shows Bioethicist The Dark Side Of Quitting Opioids Alone (43:14)

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2019/07/08/738952129/motorcycle-crash-shows-bioethicist-the-dark-side-of-quitting-opioids-alone>

Note: Please refer to the Glossary at the end of this packet for more information about key terms.

Glossary

AmeriCorps – AmeriCorps is a national network of independent programs that incorporate community service as a key strategy for addressing critical community challenges. AmeriCorps programs respond to pressing issues facing our nation including providing education and mentoring to children, increasing access to nutrition and healthcare, improving housing and public safety, and addressing the opioid epidemic. The ACT Program is an AmeriCorps State sponsored program. Corps is pronounced “CORE” (as in “apple core”), not “corpse”. For example, ACT is an “Ameri-Core” program, not an “Ameri-Corpse” program.

AmeriCorps Member – an individual serving in an AmeriCorps program. An AmeriCorps service member is not an employee, apprentice, or volunteer. Members receive a living allowance during their term and are eligible to receive an education award or alternative post-service benefit upon successful completion of their term.

Community First Responder – a volunteer member of the public who provides care during a medical emergency while waiting for professional help to arrive.

Education Award – a benefit AmeriCorps members may receive after successful completion of a term of service. The award is directly paid to an educational institution and may be used for federal student loans, or to finance college, graduate school, or approved vocational training.

Harm Reduction – Harm reduction is a set of practical strategies and ideas aimed at reducing negative consequences associated with drug use. Harm Reduction is also a movement for social justice built on a belief in, and respect for, the rights of people who use drugs. Harm reduction incorporates a spectrum of strategies from safer use, to managed use to abstinence to meet drug users “where they’re at,” addressing conditions of use along with the use itself. Source: <https://harmreduction.org/about-us/principles-of-harm-reduction/>

Living Allowance – a stipend, *not* a wage or salary. The living allowance is provided to AmeriCorps members who are actively enrolled and serving in a program and is distributed over the length of the term of service.

MOUD -

Medicated Assisted Treatment (MAT) – combines behavioral therapy and medications to treat substance use disorders. MAT for Opioid Use Disorder include methadone, buprenorphine and naltrexone (also prescribed under various brand names). A common misperception is that MAT substitutes one drug for another. This is not true. Medications used to treat opioid use disorder relieve symptoms of withdrawal and address psychological cravings that cause chemical imbalances in the body.

Naloxone – is a lifesaving medication that should be administered during an opioid overdose emergency. It is an FDA-approved medication and works as an opioid antagonist: The naloxone molecules block opioid receptor sites, essentially ‘kicking out’ any opioids that were bound to the receptors. This reverses the toxic effects of an overdose. The medication can be given intravenously (using a syringe), subcutaneously or intramuscularly (using an auto injector, Evizo), or by intranasal spray (using Narcan). An individual cannot become addicted to naloxone nor can it cause any harm if they receive too much of it or if the person has no opioids in their system.

Narcan – a brand name of naloxone overdose-reversal medication in nasal spray form. It is packaged in an easy-to-use, pre-dosed, needle-free device that is sprayed directly into one nostril.

Opioid – a substance that binds to opioid receptors, which are located throughout the brain and gastrointestinal tract. Opioids are commonly used to relax the body and relieve pain. Opioid is a term that is inclusive of:

- opiates: naturally occurring substances derived from opium plants (e.g., morphine)
- semi-synthetic opioids: heroin, oxycodone
- fully synthetic opioids: fentanyl, tramadol

Note: Please refer to the Glossary at the end of this packet for more information about key terms.

Overdose – occurs when a toxic amount of a drug, or combination of drugs, overwhelm the body. In an opioid overdose, the individual may become unresponsive to stimulation and their breathing slows or stops, which deprives the body of oxygen. An overdose can result in death, or if not fatal, may have other negative health consequences (e.g., brain damage). An opioid overdose can typically be stopped if an opioid antidote (naloxone) is administered quickly.

Overdose Epidemic – also called the opioid crisis, is the continued rise in opioid-related deaths since the 90s. However, opioid use disorder and overdose deaths caused by opioids occurred before the recent opioid epidemic and occurred at particularly high rates beginning in the late 1960s.

Recovery – the process of change, including changes to the brain, through which people improve their health and wellness. Recovery may be accomplished through treatment, therapy, and replacing substance use behaviors with healthy alternative behaviors to live self-directed lives. Source: <https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/recovery>

Service – helping others to meet critical community needs. AmeriCorps members participate in programs across the U.S. to complete service to help improve the lives of individuals and communities. Service is not a job or employment.

Service Term – a committed period of service with an AmeriCorps program. AmeriCorps programs offer five types of terms (full time, half time, reduced half time, quarter time, and minimum time). All terms of service for the 2020-21 year with the ACT program will be quarter-time slots consisting of 450 minimum required hours, which can be completed on a part-time basis (20 hours per week over 6 months). Members may choose to complete more than one term of service during a year.

Substance Use – use of psychoactive substances - which may be legal, illegal, or controlled for use. Intensive substance use may lead to significant impairment or distress, or other problematic results such as recurrent failure to fulfill major role obligations at work, school, or home; recurrent use in situations in which it is physically hazardous; recurrent substance-related legal problems; or continued substance use despite having persistent or recurrent social or interpersonal problems caused or exacerbated by the effects of the substance.

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) – a clinical term describing a syndrome (diagnostic criteria established by American Psychiatric Association) characterized by recurrent use of alcohol and/or drugs that cause clinically significant impairment, including health problems, disability, and failure to meet major responsibilities at work, school, or home. An individual may be diagnosed with a mild, moderate to severe substance use disorder, or a person may meet the criteria, but never be diagnosed with SUD. SUD is often coexistent with a mental health disorder. SUD involving opioid use is termed an Opioid Use Disorder. Source: <https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/disorders>

Substance Dependency – (“Addiction” is often used synonymously, but is more stigmatizing term) Describes a physiological dependence on a substance, characterized by increased tolerance for the substance (need for increased amounts of the substance to achieve the desired effect, or diminished effect with continued use of the same amount of the substance), withdrawal or the experience of mental or physical disturbance or reduced functioning upon reduction in substance use, and recurrent desire or unsuccessful efforts to cut down or control substance use. Prolonged use of opioids may or may not result in tolerance or dependence. There are several risk/protective factors that influence a person’s likelihood of dependence.

Note: Please refer to the Glossary at the end of this packet for more information about key terms.