

Become one of the first Maryland Service Year Option Members

If you have recently completed high school or the equivalent, are still unsure as to what you will do next, and are looking for a way to serve your community, consider joining the inaugural class of Maryland's new Service Year Option.

Service Year Option offers a year of professional growth and career exploration where you can earn a living wage, gain new skills, and identify where your talents and purpose intersect, all while serving your community with your fellow Marylanders.

What is the Service Year Option?

The Service Year Option is Governor Wes Moore's unprecedented new service opportunity for those who recently completed high school, or the equivalent, to find a productive avenue to serve in various sectors across the state. Service roles will provide you with job training, an on-site mentor, and resources to be successful (personal money management training, career exploration, etc.) all while earning \$15 an hour in your role. Upon successful completion of the program, members earn \$6,000 toward tuition costs or as a cash stipend.

Requirements of the Service Year Option:

- Interest in meeting new people, developing new professional skills and discovering new possibilities for your career and/or educational journey.
- Be a Maryland Resident.
- Have recently earned a high school diploma, certificate of completion, or General Educational Development (GED) (Classes of 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 are eligible).

What will I do as a Service Year Option Member?

Service Year Option members will be paired with an apprenticeship program, nonprofit, business or government agency that supports your professional development. Organizations in the following sectors will be prioritized during the 2023-2024 service term:

Benefits of the Service Year Option Program

Service Year Option Members:

- Earn \$15 an hour.
- Serve at least 30 hours a week at your sponsoring organization and participate in targeted professional development. The program is a minimum 40 hours per week time commitment.
- Participate in professional development, on the job training, mentoring and time to explore potential career paths for your future.
- Career coaching and job seeking assistance throughout the Service Year, and upon completion of your year of service.
- Members who successfully finish their full term earn a \$6,000 completion payment that can be paid out as a taxable cash stipend or deposited into a Maryland 529 account toward your future tuition costs.

Important Dates:

- Application Portal Opens: August 1, 2023. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. To be considered for the 2023–2024 service term, apply by September 8, 2023 at serving.md.gov.
- Program Begins: October 25, 2023.
- Program Concludes: August 30, 2024.

For more information contact
dsci.gov@maryland.gov



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- **Climate**—work on clean energy projects like home weatherization and windmill energy.
- **Education**—serve in classrooms as tutors for children, youth recreation assistants or as a nutrition assistance professional. Serve in or out of classrooms to help youth connect to knowledge about health, well-being and life skills.
- **Community Health**—serve in a public health organization helping Maryland residents access vaccines and other preventative medicine, or as a mental health advocate, helping connect people to the care they need.
- **Public Service**—spend a term working in state or local government offices as a potential pathway into future work in a state or local agency in a professional position.
- **Apprenticeships/Building Trades**—serve in a defined pathway to obtain hard skills in a specific high-growth industry – like construction management or advanced manufacturing.
- **Information Technology**—gain skills in competitive fields like web development, artificial intelligence, software/coding.
- **Public Safety**—serve alongside police and law enforcement to build strong partnerships with communities to identify individuals at-risk of violence, connect them to essential resources and co-produce public safety.



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