



Cleveland
Tenants
Organization



5700 Broadway Avenue, Cleveland Ohio 44127, Phone 216-432-0617

Cleveland Tenants Organization (CTO) seeks an Americorps VISTA candidate to organize tenants in privately-owned, multifamily developments subsidized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to save and improve their homes as affordable housing. The position is funded for one year through Americorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America), a federal program which pays full time VISTA Volunteers a one year renewable stipend to empower people in low income communities.

CTO is a 501c3 non-profit organization that harnesses the power of tenants to save their homes and strengthen tenants' rights in HUD housing. Since 1975, CTO has helped tenants save apartments as affordable housing, one building at a time, through tenant organizing. Cleveland Tenants Organization aims to preserve and expand the supply of safe, decent, fair, affordable, and accessible rental housing in greater Cleveland. We do this by preventing homelessness, resolving disputes between landlords and tenants, advocating for the needs of low & moderate-income tenants, informing citizens of their rights and duties in rental housing, empowering tenants individually and collectively to represent themselves and their interests, representing tenants and the interest of tenants in the preservation and promotion of rental housing rights, combating discrimination in housing based on race, religion, color, gender, handicap, familial status, military status, social/economic class, and sexual orientation. CTO is a member of the National Alliance of HUD Tenants (NAHT), the leading voice of HUD tenants since 1992 and the only national tenant's organization in the US, as well as the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

CTO seeks one VISTA Volunteer to form and strengthen tenant councils in Cuyahoga County (Greater Cleveland) HUD developments where there is a risk of loss of affordable housing or substandard conditions. VISTAs will door knock, leaflet, identify and recruit leaders, educate tenants about tenant rights and HUD subsidy programs, and help tenants preserve and improve their homes. The CTO VISTA will receive training and participate in a national movement to preserve affordable housing through NAHT, and will join 33 other VISTA organizers in cities across the US.

Qualifications:

- Commitment to social change and empowerment of lower income people
- Experience in community/tenant organizing and outreach helpful
- Ability to understand and translate complex issues into understandable terms
- Ability to read and write clearly and concisely
- Ability or willingness to speak in front of diverse groups
- Experience in planning and conducting meetings
- Ability and willingness to work with diverse groups of people and engage in door to door outreach
- Availability to work evenings and weekends as needed
- Access to a car required

VISTA Volunteers are paid a monthly stipend of \$973 in the Cleveland area and an education award of \$5,730 annually for each year of service, or an alternative cash stipend of a lesser amount. Volunteers will receive mileage reimbursement. Medical and dental coverage available. If you are already receiving public assistance (such as Social Security, food stamps, or housing subsidy), your eligibility and level of assistance should not be affected. VISTA stipends are excluded income in HUD subsidized rental housing. VISTAS can also defer student loans during their service year.

Please email a cover letter and resume to Executive Director Gary Katz:

gkatz@clevelandtenants.org

Application Deadline is April 14, 2017

Paid training with Equal Justice Works starts Summer 2017