



AmeriCorps

Rochester Youth Year 2024-2025

Who? Rochester Youth Year members are recent graduates of Rochester-area colleges or natives of the Rochester area who have recently graduated from college elsewhere. **Students graduating in winter 2023 and spring 2024** are encouraged to apply to serve with Rochester Youth Year.

Successful applicants are passionate about **promoting equity and social justice**; open-minded and curious; comfortable working with people from diverse backgrounds; committed to the Rochester community; and have interest/previous experience in community or public service, urban issues, or other areas of civic engagement.

In keeping with AmeriCorps VISTA requirements, Rochester Youth Year members must be **US citizens, nationals, or permanent residents**.

What? Rochester Youth Year empowers local graduates to strengthen the capacity of community organizations in an effort to **alleviate the effects of poverty** for Rochester Youth and families. The program emphasizes civic engagement, promotes learning about urban issues, and encourages a celebration and appreciation for cross-cultural issues and urban life. Highlights of the program include:

Capacity-Building Service – Rochester Youth Year members are placed in **paid fellowships** with nonprofit agencies located in the City of Rochester. Projects focus on educational equity, health equity, food access/food sovereignty, economic empowerment, and/or environmental stewardship. Rochester Youth Year members perform **indirect, capacity-building service**, working behind the scenes to support **sustainable solutions to poverty**. Common activities include recruiting and managing volunteers; building community partnerships; writing grants; fundraising; conducting community outreach; planning events; developing programs; and assessing community needs.

Professional Development and Networking – Rochester Youth Year members are **community organizers**, and over the course of their service terms, they connect with other Rochesterians to develop their projects and enhance their understanding of the Flower City. Members' networks expand to include community leaders and changemakers, other members of the Rochester Youth Year cohort, and RYY alumni who continue to serve their communities as fully-fledged professionals. In order to develop their skills, members participate in **extensive on-the-job training** as well as **monthly professional development activities** organized by Rochester Youth Year.

AmeriCorps VISTA Benefits – Rochester Youth Year members serve as AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers, and they take advantage of numerous benefits offered by AmeriCorps including a modest living allowance of \$62.69/day, a healthcare allowance of \$8,550, an end-of-service benefit (an education award of \$6,895 OR a cash stipend of \$1,803), 10 days of personal time, 10 days of sick time, and more. You can learn more about AmeriCorps VISTA benefits [here](#).

Where? Rochester Youth Year is hosted at the University of Rochester. Members serve at community organizations throughout the City of Rochester.

When? Rochester Youth Year members serve as full-time AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers for 365-day terms. The 2024-2025 program will run from early August 2024 through early August 2025.

Questions? Contact Sarah Murphy, Rochester Youth Year Program Manager, at sarah.murphy@rochester.edu or at 585-276-6860. For more information, visit our website: <https://www.youthyear.org/>



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Rochester Youth Year Application

Application deadline: 11:59 PM Sunday, March 31, 2024

**** Submit your application here: <https://bit.ly/2024RYYApplication> ****

Application Requirements:

- ☐ A one-page resume **in PDF format** highlighting your relevant experiences and skills. You will upload this PDF document directly into the application form.
- ☐ A cover letter **in PDF format** including the answers to the below questions. Please limit your letter to two pages. You will upload this PDF document directly into the application form.
 - Describe your interest in Rochester Youth Year and how RYY fits into your future plans.
 - What local, national, or global challenge most concerns you? What action have you taken?
- ☐ Two letters of recommendation, submitted **by your recommenders**.
 - Share this link with your recommenders: <https://bit.ly/2024RYYRecommendations>
 - One recommendation should be from a professor and the other should be from a supervisor, coach, or other mentor who knows you well. **Do not include a recommendation from a peer.**
 - Please be ready to include your recommenders' names and contact information in the application form.
- ☐ A copy of your academic record from each higher education institution that you have attended. You will upload your academic record(s) directly into the application form.
 - Your academic records should detail the courses you've taken and grades received at each higher education institution you have attended. You may submit screenshots from your institution's course management system or an unofficial transcript.
 - Rochester Youth Year may request an official transcript following your graduation.

If you have any questions about the application requirements, the web form, or the Rochester Youth Year program, please contact our staff via email at rochester@youthyear.org or by phone at 585-276-6860.