

Colton Grainger
1127 Hammock St
Houston, TX 77009

June 20, 2017

Community Youth Services
ATTN: AmeriCorps Youth in Service Program
711 State Ave. NE
Olympia, WA 98506

To Whom It May Concern,

I intend to join CYS as an AmeriCorps YIS in fulfillment of a desire to (i) live simply and (ii) serve others. I am applying on a referral from Andrea Fercho at the United Way of Thurston County, who mentioned CYS runs an impressive AmeriCorps program.

I discovered CYS during a search for work in a field related to refugee social services. On July 15, I will complete a year in the Texas Episcopal Service Corps at the YMCA International Services, a resettlement agency in Houston. My goal is to complete a second year in a multi-faceted organization, similar to the YMCA, that supports persons living in poverty or persons at risk of living in poverty.

Getting involved as an AmeriCorps YIS at CYS would form a continuous link with the administrative work I am presently doing at the YMCA—in terms of supporting client self-sufficiency and coordinating a continuum of care. I appreciate the size of CYS, the range of partner programs (esp. Rosie's Place, the YWCA, and the CCBLA), and the responsibilities of each YIS position.

What I believe I can contribute to CYS: I have experience in medical case management and HIV outreach. At the YMCA, I directly serve 40 clients monthly—providing cultural orientation, scheduling medical appointments, and arranging transportation. I work with discretion and cultural sensitivity. I have helped clients to obtain rental assistance, public benefits, and low income medical care. I also have a B.S. in Mathematics-Physics and experience tutoring STEM subjects. I am fortunate to have had supportive mentors and hope to be a mentor for others.

Outside of my vocational pursuits, I am passionate about hiking, computer programming, and blue grass music. I am an avid cyclist and user of public transportation. I am also an advocate for affordable, sustainable and nutritious food. In the long term, I have ambition to pursue higher education in applied mathematics and, eventually, publish research in support of environmental preservation.

Respectfully,

Colton Grainger

P.S. I am available via email, by phone after 3:00 P.M. PST, or by scheduled video-chat.