



# **RISE**

*Resources Invested in Student Excellence*

## **Communities and Schools Working Together**

**2009-2010 Application to Host RISE**

*(Deadline March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009)*

**Primary Contact:**

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DIAL/SELF Youth and Community Services

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[www.dialself.org](http://www.dialself.org)



## **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The RISE Program enhances student learning and development by forging partnerships between schools and communities, and by bringing community resources into schools.

### **How RISE works:**

- RISE places a 'Resource Coordinator' in the school, who works with students, teachers, administrators, and parents to identify needs for enhanced programming and services.
- The Resource Coordinator then works with local businesspeople, service agencies, colleges, and community volunteers to bring services and programs to the school.
- Ultimately, RISE will enable the school to become a "full service community school", where programs are available before, during, and after school, as well as on weekends and during school vacations.

### **Response to Community Needs:**

- Community-school taskforces in Franklin County in 2005 identified the coordination of services as the key element to successfully bringing community resources into schools. RISE was developed in response to those meetings, in an initial partnership between DIAL/SELF, Baystate Franklin Medical Center, and Greenfield Public Schools.
- RISE started at the Greenfield Middle School in 2006. The Program served Middle Schools in Greenfield, Turners Falls and Athol in 2007. RISE is operating in these three Middle Schools as well as Turners Falls High School and Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School for the 2008-2009 school year. RISE welcomes participation from other school districts and community partners.

### **RISE Coordinated Services:**

- Recruiting and Training Volunteers
- Identifying college students who seek service opportunities and/or internships in the youth development field and bringing those students into the school
- Collaborating with health providers to develop health and wellness programs
- Coordinating with community agencies to offer services to students (e.g. Big Brothers Big Sisters, Community Action!, The Career Center, MSPCC, The Youth Commission)
- Involving the business community in career initiatives in the school
- Working with arts-based initiatives to bring cultural enrichment into the school
- Responding to any innovative, creative opportunities dreamed up by students, parents, teachers, or community members!

## **Our Partners**

**YouthServe AmeriCorps Program:** Since 1996, YouthServe has coordinated the services of 15 -18 full-time AmeriCorps members each year to enhance the efforts of other youth serving agencies in the Franklin/Hampshire/North Quabbin area. RISE partners with YouthServe to place AmeriCorps Members in schools as RISE Resource Coordinators.

**ACT Volunteer Center:** Since 2007 ACT has been a full service volunteer center serving the entire Franklin/Hampshire/North Quabbin region. ACT is the only affiliate of the Hands On Network in Western Massachusetts, coordinates Make A Difference Day each year, and manages the Volunteer Coordinators' Network of the Pioneer Valley. RISE partners with ACT to recruit volunteers to serve in various capacities in schools.

## **APPLICATION OVERVIEW**

The RISE Program provides schools the opportunity to host an AmeriCorps Member who serves as a RISE Resource Coordinator. The Resource Coordinator conducts needs assessment, and coordinates the partnerships between the school and the community to bring programs and services to the school. Each year RISE works in conjunction with the YouthServe AmeriCorps program to secure slots for current and new school partners. Once received, these slots are then awarded to schools across the Franklin/Hampshire/North Quabbin area after an application process.

**PROGRAM DETAILS – Q&A :** Please read through the following questions and answers. They will provide you with the information you need to apply to host RISE at your school.

### **What can we expect to achieve by hosting RISE?**

- A thorough needs assessment, that identifies school priorities from the perspective of students, parents, teachers, administrators and community organizations
- Enriching programs and services that respond to identified needs in the school
- Enhanced relationship with the local community through a variety of partnerships

### **Is our school eligible?**

- Any public school in the Franklin/Hampshire/North Quabbin area is eligible to host RISE

### **What is the timeline?**

- Applications for new RISE schools must be received by 5pm on 3/16/2009
- The RISE Director will work with the YouthServe AmeriCorps Director to recruit and hire Members between February and August 2009
- RISE Resource Coordinators will begin their service in mid-September and finish in late June or early July

### **Are there any prohibited activities?**

- RISE cannot displace a current employee or serve in a regular staff position
- RISE cannot be involved with political advocacy, religious instruction, voter registration, fundraising for a school's operating budget, writing federal grants, union organizing, or clerical activities

### **How are new schools selected?**

All applications are reviewed by a committee of program staff and Advisory Council Members.

Key selection criteria include:

- Organizational capacity to integrate and support RISE in the school community
- Ability to clearly articulate needs and priorities
- Commitment to forging new partnerships with the community and welcoming community partners into the school

### **What kind of background and training do RISE Resource Coordinators have?**

RISE Resource Coordinators are AmeriCorps Members who have committed to 10 months of service and average 23 to 28 years of age. They are emerging leaders from across the country with diverse backgrounds and a passion for community service and education. Many AmeriCorps Members serving with RISE are former teachers looking for a different experience within a school, or aspiring teachers who want experience in a school before applying to a graduate program.

RISE Resource Coordinators receive an initial orientation, training, and ongoing professional development opportunities from both the YouthServe Program Director as well as the RISE Program Director. Hosting schools are encouraged to include the RISE Resource Coordinator in school-specific training and professional development.

### **Who is responsible for recruiting and hiring the RISE Resource Coordinator?**

The YouthServe AmeriCorps Program Director recruits and hires AmeriCorps Members into the general YouthServe Program. The RISE Director then interviews and selects Members interested in RISE once they have been accepted to YouthServe. Schools are not responsible for the recruiting and hiring process; however, if a school would like to be involved at any stage of the process the RISE Program Director will try to accommodate that request.

### **What are some examples of RISE programs and services?**

- **Library Services** - RISE has recruited and trained over 20 volunteers to serve in school libraries.
- **Career Fair** – RISE has organized multiple career fairs in partnering schools.
- **Youth Opportunities Fair** – RISE invites youth-serving agencies to come into the school in the Spring to promote their summer program offerings. This event connects students to opportunities for development and learning during the summer months.
- **Owning Up** – Trained facilitators from various youth-serving agencies volunteered to run this anti-bullying program during health classes.
- **One-on-One Tutors** – RISE has recruited and trained many volunteers to serve as one-on-one tutors for students in need of academic support.
- **Guest Readers** – RISE responded to a Language Arts teacher's request to have community leaders visit his classroom and read to his students. Guests included town officials, firefighters, college professors, police officers, parents, business leaders, social workers, and other community members.
- **After-School Programs** – RISE has organized many after school programs. Some examples are: Japanese Language and Culture Club, Rock Band, Cooking, Dance, Girls Group, Diversity Club, Community Service Learning, Yoga, Knitting, Book Club, Fashion Design, Intramural Sports, Art Club, and Science Club.
- **Guest Performances** – RISE has organized several all-school performances. Some examples are: The Pioneer Valley Symphony Orchestra, Clowns Without Borders, GCC Mixed Company, and the Amherst Zumbies.
- **Health and Wellness Initiatives** – RISE has partnered with Baystate Franklin Medical Center and Athol Memorial Hospital to provide a variety of health and wellness programs in schools. Some examples are: CPR/First Aid Class, Walking Club, Visiting Nutritionists, Visiting Paramedics, and Hospital Tours.
- **College Volunteers/Interns** – RISE works with several colleges to place students as assistants in classrooms as well as after-school programs. RISE has welcomed in college volunteers/interns from UMass, Smith College, Amherst College, Mount Holyoke College, Hampshire College, Greenfield Community College, and Bennington College.

### **What does RISE provide?**

- A full-time RISE Resource Coordinator, 35 hours/week for 10 months
- Orientation and ongoing training for the Resource Coordinator related to education, youth development, volunteerism, and school-community partnerships
- Weekly supervision, provided by RISE program staff
- RISE program staff coordinate monthly meetings with school leadership to hear feedback, offer support, and evaluate progress

- RISE's partnership with YouthServe AmeriCorps provides a living stipend and an educational award for the Resource Coordinators
- RISE reimburses Resource Coordinators for travel costs incurred during their service, and provides them with a modest program supply budget

**What is the school required to provide?**

- Clear articulation of needs and goals for RISE in your school
- Supportive leadership from school administrators and staff, to ensure that the RISE Resource Coordinator is considered and treated as an integral part of the school community
- A RISE Program fee (see next section)
- Adequate work space for the Resource Coordinator – including a desk, basic office supplies and access to phone, computer, fax, and copier

**How much is the fee?**

The RISE Program fee for the 2009-2010 school year is \$9,500. This represents approximately 25% of the total cost to operate RISE in the school. The total program cost is about \$38,000, which includes the real value of the Resource Coordinator position, the RISE supervisory costs, and other program expenses.

**For more information about RISE:**

Please visit our website at [www.dialself.org](http://www.dialself.org), and click on the link for RISE on the left hand side of the screen. You can also contact the RISE Program Director, Sarah Singer King, at 413 774 7054 x113 or [rise@dialself.org](mailto:rise@dialself.org).

**APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Please provide all of the information asked for in Parts I, II and III of the application found on the following page.
2. Please answer the narrative questions in order and type all of your responses.
3. Print, sign, and submit one original and two copies of your application to the following address by 5pm on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> 2009.

**The RISE Program  
DIAL/SELF Youth and Community Services  
21 Abbott Street  
Greenfield, Ma 01301**

## **Part I – Applicant Information**

School Name:

Mailing Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Website:

Contact Person:

Title:

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

## **Part II – Understanding**

In submitting this information to the RISE Program at DIAL/SELF Youth and Community Services, we certify that the information is true and correct to the best of our knowledge, and understand that if we are selected to host RISE, we are responsible for:

- Providing an adequate work space, including a desk, basic office supplies, and access to a computer, phone, copier, and fax
- A fee to defray the cost of the Resource Coordinator position (\$9,500)
- A member of the school leadership to attend monthly RISE Advisory Meetings
- A supportive school environment in which to operate the RISE Program

Name and Title:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date:

## **Part III – Narrative**

Please answer the following questions thoroughly and honestly. We will use your responses not only to evaluate your capacity to host the program, but also to help us recruit and hire someone who will be suited to meet the needs of your school.

1. What is the mission statement of your school?
2. What are the strengths of your school?
3. Where have you identified gaps in services and/or the need for enhanced services?
4. What do you hope to achieve by hosting the RISE Program?
5. How would you describe the relationship between your school and the local community?
6. Has your school participated in partnerships with the community in the past? If so, please list a few examples.
7. What is your total annual operating budget?