



TrainingFocus

Training / TA / Disability Inclusion

NOVEMBER 2012

The monthly *TrainingFocus* provides Nebraska National Service leadership with informational tips and resources on topics pertaining to training, professional development, technical assistance and disability inclusion.



TRAINING BRIEF

Assessing – and addressing – National Service participants needs is an essential step in providing effective training. Members are not “blank slates” who come to your program with no previous experiences, nor do they share the same perspectives and needs (e.g., learning styles, motivation levels). Actually, they bring assets and challenges that need to be considered when preparing training. Customize training sessions so that they meet members “where they are.”

TRAINING SPOTLIGHT...

We’re going to challenge the way you think about poverty and homelessness. You work hard. Do the right thing. Homelessness is something that will never happen to you. Sometimes, all it takes is one life-changing experience to land you on the streets: a job loss, death of a loved one, divorce, natural disaster, or serious illness. Next thing you know, a chain of events sends things spiraling out of control...

How would you cope? Where would you go? What would you do? Figure something out, right? **We invite you to take the challenge...Play SPENT**

Training Offering:

Use the **Poverty Simulation, SPENT** with your National Service participants and staff as an individual/group training exercise or substitute for a staff meeting.

Website Simulation:

Poverty Simulation, SPENT – <http://playspent.org>

- Play SPENT and select a job (Temp, Warehouse Worker, and Restaurant Server) and go down their path of what daily living challenges are like based on family/ external circumstances. Accept the challenge to make it through the month based on the economic situation.
- A training outline and instructions with discussion questions and evaluation is included to conduct the training.

Where did SPENT originate:



Urban Ministries of Durham (UMD), North Carolina <http://www.umdurham.org/> is a diverse group of faith communities that care for Durham’s homeless and impoverished neighbors, providing food, shelter, clothing and supportive services for over 6,000 people every year. A Durham-based advertising agency created a poverty simulation, SPENT as a way to engage new donors and volunteers for UMD. However, SPENT has crossed all geographic, economic, and social boundaries. Even educators and employers are using SPENT as an interactive lesson for their students and employees regarding financial literacy and social responsibility. People from all over the world are finding SPENT to be a valuable tool for understanding how difficult and painful it is to live on the edge of losing everything.



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PROFESSIONALISM



Do:

- ✓ Choose to be a professional
- ✓ Hold yourself to the highest standard of performance
- ✓ Make the commitment to grow continually
- ✓ Set yourself apart from the crowd
- ✓ Raise the bar on what you expect from yourself
- ✓ Pursue a lifetime quest for excellence
- ✓ Take pride in yourself and your work

Don't:

- ✓ Settle for mediocrity
- ✓ Look for the easy way
- ✓ Expect it to be easy

(Source: The GOALS Institute)

TA-TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE...

- **Grantee Central:** ServeNebraska has redesigned and expanded the resources available to help you manage your program.
<http://www.serve.nebraska.gov/grantee/grantee.htm>
- **My AmeriCorps:** The Corporation for National & Community Service has developed a wealth of tutorials to assist in using My AmeriCorps for member issues from application to exit.
<http://www.nationalservicerresources.org/myamericorps-support-ameri-corps-state-commission-and-sub-grantees>
- **AmeriCorps Member files:** Please assure that member files are accurate, complete and in the order specified on the ServeNebraska Member File Checklist.
<http://www.serve.nebraska.gov/pdf/ameri-corps/2012-2013/2012-2013%20AmeriCorps%20Member%20File%20Checklist.doc>
- **Position Descriptions:** Assure that member positions descriptions fully describe member duties and do not replace or displace staff functions

FOLLOW UP...

- **Establishing a Professional Presence – AmeriCorps Conference – 10/16/12 – Presenter, Lesa Deeker**
For additional trainings with Best Care EAP – Go to: www.bestcareeap.org, click on What We Do and scroll down to Training.
- **Webinar Archived: Outreach Strategies to Identify and Engage Veterans in Your Programs and Services - aired 9/26/12**
Go to: <http://www.nationalservicerresources.org/videos/outreach-strategies-identify-and-engage-veterans-your-programs-and-services>
- **Webinar Archived: Disability Back 2 Basics – aired 9/18/12**
Go to: <http://www.serviceandinclusion.org/index.php?page=conf>, and click on view past events and read web conference transcripts.

UPCOMING TRAINING EVENTS...

- **(NSIP) National Disability Leadership Institute**
December 10 - 11, 2012, in Arlington, Virginia
To register:
<http://serviceandinclusion.org/institute2012/index.php>
- **SAVE THE DATE! Disability Inclusion Conference**
March 6, 2013 – Thompson Alumni Center – UNO
Hosted by ServeNebraska & Volunteer Iowa