



## Promoting Service and Volunteerism

Early in his term, Governor Wes Moore signed into law the Serving Every Region Through Vocational Exploration Act of 2023 (the SERVE Act) and established the Maryland Department of Service and Civic Innovation. The Department promotes service within Maryland and facilitates two state government-sponsored service opportunities: the Young Adult Service Year Option, which was created by the SERVE Act, and the Maryland Corps Program.

**The Young Adult Service Year Option**, the first of its kind as a state government-sponsored service year option, provides recent high school graduates the opportunity to engage in public service working at least 30 hours per week for a host site partner. **The Maryland Corps Program** offers similar opportunities to participants of all ages, with a particular focus on those from historically marginalized communities looking to pivot in their careers or re-enter the workforce. Participants in both programs will earn at least \$15/hour and be eligible for an additional stipend upon completion of nine months in the program.

### **Why should your business consider becoming a host site partner?**

Businesses and nonprofits of all sizes and in all industries may apply to be a host site partner for either service program. As a host site partner, your company would provide meaningful work, professional development, job training, and mentoring for two to five program participants from September 2024 through July 2025.

Host site partners afford participants the opportunity to develop both hard and soft skills and gain experience during their period of service that will enable them to successfully transition to an institution of higher education, whether in pursuit of a vocational certificate, associate degree, or bachelor's degree, or directly to full-scale employment.

Patrick Sawyer, a Fordham University and University of Pennsylvania graduate (as well as a former Gallagher intern), currently serves as a Partnership Development Associate for the Maryland Department of Service and Civic Innovation and shares more about the program in

the video below.

If your organization is interested in serving as a host site partner, you may review this **fact sheet** and **complete an application**. If you would like to share this opportunity with a potential participant, they may apply through the **Maryland Service application portal**.

You may **email Patrick** if you have any questions as well.

*\*This client alert is for informational purposes and is not legal advice.*



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If you have any questions regarding employment needs, **please contact our employment practice team members.**

Email Steve  
Metzger

Email Sydney Fortmann

Email Brandon Wharton

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Firm**

For more than 60 years, Gallagher Evelius & Jones has served as trusted counsel to businesses including real estate developers, regional and local healthcare systems (nonprofit), religious

entities, universities and colleges, clean energy investors, and more, building longstanding relationships with organizations across the Mid-Atlantic region and beyond. Our attorneys focus on the practice areas important to our clients including litigation, employment, tax, finance, real estate, and general corporate matters.

Gallagher and its more than 100 staff are committed to supporting the community through volunteer and pro bono efforts, and to focusing on diversity, equity, and inclusion across all aspects of the organization.



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