SOURCE Service Scholars Program
FAQs For Students

Who can become a SOURCE Service Scholar (SSS)?
This opportunity is open to any full-time student enrolled in the Johns Hopkins University Schools of Public Health and Nursing during the full academic year (noted in the recruitment materials) who has an interest in long-term service and community-based professional development.

What if I don’t have community contacts in Baltimore?
Not a problem! SOURCE has already identified Scholar projects with a number of its partnering community-based organizations (CBOs) for you to rank in order of preference. SOURCE has a network of nearly 100 partnering CBOs in Baltimore City to which we match scholars. SOURCE uses a thorough application and review process for forming intentional, mutually beneficial partnerships with CBOs.

What if I want to work with a community-based organization (CBO) that isn’t an official SOURCE partner?
All Scholar projects offered are via SOURCE’s partnering CBOs. There are numerous benefits of tapping into SOURCE’s network of partners, particularly due to the system of checks and balances in place as part of SOURCE’s partner review process (including safety, liability, sustainability, reciprocity, and more). Projects have already been identified and Schools rank their interest in up to 5 projects.

Can I continue as a Scholar after the academic year ends?
The SOURCE Service Scholar Program duration is one full academic year. The Scholar is welcome to identify work beyond the Scholar year with their CBO contact, but the formal SSS partnership on a particular project comes to a close at the end of the academic year. The project is intended to be sustainable and completed within the academic year, thus if the Scholar chooses to work with the organization beyond the academic year, it should not reflect the same duties as with the initial project.

What is the role of the SOURCE staff advisor?
Each Scholar will be assigned an advisor from the SOURCE staff. The advisor will track Scholar progress, review and give feedback on SSS assignments, and provide guidance related to any challenges experienced within the project.
When will I be assigned a SOURCE staff advisor? How often will I have to meet with my advisor?  
You will be assigned a SOURCE staff advisor after you have completed the first Summer Assignment. Scholars are required to meet with their advisor at four mutually convenient times (on a quarterly basis) over the course of the academic year. Additional meetings can be set up as needed.

What is the SOURCE Service Academy?  
Through a series of seminars and trainings, the SOURCE Service Academy will train Scholars in service project management including: successful recruitment, retention and management of volunteers, project sustainability, principles of academic-community partnership, service-learning pedagogy and leadership for social change. The Academy is also a means to reflect on and discuss projects with fellow Scholars. Scholars will also be required to complete a variety of assignments and readings as part of the service academy.

Do I have to attend all SOURCE Service Academy Sessions?  
Yes. Academy Sessions are part of the commitment of the Scholar Program. Session dates are communicated clearly in advance to avoid conflicts.

What is the time commitment for this program?  
In addition to the Academy Sessions, the Service hour commitment is 150 hours of service to the identified CBO over the course of the academic year. On a weekly basis during your Scholar year, expect to log an average of four hours per week. Scholars are expected to track their hours regularly via the SOURCE Community Involvement Reporting Form.

How will becoming a SSS benefit me?  
Along with the $1,500 stipend you will be awarded, Scholars will benefit from a comprehensive learning experience through the SOURCE Service Scholars program. Scholars will gain practical experience in service-learning theory and practice, project management, volunteer recruitment and management, and program assessment and evaluation. Through structured support, Scholars will also gain valuable professional development experience through the SOURCE Service Academy and mentorship with SOURCE advisors. The reflection sessions and meetings with SOURCE advisors also provide a meaningful opportunity for Scholars to connect their work with CBOs to their future careers. The goal of the program is for Scholars to benefit from working with the community and gain practical, community-based experience in their discipline. Note: The SOURCE Service Scholar program qualifies as a strong practicum experience for JHSPH students who require a practicum experience for the completion of their program.
How and when will the $1,500 stipend be distributed?
Scholars will receive the stipend in two installments: December and May. *In order to receive the stipend on time, Scholars must confirm through assignments and updates about work progress that they are fulfilling their Scholar commitments.* Scholars will receive stipends either by check or in EFT (if they are already in payroll and signed up for automatic deposit). Additional paperwork may be requested by SOURCE staff in order to distribute the stipend.

**SCHOOL OF NURSING STUDENTS**
Are the Community Outreach Program (COP) at School of Nursing and the SSS programs the same program or are they separate?
The Community Outreach Program (COP) at the School of Nursing and SSS are 2 entirely different programs. They are both year-long experiences to work with Baltimore non-profits, connected to SOURCE. COP is coordinated between the JHSON and SOURCE. SSS is a SOURCE-run program. Both programs are non-clinical in nature, and offer funding for students. COP is a program only for MSN Entry nursing students. All COP positions involve some sort of direct interaction with clients at the sites (lots of health education and direct service provision). SSS is an interdisciplinary program, including students from Public Health and Nursing. There are fewer spots available for SSS, as we form a small cohort of students that are trained through our SOURCE Service Academy sessions (a few online summer sessions and quarterly in-person dinners in Fall and Spring). Students in the SSS program take on some leadership roles, as their community involvement is focused around a defined project requested by the non-profits. The SSS students help to develop their projects, as well as recruit other students to support the community initiatives. Students in SSS meet on a quarterly basis as a cohort as opposed to monthly for COP, and build a community among the SSS group. Students are paid a $1,500 stipend. They are also assigned a SOURCE advisor, to meet with them regularly and guide them through their projects.

**SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH STUDENTS IN THE MPH PROGRAM**
Can my SSS project fulfill my MPH Practicum requirement?
Yes! Most of the MPH students who have participated in the SSS program have counted their SSS as their practicum. SOURCE is a part of the MPH Practicum Team, and is able to guide students in successfully completing their SSS project for the MPH practicum requirement. Students will register for SOURCE Practicum Special Studies credits.