

AmeriCorps as Workforce Development

June 5, 2024



Serve Kentucky – Who we are

- The state service commission was established in 1994, by the National and Community Trust Act of 1993.
- Serve as the conduit for federal funds that support programming.
- The work of the Commission is carried out by staff in grant, programming, and financial fields.
- We have up to 25 Governor appointed commissioners who volunteer their time to help us further the mission.
- We receive some funding from the General Assembly, but the largest source of funding is, AmeriCorps.

Serve Kentucky – What we do

We have two annual grant funding competitions

- The competitive process, is one in which the federal agency determines what grants to fund.
 - Typically occurs from October to January.
- The formula process is one in which Serve Kentucky is given a designated amount to distribute through a state grant competition.
 - Typically occurs from February to May.
- Funds are distributed through the state system via invoicing.
- The commission is also tasked with oversight and monitoring of all funds and programming.

Serve Kentucky – By the numbers 2023

- 22 programs
 - 2 Public Health AmeriCorps
 - 7 competitive
 - 10 formula
 - 3 planning grants
- 1,090 member slots
- \$14 million in federal funds
- \$5.8 million in matching funds
- \$4.6 million in education awards

\$24.7 million
impact for
Kentucky

Member Benefits

- Living allowance
- Health Insurance for full time
- Childcare Assistance *
- Education Award
- Loan Forbearance
- Loan Interest Payments **
- Job Skills & Professional Development



During 2022-23
AmeriCorps Members
Served More Than
738,909
Hours



AmeriCorps Members
Recruited and Managed
4,213
Volunteers Who Served
155,955 Hours.
Valued at **\$4.2 Million**

665

AmeriCorps Members
Completed Service and
Earned **\$2.67 Million**
in Education Awards



\$5.5 Million
In Scholarship Offers
Awarded to
Mentored Students

1,572

Veterans or Active
Duty Military and **1,294**
Family Members Served



2,252
Students
Received
Drug
Prevention
Education



8,248
Students
Improved
Academic
Performance
in Literacy
and/or Math



1,182
Students
With Improved
Academic
Engagement
and/or Increased
Attendance



625
Students
Enrolled in
Post-Secondary
Education
and/or Training



2,269
Economically
Disadvantaged
Individuals and/or
Families Received
Housing Services



465
Individuals
Transitioned Into
Safe, Healthy, and
Affordable Housing



74,078
Children and
Youth Served



122,160
Pounds of Food Collected,
Sorted, and Distributed

2,554
Individuals Reporting
Increased Food Security

1,085
Seniors Received Food,
Transportation, and Other
Services for Independent Living

562
Transition age Foster
Youth connected to resources

501
Acres of parks or public land
improved and 24 miles of
trails or rivers improved.

12,222
Individuals Affected By
Disaster Received
Assistance and Support

7,992
Individuals
Received Disaster
Preparedness Services

Serve Kentucky – Program focus

In 2024 there will be 22 operational programs and 6 planning grants.

- 12 Education
 - 2 are professional corps
- 3 Environmental
- 3 Economic opportunity
- 2 Healthy futures
- 2 Public Health Corps
- 6 Planning grants – Time to explore what an AmeriCorps program could be.

AmeriCorps Programs – What they do

- Education - Reading or math tutoring, mentoring, college access, after school programming.
 - 2 professional corps – training teachers
- Environmental - education, disaster mitigation and urban renewal.
- Economic Opportunity - Housing services - for insecurely housed or unhoused folks, repairs, improvement and builds.
- Healthy Futures - Senior support, food security and addiction recovery.
- Public Health - Senior living, hospitals, health department (WIC, Hands, Harm Reduction).
- Planning grants - possible focus, veterans, education, healthy futures, economic opportunity.

Serve Kentucky AmeriCorps Programs

Connection Corps

CAP AmeriCorps

Environmental Leadership Corps

Global Game Changers

FRYSC Corps

Homes For All

I Would Rather Be Reading

Kentucky College Coaches

Kentucky Public Health AmeriCorps

Kentucky Health Corps

MSU Recovery Corps

Partner Corps PRI

Peer Forward

Reach

Reading and Math Corps

Senior Connections

Southeast Conservation Corps

Teach for America – Appalachia

Teach Kentucky

Urban Conservation Corps

UNITE

AmeriCorps Programs – Workforce by nature

- A 2008 study confirms AmeriCorps is workforce.
- 46% go on to public service jobs (33% comparison group).
- 37% now work in the government sector (27% comparison group).
- 24 % work in non-profits (23% comparison group).
- 47% of members indicated AmeriCorps gave them job connections.
- 79% report that their AmeriCorps gave them exposure to new career options.
- 70 % indicated that the education award was a factor in serving, so they could complete their education, thus improving job prospects.

AmeriCorps Programs – Workforce by design

- Public Health Corps – is offering Community Health Worker credentials during service.
- Family Scholar Houses Corps - offers structured apprenticeships for CNA's and members train in positions as Direct Support Professionals and Dietary support.
- The Professional Teacher Corps – Members complete a Master of Education and or agree to serve as a teacher for two years.
- Environmental Education Corps – offers an accredited certification by the National Association for Environmental Education.
- Southeast Conservation Corps – offers pre-apprenticeship training and certifications in resource stewardship, (fire management, chainsaw training, etc.). disaster mitigation and response.

Kentucky AmeriCorps Outcomes

- Beneficiary outcomes provide the greatest impact of AmeriCorps in Kentucky, this is our primary effort.
- We track the amount of money that comes to Kentucky through AmeriCorps funding and education awards.
- We feel that a secondary impact could be workforce outcomes.
- We want to explore opportunities for additional funding of programs that include credentialing, certifications, pre- apprenticeships or apprenticeships, etc.
- Can workforce funds be used a match on a federal AmeriCorps grant?

AmeriCorps Workforce – What we can do better

- Tracking the service outcomes of members.
 - What they go on to do after service
 - How many report getting jobs in their field or in a new field.
- Help identify ways our programs can offer pre- apprenticeships, apprenticeships or other certifications.
 - What types are possible.
 - What are the requirements?
 - Make the right connections to explore or implement.

Hurdles we encountered

- Staff capacity to research.
- Lack of understanding about credentialing or resources.
- Buy-in from the programs.
- Difficulty determining how to meet all apprenticeship requirements.

Questions or Suggestions

Open to questions about who we are and what we do?

Please offer suggestions for improving our workforce efforts, by speaking out, in the chat or via email.

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