



OVERVIEW

Several State Service Commissions across the country have formed in-state disaster corps to support their communities immediately after a disaster. These corps models call on local national service programs to serve.

These state-based disaster corps provide:

- **Rapid Response:** Ready-to-deploy teams are assembled from National Service members and programs already in the state that can provide more expedient support to communities affected by disaster that are available with and without a Federal Declaration of Disaster
- **Knowledge and Skills:** Background checked and disaster trained members to support are prepared to provide a variety of disaster response and support functions
- **Partnership:** State emergency management agencies and Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) provide training and are supported by these corps during disaster response and recovery

On the following pages are three examples of models that are currently in use. These descriptions give an overview of the model, partnerships, functions, resources, and other information.

Commission Call
Up of National
Service Members

Commission Call
Up of AmeriCorps
State Program

Commission Call
Up of AmeriCorps
Disaster Response
Team

Commission Call Up of National Service Members – Serve West Virginia Disaster Corps

Design: Volunteer West Virginia solicits applications from up to 70 AmeriCorps State, AmeriCorps VISTA, and RSVP members via their program staff. During disaster response members can be activated via the Red Cross Volunteer System (members are registered as Red Cross volunteers) or via WV VOAD activation (VOAD calls the Commission). Members are then selected based on location and availability to support sheltering, damage assessment, case management intake and muck outs and debris removal. In addition, volunteer reception centers and emergency operations center training are planned for 2015-16.

Disaster Corps Functions

- American Red Cross operations (sheltering, feeding, bulk distribution)
- Local Area Experts for Damage Assessment
- Data Management
- Muck-Outs/Debris Removal
- VRCs
- Call Center Support

Partners

- CNCS State Office
- West Virginia VOAD
- American Red Cross
- American Baptist Men
- WV Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management(WVDHSEM)



Serve West Virginia Disaster Agreement Language

- Disaster Corps Program Agreement
- West Virginia Disaster Corps Fact Sheet

Funding

- State aid from West Virginia Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (WVDHSEM) used for short deployments of members and Commission staff. Matches CNCS Administrative Grant
- Partner agreements allow for members to be deployed through partner agency's normal deployment methods
- West Virginia Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) funds one Commission staff position and provides some funding for volunteer training and supplies

Training: Training is provided once a year and is supported by WVDHSEM, VOAD and ARC partners

Notes

- AmeriCorps VISTAs are only utilized when disaster affects their immediate service area
- All members are restricted no more than five days of disaster deployment off site within their service area and no more than three days off-site outside of their service area

Commission Call Up of AmeriCorps State Program – Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (ICVS)

Design: The commission requires all AmeriCorps State programs to provide disaster training and, per their grantee agreement, understand that they may be requested to respond to disaster events. When a disaster occurs, ICVS support is requested by Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management. The Commission then assesses which programs are available for response and requests that the program(s) deploy.

Disaster Corps Functions: Volunteer Management for unaffiliated volunteers (VRC)

Partners

- Governor’s office
- Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management
- Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council (IDHRC) – state VOAD
- Community partners

ICVS Disaster Agreement Language

- **Program (sub-grantee) Disaster Policy:** Each program’s policy outlines basic requirements and polices governing what members are allowed to do if needed for deployment within the state, including the number of hours they are able to serve in this capacity.
- **Disaster Deployment Agreement**



Funding

- Federal funding: Cooperative Agreement with CNCS (commission reimbursed through CNCS), Public Assistance Declaration, direct aid from FEMA, Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) to bring other commission staff to Iowa
- State Aid: Initially deploy under this method, then it often becomes a declared disaster. Used for short term deployments primarily with state funded programs or local government programs in their service area. These funds are not always reimbursed and sources of funding vary
- Have found the CNCS Cooperative Agreement as key to introducing the commission as a resource in disaster response. This has set the foundation for national service resources being utilized in more creative ways

Training: Each AmeriCorps program is required to provide disaster related training for their members during the program year (i.e., first aid training, VRC training, etc.)

Notes

- Programs available for short periods in areas affected within their service areas
- Information is sent to programs identifying opportunity for AmeriCorps members to volunteer on their own time

Commission Call Up of AmeriCorps Disaster Response Team – OneStar Foundation

Design: OneStar Foundation is included in the Texas Emergency Operations Plan under the Volunteer and Donations Management Annex. In the event of disaster, a local government or the Assistant Deputy Director of the Texas Division of Emergency Management will request Assistance from OneStar Foundation. OneStar then calls up the Texas Conservation Corps and (if needed) other National Service resources for deployment. The Texas Conservation Corps is a national AmeriCorps Disaster Response Team member program and has 40 members trained in disaster response and recovery operations.

Disaster Corps Functions:

- VRC set up/administration and volunteer administration
- Field work leadership
- Mucking/gutting
- Debris removal
- Chainsaw operations
- Damage assessments

Partners

- Texas Division of Emergency Management
- Texas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster
- Federal Emergency Management Agency Region VI
- Corporation for National and Community Service Texas State Office



OneStar Disaster Agreement Language

- OneStar Application Instructions/Award Terms & Conditions
- Texas AmeriCorps Member Position Descriptions - Disaster

Funding

- Texas Conservation Corps is funded as a Fixed Amount Grantee at a cost/MSY of \$13,000 for 30 members for a total grant award of \$390,000
- OneStar has provided some supplies through Commission Support Grant dollars set aside for Volunteer Reception Centers supplies that are available to any group managing the VRCs

Training

Texas Conservation Corps requires their disaster response members be trained in:

- National Incident Management System 700/800
- Incident Command System
- Volunteer Reception Center

Notes

- Texas Conservation Corps is a national AmeriCorps Disaster Response Team (A-DRT) and is frequently deployed to national level disaster responses through the A-DRT program managed by the DSU