



NATIONAL SERVICE

Taking Action to Combat the **Opioid Crisis**

OUR INVESTMENT SINCE FY 2017

 **210**

projects serving in all 50 states & D.C.

 **2,800**

AmeriCorps members & Senior Corps volunteers focused on substance abuse prevention, reduction, and recovery

 **\$27.9**

million in opioid-related AmeriCorps & Senior Corps grants and project funding

 **680**

Senior Corps volunteers participated in episodic activities such as prescription drug take back events and distributing drug prevention information

“Together, we will face this challenge as a national family with conviction, with unity, and with a commitment to love and support our neighbors in times of dire need.”

- President Donald J. Trump

Our nation is in the midst of an unprecedented opioid epidemic. More than 72,000 Americans died from drug overdoses in 2017, including illicit drugs and prescription opioids—a two-fold increase in a decade. This growing crisis is causing devastating effects on families, workplaces, the health care system, and communities.

Recognizing the severity of the opioid epidemic, the **Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)** has significantly increased its support of substance abuse prevention, education, and recovery programming as part of the Trump Administration’s efforts to combat the substance abuse and opioid crisis.

CNCS: Taking Action to Prevent and Reduce Opioid Abuse

CNCS, the federal agency for national service and volunteering, engages 300,000 AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers in results-driven service annually at 50,000 locations across the country, including nonprofits, schools, faith-based groups, and local agencies. For decades, CNCS has supported positive youth development through mentoring, tutoring, after-school, and summer programs that help youth stay in school, graduate ready for college or career, and refrain from risky behaviors including substance abuse.

Building on this track record, CNCS has prioritized substance abuse prevention and reduction in its AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps VISTA, and Senior Corps programs. Working with Governor-appointed State Service Commissions and national and local organizations, CNCS has substantially increased its investments in opioid and substance abuse projects in FY 2017 and FY 2018. The figures to the left represent new or expanded investments to combat the substance abuse and opioid crisis.

Using National Service to Prevent and Reduce Substance Abuse

Nonprofit groups, faith-based and community organizations, hospitals and health clinics, and state and local agencies across the country are using AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers to provide drug abuse education, serve as recovery coaches, build capacity for anti-drug organizations, provide screening and assessments, establish state and local coalitions, prevent relapse and recidivism, and more. National service is a flexible, cost-effective strategy to address local community needs. Organizations working to combat the opioid crisis are using AmeriCorps and Senior Corps resources through a variety of program models to expand the reach and impact of substance education, prevention, and recovery efforts. Here are some examples:

Serving with Police Departments to Prevent Overdoses and Relapse

Last year, 22 AmeriCorps members served in 53 police departments across Massachusetts through the Police Assisted Addiction & Recovery Initiative (PAARI) AmeriCorps program, helping more than 3,800 people with substance use disorders access treatment and recovery services. In Avondale, Az., an AmeriCorps VISTA member worked with the chief of police to research local opioid overdose cases to develop procedures and training for overdose response for law enforcement officers and volunteers

Providing Drug Abuse Prevention and Education

In Kentucky, Operation UNITE's 54 AmeriCorps members provided drug abuse education to more than 3,300 students last year, resulting in a 51% average increase in drug education and healthy decision-making knowledge. In Tennessee, Senior Corps RSVP volunteers serving with the Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition deliver drug education to military veterans, organize training for medical professionals on proper prescribing practices, and participate in drug take back days.

Building the Capacity of Drug Treatment and Recovery Organizations

In Pennsylvania, two AmeriCorps VISTA members serving at the Wright Center's Opioid Use Disorder Center of Excellence helped secure a \$1.1 million grant to support ten primary care practices in implementing an evidence-based Medication-Assisted Treatment program, which combines medication with counseling and behavioral therapies to treat substance use disorders.

Supporting Safe Disposal of Prescription Drugs

CNCS has partnered with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration to support National Prescription Drug Take Back Day to help Americans safely dispose of unwanted prescription medications. In October 2018, 52 Senior Corps projects in 25 states participated in drug take back events. Last year, 17 Senior Corps projects helped distribute 100,000 medication disposal bags to all 56 counties in Montana.

Serving as Recovery Coaches to Help Individuals Overcome Addiction

In Wisconsin, the Marshfield Clinic Health System engages AmeriCorps members to serve as trained Recovery Coaches to provide services and support individuals overcoming addiction to remain drug-free. The Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital in New Hampshire engages AmeriCorps members to help individuals in recovery resolve non-clinical barriers to care such as housing, literacy, and transportation.

Providing Substance Abuse Screening and Assessments

University of Nebraska AmeriCorps members use the evidence-based Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) method to identify, reduce, and prevent dependence on drugs. Mercy Health in Ohio places AmeriCorps members in emergency departments across the state to provide education, treatment placement, and emotional support to patients with substance abuse disorders.