

National Service Impact in Alabama

AmeriCorps

The Butler County Board of Education AmeriCorps Instructional Support Team provides support to 600 pre-k through 8th grade students in Butler. The 26 full-time AmeriCorps members leverage an additional 75 community volunteers and provide instructional assistance in five schools. The program outcomes focus on school readiness for pre-k students and academic performance for K-8 grade students and use standardized assessments for benchmarking progress. Since 1997, ten AmeriCorps Instructional Support Team members have been selected as Alabama Super AmeriCorps Heroes. To date, 330 members have made positive impressions on the community. Other team members (60 in total) have been employed by the school board as teachers, para-professionals, and administrative support staff. AmeriCorps Instructional Support Team alumni include county first responders, bankers, judges, and accountants. The AmeriCorps Instructional Support Team is improving success in school and preventing dropouts.

AmeriCorps NCCC

AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) team Delta 9 worked to support the operations of Habitat for Humanity of Tuscaloosa. The team led groups of volunteers through various construction tasks including roofing, landscaping, painting, siding, insulation, flooring, and building handrails. The team supported the construction of four new homes and led over 400 volunteers. The team received training in areas related to home construction. Team Delta 9 also learned new leadership, communication, and team building skills while on this project.

AmeriCorps VISTA

Ten AmeriCorps VISTA members serving with the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission in Mobile have successfully connected 5,494 elderly and disabled adults with public and private benefits. The VISTAs provided free confidential Benefits Checkup and application assistance. In total, the VISTAs found more than six million dollars for their clients, helping to provide their clients with economic security.

Senior Corps

RSVP Volunteers in Guntersville collected water quality data and created an overall watershed approach to create baseline data for the Lake Guntersville watershed. Twenty-seven RSVP volunteer stream teams spent 450 hours annually chemically and bacteriologically monitoring 45 stream sites for various water quality indicators. Five RSVP teams spent 60 hours annually monitoring algae levels. Two RSVP volunteers serve as volunteer trainers and recertification experts, four RSVP volunteers serve as stream captains coordinating five teams, and one RSVP volunteer serves as a data management captain responsible for input, graph, and map data. As a result of this work, RSVP monitors collected valuable water quality information which showed that a segment of Lake Guntersville had improved enough to be removed and put in the fishable/swimmable category.

Social Innovation Fund

Southwest Alabama Workforce Development Council (SAWDC) supports four workforce partnerships in an eight-county region of southwest Alabama. Working with local businesses, they identified the maritime, aerospace, healthcare, and process manufacturing industries as growth opportunities and provide skills training and other services to help individuals obtain jobs in these fields. They were awarded \$300,000 over two years through the Social Innovation Fund (SIF) intermediary, Jobs for the Future. It is expected that by the end of year two, SAWDC will have served over 600 individuals (400 job seekers and 200 incumbent workers) and enrolled 470 in education and training. They estimate that half (or 200) of the job seekers will obtain jobs. At least half (or 100) of the incumbent workers served will receive wage increases and 25% will receive promotions. Of the total 600 individuals served, 100 are expected to receive industry and/or education credentials as a result of these efforts.

Volunteer Generation Fund

For the third year of the of the Volunteer Generation Fund grant, Serve Alabama focused specifically on disaster services and Alabama colleges. The Volunteer Generation Funds will be used to establish volunteer connector organizations in underserved areas that place an emphasis on training and coordinating unaffiliated volunteers in the aftermath of disasters. The volunteers will primarily be made up of college faculty, staff, student and community volunteers. Serve Alabama awarded the Volunteer Generation Fund grants to Troy University and Jacksonville State University to provide education and training to students, faculty, staff and community volunteers to provide disaster response in underserved areas. The volunteers will receive instruction on CERT and Volunteer Management and Coordination. Funding will provide disaster response and relief training and education to both the campus and the surrounding communities of these institutions, and in doing so, provide a more prepared and knowledgeable group of Alabama citizens ready to serve their communities in the wake of disaster.