

# National Service Impact in California

## AmeriCorps

Nationwide, Reading Partners provides literacy intervention programs at over 100 under-resourced elementary schools. At each school site, Reading Partners recruits 40-100 community volunteers, who tutor students one-on-one who have fallen behind in reading. Uniquely, members leverage community resources as they recruit, train, manage, and coach volunteers to provide literacy tutoring, reaching three times the number of students. For every month in the program, students gain an average of 1.7 months of reading skills. Since 2010, Reading Partners CA has utilized California Volunteers' AmeriCorps grants to mobilize 192 members in the Bay Area, Sacramento, and Los Angeles. Members have served over 6,356 students reading below grade level, where 2,164 increased 1 grade level or more. Of the 7,503 volunteers recruited as tutors, 91% completed their tutoring commitment.

## AmeriCorps NCCC

TreePeople in Beverly Hills, Calif. is an independent environmental organization that trains and supports communities to plant and care for trees, educates schoolchildren and adults about environmental issues, demonstrates sustainable solutions to urban ecosystem problems, works with government agencies on critical water issues, and operates a public park. While serving with TreePeople, an AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) team helped restore 6.5 acres of land, coordinated 173 volunteers in planting 248 trees, tended to 305 trees by removing invasive vegetation near the tree cages, and removed 1,875 pounds of exotic vegetation from the park in order to create a better environment for trees and plants to grow. The team also made over 500 cages for different planting sites.

## AmeriCorps VISTA

United Way of the Bay Area (UWBA) SparkPoint Initiative helps San Francisco Bay Area families reach financial stability by connecting them to key services such as job training, financial coaching, access to higher education, and savings accounts in one convenient location. AmeriCorps VISTAs increased volunteer generation and partnerships, helping UWBA exceed their goals with 71 percent of clients advancing toward financial stability (a 5 percent or better positive change in income, credit, debt and/or savings). VISTAs with the UWBA Earn It! Keep It! Save It! (EKS) coalition helped increase the capacity of EKS sites to provide clients with high quality no-cost tax preparation. VISTAs developed robust volunteer programs and strengthened program management. EKS also surpassed its goals preparing 68,085 tax returns resulting in over \$74.1 million returned to clients with \$24.8 million from Earned Income Tax Credit.

## Senior Corps

The Jumpstart Foster Grandparent Program in Los Angeles uses Foster Grandparents to implement a research-based language and literacy curriculum with economically disadvantaged preschool children to improve their school readiness. Between September, 2012 and September 2013, 80 Foster Grandparents mentored 182 preschool children. Of the 165 children who fully participated in the program (at least 120 days) 96 percent demonstrated gains in language and literacy skills and 58 percent demonstrated gains of one developmental level or more. Additionally, 91 percent of Foster Grandparents indicated that their service experience has enabled them to build leadership skills and 100 percent reported feeling proud of their service. This is Jumpstart's first year as a Foster Grandparent grantee and the feedback from volunteers, teachers, and the education improvement results all point towards high satisfaction and a positive impact on the community.

## Social Innovation Fund

REDF in San Francisco creates job opportunities for thousands of Californians with multiple barriers to employment – including dislocated youth, individuals who have been homeless or incarcerated, and those with severe mental illness – in sustainable nonprofit social enterprises in low-income communities throughout the state. An intermediary grantee of the Social Innovation Fund, they receive an average of \$1.5 million annually, match their federal funds dollar-for-dollar, and make subgrants to nine nonprofit social enterprises across the state. Employees receive training and support, earn wages, pay taxes, and often reduce their reliance on costly public programs. The nonprofit operator earns income selling goods and services like landscaping, apparel screen printing, electronic waste recycling, and fresh-cut, local organic produce. Through the Social Innovation Fund grants, REDF will employ at least 2,500 people with multiple barriers to employment in nonprofit social enterprises, a figure that will expand to 8,000 by 2020 as enterprises achieve sustainability.