

National Service Impact in Colorado

AmeriCorps

Colorado Reading Corps (CRC) is a program of Denver's Mile High United Way's School Readiness Initiative. It aims to increase the human capacity of elementary schools and give K-third grade students access to additional reading support through one-on-one research-based tutoring interventions. In its first year, CRC enrolled 20 AmeriCorps members to serve 472 students in 12 Jefferson County schools, and has now expanded to 50 members serving in 26 schools across three school districts (Jefferson, Adams 12, and Aurora). As a result of the program, 82 percent of K-3rd grade students who graduated the program were reading at or exceeding their grade level expectations, despite being at risk of failure before starting the program, and 77 percent of the 3rd graders who graduated from CRC scored proficiently on the 2013 Transitional Colorado Achievement Program (TCAP), Colorado's statewide reading assessment.

AmeriCorps NCCC

The Center Consolidated School district seeks to develop independent, self-directed, self-motivated, experiential learners armed with the skills necessary to meet future challenges. The Center Community is one of low socioeconomic status with 91 percent of students on free and reduced lunch. AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) teams worked directly with students in classrooms and afterschool programming. The impact of AmeriCorps NCCC and AmeriCorps VISTA has led to positive results: the 3rd grade literacy rate increased 78 percent proficiency in reading; the drop-out rate has been reduced by 50 percent; and an after-school art club and bully prevention program has been developed.

AmeriCorps VISTA

Over the past year, AmeriCorps VISTA members serving with the United Way of Weld County recruited 172 volunteers who completed 14,654 hours of volunteer service. VISTA members raised \$323,243 in cash resources and \$50,683 of in-kind donations, which included developing 54 fundraising events and submitting 64 grant applications. VISTA members developed 55 new programs, including classes, activities, and educational and awareness programs. Additionally, VISTA members created 226 marketing materials and formed more than 300 collaborative relationships between their agencies and community organizations.

Senior Corps

St. Mary's Foster Grandparent program in Grand Junction utilizes Foster Grandparents to improve reading scores for teacher identified students. During the fall of 2012 and the spring of 2013, 30 Foster Grandparents worked with 1,191 students throughout the school district. Students are paired with a Foster Grandparent volunteer to improve their literacy skills. During this period, students in grades Kindergarten through 1st grade showed a 2 percent higher rate of early literacy growth compared to students not paired with a Foster Grandparent. Students in grades 1st through 5th who were paired with a Foster Grandparent showed a 3 percent higher reading growth than their peers.

Social Innovation Fund

With their Social Innovation Fund grant of \$1.8 million per year and their dollar-for-dollar matching funds, Mile High United Way (MHUW) supports 10 subgrantee programs across the state of Colorado that leverage community volunteers to collectively address 3rd grade literacy rates in rural and urban areas. MHUW coordinates early childhood education programs and service providers around a shared vision of early literacy proficiency and standardized sets of outcomes, mobilizes volunteers in organizations using evidence-based programs to improve early literacy proficiency rates, and aims to demonstrate increases in third grade reading proficiency levels with strong of evidence.