

National Service Impact in Missouri

AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps members serving with the Missouri College Advising Corps (MCAC) provide college and financial aid counseling to first-generation-college, low-income, and minority students in schools across Missouri. AmeriCorps has enabled MCAC to expand from seven high schools to 26, with advising now available to 26,000 high school students statewide. Of this total, nearly 10,000 students are served by AmeriCorps members. Advisees increasingly apply to and are admitted to a greater number of postsecondary institutions, with 2011 graduates applying to 385 institutions and being admitted to 218. Advisees are also applying to and are being admitted to increasingly highly selective institutions. Across the program, 4,039 advisees have gone directly from high school to college. The college-going rate in the 10 AmeriCorps-served schools increased by an average of 10.05 percentage points, as compared to a 3-year average baseline, with 850 graduates in 2012 going immediately to college.

AmeriCorps NCCC

The Waynesville R-VI School District in Missouri has a high transient population, widespread poverty, and a rural location. Sixty-six percent of students receive free or reduced lunches. Waynesville schools offered a five-week Adventure Leadership Camp for 213 youth, led by an AmeriCorps NCCC team. Members provided students with an opportunity to experience leadership through practice, hands on adventure activities, and service projects.

AmeriCorps VISTA

College Bound in St. Louis engaged 13 trained AmeriCorps VISTA members to provide students from under-resourced backgrounds with the skills needed to enter and succeed in four-year colleges and careers. College Bound's VISTAs recruited 507 volunteers in 2012. Through their service, VISTAs built capacity in all areas of College Bound programming and operations. VISTA members contributed to the following outcomes: 98.7 percent of participating seniors graduated high school, 92.4 percent of seniors successfully matriculated into a post-secondary institution, 76.8 percent of college students successfully re-enrolled for another year of college, and 92.5 percent of collegians enrolled in college and graduated in 2012.

Senior Corps

Forty RSVP volunteers from Douglass Community Services in Hannibal donated more than 1,000 hours toward hunger relief in the first half of 2012. A recent survey of clients of the Douglass Community Services food distribution services found that the efforts of food pantry services and RSVP volunteers have made a positive impact in the battle to beat hunger. Seventy percent of the respondents indicated that they did not have to skip meals or reduce portions, 65% indicated that they never run out of food because of the assistance, and an overwhelming 98% of survey respondents reported eating healthier because of the food assistance.

Social Innovation Fund

With their average annual Social Innovation Fund Grant of \$1 million and dollar-for-dollar nonfederal matching funds, the Missouri Foundation for Health is investing in seven nonprofit subgrantees to reduce risk factors and the prevalence of two preventable causes of chronic disease and death in Missouri: tobacco use and obesity. The potential short-term impacts of the project on individuals and communities include increase in access to services for community residents, increases in local health policy changes in targeted communities, increases in understanding of health effects and preventive activities, and expansion of Community Health Improvement into subgrantee communities. Longer-term impacts include decreases in smoking rates and exposure to indoor tobacco smoke, increases in physical activity, higher rates of consumption of five fruits and vegetables per day, and decreases in rates of diabetes, asthma, high blood pressure, and reports of fair or poor health status.