

National Service Impact in West Virginia

AmeriCorps

Appalachian Forest Heritage Area (AFHA) AmeriCorps is one of West Virginia's strongest programs, consistently recruiting strong members from across the country, exceeding performance measures, and maintaining high enrollment and retention levels. AFHA's 20 AmeriCorps members assist community organizations and agencies in conservation, heritage development, and historic preservation efforts by improving trails and habitats, developing heritage events and interpretation, and rehabilitating historic community buildings. Efforts of the AmeriCorps members have led to the redevelopment of the Beverly Heritage Center, where they created visitor programs, helped open a new artists' cooperative, and organized rotating exhibits. The U.S. Forest Service has indicated that members have provided over 9,100 service hours in the Monongahela National Forest, with a direct value of \$197,925 and an estimated \$100,000 in indirect value.

AmeriCorps NCCC

An AmeriCorps NCCC team served in communities throughout West Virginia, with the Appalachian Coal Country Team (ACCT). Some highlights from this project include laying 120 feet of utility lines, installing ten water pumps at a picnic area, installing insulation and drywall, clearing five miles of trail. Improvements made by the team directly benefit the residents of five communities and will boost tourism. Team members received training from professionals in important areas of construction.

AmeriCorps VISTA

West Virginia Adjutant General James Hoyer has emphasized the role of the National Guard Family Programs Unit for the families of deployed service members. Two AmeriCorps VISTA members with the Volunteer WV Veterans VISTA project serve at National Guard stations with the Partners In Care program to develop community partnerships with that assist veterans and military families in their geographic area. 197 Partners in Care have been established. The AmeriCorps VISTA members plan and coordinate events that raise awareness of the needs of veterans and military families. This includes Operation Remembrance where donations of food and toiletries and games from the general public and state agencies were obtained for a mailing of 500 boxes to active military. 170 AmeriCorps members and RSVP volunteers took part in this activity.

Senior Corps

To address the needs of children in Brooke and Hancock Counties impacted by poverty issues, 92 Senior Corps volunteers with Brooke County RSVP operate a cost-free afterschool program five days per week while school is in session. The volunteers serve free hot meals, provide homework assistance and educational programming to children ages six to thirteen and have logged 2,945 hours assisting and mentoring 109 students in Brooke and Marshall Counties. 85 percent of students tracked remained the same or showed improvement in grades in at least two subjects, and 91 percent of enrolled students showed an increase in positive socialization.

Social Innovation Fund

The Children's Aid Society-Carrera Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program (CAS-Carrera), a program of the Children's Aid Society, is an evidence-based pregnancy prevention model that helps young people avoid becoming parents during the second decade of their lives. They were selected to receive an initial Social Innovation Fund (SIF) subgrant award of \$1.5 million through intermediary The Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, which they will match dollar-for-dollar with nonfederal funds. Martinsburg and Parkersburg, WV are two of 12 locations served by the program through their SIF subgrant. CAS-Carrera engages young people year-round, beginning in the fifth or sixth grade, and continues through graduation from high school and beyond. The program is currently delivered in two modes: a proven afterschool model and an innovative adaptation of the afterschool model that is integrated into the school day. CAS-Carrera plans to serve 10,000-11,000 youth between 2012 and 2014.