

AmeriCorps State

AmeriCorps member serving through programs supported by CaliforniaVolunteers reported impacts in several focus areas last year. In education, 3,646 students assessed below the proficiency level in reading and/or math increased academic gains by one functional grade level. AmeriCorps programs serving in education include CalSERVES Project, AppleCorps, Collective Impacts Pilot, Super Stars Literacy, UECC, Monterey County United for Literacy, Reading Partners, and PASS AmeriCorps. More than 641 families received family support services, and in the environmental focus area, 524 acres of public land restored or mitigated to prevent wildfires.

AmeriCorps National

Reading Partners is dedicated to helping children become lifelong readers by empowering community volunteers to provide individualized instruction that produces measurable results. The organization's vision is that all children in California will have the literacy skills they need to reach their full potential. In 2013-14, Reading Partners served 3,623 students with the help of 3,573 volunteers in 65 schools across California. Reading Partners exceeded expectations with 89 percent of target students accelerating their rate of learning. On average, students in the program more than doubled their rates of learning. Further, 70 percent of target students narrowed their literacy gaps with their peers who read at grade level. Reading Partners engages a group of 67 AmeriCorps State/National and VISTA members in service to manage reading centers, provide one-on-one literacy tutoring, recruit volunteers, and build capacity. In 2014-15, AmeriCorps members are on track to serve more than 3,000 students in 67 schools with the help of more than 2,500 volunteer tutors.

One in five Americans have little or no access to primary health care, while forty percent cannot define health insurance terminology, such as "deductible." These issues are particularly relevant in the state of California, which has greatest number of uninsured residents in the nation. In California, 132 Community HealthCorps AmeriCorps members serve nearly 60 medically underserved communities, focusing on helping individuals access health insurance, primary care providers, and information on navigating the healthcare system. In 2013-2014, more than 50 Community HealthCorps Members in California were trained as certified enrollment counselors, helping nearly 4,600 people enroll in health insurance through the Marketplace. Members integrated other health care services into their enrollment activities, such as education, referrals, and resource assistance. As a result of being served by a Community HealthCorps Member, 61 percent of Californians who were surveyed increased their knowledge about the relationship between health and financial decisions, including the meaning behind many financial terms related to health insurance and the effective use of their insurance benefits.

AmeriCorps VISTA

Building Skills Partnership (BSP), a nonprofit organization in Los Angeles, partners with building owners, janitorial unions, and community leaders to build the skills of low-wage property service workers. BPS offers English courses, vocational skills training, health education, citizenship classes, and other trainings to promote career advancement. In 2009, BSP began an AmeriCorps VISTA project focused on increasing training to low-wage, immigrant workers in Los Angeles. With the help of VISTA members, BSP expanded to San Jose, Santa Ana, and Orange County. Recent funding, made possible with the help of VISTA members, will allow BSP to expand into San Diego, Oakland, and Sacramento, and place a VISTA member at the Google campus in Mountain View. The expansion will allow BSP to train more workers. VISTA members have raised nearly \$1.3 million to support BSP training programs. This year, VISTA members secured a donation of 500 tablets from Google, as well as office and classroom space at the company's Mountain View Campus. With VISTA support, BSP offered training to more than 2,900 immigrant janitors and service workers in 2014, up from 674 trainees in 2009. VISTA members also recruited and trained more than 1,568 volunteers, who donated over 22,030 hours of training to low-wage workers. BSP currently hosts six VISTA members in five cities.

826LA, a nonprofit writing and tutoring center in Los Angeles, collaborates with AmeriCorps VISTA to help under-resourced students across the city make great leaps in learning. With the support of VISTA members and Summer Associates, 826LA offers a range of free programs for students ages 6-18, including after- and in-school tutoring, workshops, summer camps, college access activities, and other services that give young people the one-on-one attention they need to improve their writing and overcome language barriers. Community volunteers are the heart of 826LA, and the individual attention they offer has a transformative impact on student. Thanks in part to the recruitment, training, and retention practices strengthened by VISTA members, the hours contributed by community volunteers at 826LA increased by 40 percent last year. 826LA volunteers worked with high school students to prepare personal statements for college applications. Of these students, 98 percent reported they felt "more prepared to apply to college" after working with a tutor. The 58 students participating in the Young Authors' Book Project contributed to a book that was later published; 84 percent of these newly published authors reported they were "proud of their writing" after the book project. Also, 76 percent of young students reported their grades have improved since receiving tutoring at 826LA. This year 826LA opened a site at a South Los Angeles high school, where VISTA members recruited 75 community volunteers who served 318 students. The five AmeriCorps VISTA members at 826LA also raised \$395,490, and the volunteers they recruited gave 23,250 hours of their time and talent to improve the academic outcomes, behavior, and self-esteem of students.

AmeriCorps NCCC

Easter Seals Central California has owned and operated Camp Harmon since 1963 providing high-quality residential camp programs for children and adults with disabilities. During an AmeriCorps NCCC team's service with Easter Seals Camp Harmon, the team focused on the rehabilitation of the camp facilities that were left in disrepair due to a lack of funding. The team prepared the camp for campers' arrival and cleaned after the campers left. The team successfully cleaned multiple cabins and bathrooms prior to each arrival and departure. The team was also responsible for maintaining the grounds around the camp; including gathering leaves, trimming hedges, and moving 1,100 pounds of construction debris. The team's highest priority at Camp Harmon was digging holes to expose septic pipes from a past botched plumbing job. The team dug nearly 75 cubic feet of holes around the camp to find the source the septic leakage. The team worked on digging two trenches to install new propane tanks on two of the buildings. During their time at Camp Harmon, corps members were able to finish four picnic tables and eight benches as well as finishing cleaning and painting the laundry room.

The Children Youth & Family Collaborative (CYFC) is a nationally recognized, faith-based organization serving over 5,000 foster and at-risk youth in 43 sites in Los Angeles, Compton, Montebello and Pomona Unified School Districts. CYFC utilizes a holistic approach to expand the academic and social development of foster and at-risk youth through academic support, mentoring, and enrichment opportunities. An AmeriCorps NCCC team served with CYFC where the team supported in-school and after-school tutoring, leadership development, and life skills training at 61st Elementary School, Crenshaw High School, and Dorsey High School. The team assisted in serving over 10,000 meals to students and promoting healthy lifestyles. Corps members also tutored over 680 students for a total of 495 hours, working towards improving education for students in the South Los Angeles area. The team initiated new developments for the schools' afterschool programs including fitness and language immersion, as well as creative, academic and social activities. The team assisted heavily with English as a Second Language classes, where they tutored 20 students for over 40 hours in the program.

Senior Corps Foster Grandparent Program

There is abundant research indicating that third grade reading proficiency is correlated with later academic success and also predictive of whether a student will graduate from high school. In San Diego County, 51 percent of the children attending 3rd grade are reading below basic grade level. The Catholic Charities, Diocese of San Diego Foster Grandparent Program addressed this issue by placing 24 Foster Grandparents at eight elementary schools in geographic areas with high poverty rates. The Foster Grandparents were trained and matched with 2-3 children who were identified as reading below grade level. They utilized "Everyone a Reader" research-informed instructional curriculum to help students reach their grade-level in reading. Outcome data provided by the individual sites and teachers revealed that 77 percent of the children showed satisfactory-to-good progress in test scores with a final performance outcome of 71 percent reaching grade level proficiency. In total, this past year the Catholic Charities of San Diego Foster Grandparent Program engaged 98 Foster Grandparents in mentoring and education-related activities benefitting over 330 children and youth.

Senior Corps RSVP

In an effort to address staggering food security issues in South and Southeast Los Angeles, 120 RSVP volunteers sponsored by All Peoples Christian Center manage and implement supplemental food distribution programs at four faith-based food distribution program in South and Southeast Los Angeles. RSVP volunteers manage the full operations at each site, including tracking, weekly sign ups, food collection, food sorting and bagging and distribution. This past year, more than 1,100 low-income individuals and families were provided with USDA food items as well as fresh fruits and vegetables on a weekly basis. Of the participants surveyed, 60 percent reported that these programs improved the quality of the participants' diet and enabled them to pay for basic necessities such as rent and utilities by reducing their grocery bills.

Senior Corps Senior Companion Program

The 18 Senior Companion volunteers with the Golden Umbrella Senior Companion Program in Redding provide visitation and social support each year to 135 homebound, isolated, and frail individuals who have little-to-no support systems in the rural Northern California communities of Shasta, Siskiyou, and Trinity Counties. Volunteers drive clients to Redding from surrounding rural communities for medical appointments because there is no other transportation service available. Round trips can be as long as 150 miles. In collaboration with their station supervisors, volunteers also provide information and assistance by helping their clients connect with many other types of services that support their client's independence including Meals on Wheels, senior housing, and in-home assistance, which are all important to their health and well-being. Based on the bi-monthly follow-up assessments conducted by station supervisors with the frail elders served by Senior Companion volunteers, 85 percent of clients report increased social ties/perceived social support as a result of their Senior Companion volunteer's time, attention, and assistance.

Social Innovation Fund

The Social Innovation Fund transforms lives and communities using limited federal investment as a catalyst to grow the impact of nonprofits with evidence of strong results. It harnesses the expertise of grantmaking intermediaries to identify, evaluate and expand effective nonprofits and engages funding partners to contribute nearly three dollars to every one federal dollar invested. As the Social Innovation Fund network grows programs that work in California, more people are able to overcome their most pressing challenges in the areas of economic opportunity, health, and youth development. The Social Innovation Fund is investing \$1,664,430 in expanding the impact of 27 nonprofits in California, selected and supported by 8 intermediaries.

Volunteer Generation Fund

CaliforniaVolunteers Service Enterprise Initiative (CVSEI) has been developed using Volunteer Generation Fund support as an evidenced-based train-the-trainer model to increase the effectiveness and impact of nonprofit organizations through the strategic engagement of volunteers. As of June 30, 2014, six California-based organizations offer the CaliforniaVolunteers Service Enterprise Initiative to nonprofits in their markets. These include HandsOn Central California, L.A. Works, The Volunteer Center Serving San Francisco and San Mateo Counties, Center for Volunteer and Nonprofit Leadership, OneOC, and Volunteer Center of Santa Cruz County. Over the three years of the grant, volunteer centers have worked with 234 nonprofits to complete the CVSEI. A total of 244 organizations have completed the Service Enterprise Diagnostic assessment tool, with 67 being certified and 167 on the pathway to certification. This represents 87 percent of the original goal of 270 nonprofits completing the CVSEI. Of these 234 nonprofits, 85.8 percent indicated in post-surveys that they are more effectively engaging competency/skills-based volunteers, resulting in improved internal operational and financial systems to enhance organizational sustainability. This measure exceeded targets, both in proportion and in raw number of organizations reporting as more effective.