

AmeriCorps State

Civic Works strengthens Baltimore's communities through education, skills development, and community service. Civic Works Service Corps recruits Baltimore City and Baltimore County residents, many of whom are current college students, and provides them with opportunities to serve Baltimore-area residents while improving their own futures. Each year, Civic Works' Service Corps engages 128 AmeriCorps members, who leverage an additional 1,000 volunteers, to educate students, make housing more affordable, and help low-income communities access and learn about healthy food in Baltimore City. In 2013-2014, AmeriCorps members made 867 houses safer and more affordable by rehabilitating two abandoned houses, repairing 233 houses for older adults, and retrofitted 632 houses to make them more energy efficient. More than 750 families reported that they were better able to afford monthly housing costs. In addition, 15 YouthBuild AmeriCorps members earned high school diplomas and construction certificates during the program year while they rehabilitated houses.

Maryland Conservation Corps (MCC) was created in 1984 and is modeled after the Depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps. Like the original CCC, MCC engages AmeriCorps members in intensive environmental conservation efforts that improve public lands, trails and waterways. By leveraging volunteers and focusing on young volunteers in particular, MCC builds a cadre of smart, skilled conservationists who protect the vital natural resources upon which citizens and communities rely, not only today, but for the future. Each year, Maryland Conservation Corps engages 35 AmeriCorps members, who leverage an additional 1,000 volunteers in environmental stewardship efforts. In 2013-2014, AmeriCorps members maintained 152 miles of trails, improved 3,139 acres of park and public land, completed more than 100 park recreation and facility improvement projects, and taught environmental education curricula to over 47,000 students, youth, and park visitors.

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 program's vision is that all children in Baltimore will have the literacy skills they need to reach their full potential. In 2013-14, AmeriCorps members served 264 students with the help of 268 volunteers in 5 schools across Baltimore. On average, the students receiving tutoring more than tripled their rates of learning. Furthermore, 71 percent of target students narrowed their literacy gaps with their peers who read at grade level. Reading Partners currently engages a group of 13 AmeriCorps 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 help serve 450 students in nine schools with the help of approximately 500 volunteer tutors.

AmeriCorps VISTA

Maryland VISTAs work to combat childhood hunger by increasing the number of meals served at out-of-school-time programs and enriching those programs with quality nutrition and health education. In 2014, Maryland Out of School Time Network (MOST) AmeriCorps VISTAs convened a VISTA Hunger and Healthy Behaviors "meet-up" group to share information and coordinate efforts. Creation of the group resulted in increased collaboration and a number of accomplishments. For instance, in Baltimore City, where 84 percent of students qualify for free and reduced meals, VISTAs led an outreach initiative targeting 120 public schools to begin serving afterschool meals. Since January 2014, 25 new schools began serving meals, resulting in approximately 3,825 additional meals or snacks served each week to an estimated 1,200 young people at risk for hunger. Maryland/DC Campus Compact VISTAs created the Food as Medicine program, a health science education program at Waverly and Barclay Elementary/Middle Schools. Volunteers teach during the school day and host after school programs to educate youth on healthy living. In 2013-2014, sixty youth were served through the program at Waverly.

Several Maryland AmeriCorps VISTA programs focus on increasing access to high quality STEM learning opportunities for youth, particularly those lacking equal access to opportunity. In 2014, VISTAs serving with Greater Homewood Community Corporation recruited a permanent coach for the robotics program at the 29th Street Community Center as the first step to developing sustainable after-school robotics programs for Baltimore City middle school students who may not otherwise have the opportunity to engage in STEM enrichment programs. Nineteen Johns Hopkins University college students mentored about 11 participants per week at the Baltimore Robotics Institute. Maryland Out of School Time Network (MOST) VISTAs helped successfully launch the Baltimore City Robotics Center after free space was secured for 18 months (\$15,000 in-kind value). Additionally, Technovation, Maryland was launched in 2013-2014 with 23 new teams comprised of over 100 young women. The teams compete in an international mobile app building challenge for a \$10,000 award to produce the app. The winning team now mentors new teams and the Technovation challenge has been incorporated into a formal school day curriculum.

AmeriCorps NCCC

The Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation's (CRSF) mission is to help build character and teach critical life lessons to disadvantaged young people residing in America's most distressed communities through baseball and softball themed programs. The AmeriCorps NCCC team assisted the CRSF staff execute a two weeklong August summer camp. Included in the tasks were paperwork preparation, sorting and distribution of equipment to youth, assisting in implementation of camp activities, and overall assistance in camp execution. The NCCC team impacted over 400 at-risk youth attending the camp. They engaged with these youth on a daily basis to assist the CRSF staff and serve as positive mentors who will give them the direction needed to return to their communities and hopefully make a positive impact. The NCCC members learned how to teach basic baseball/softball instruction "the Ripken Way" as well as learn best practices of group management, game facilitation, and event planning.

Southeast Community Development Corporation (SCDC) was formed in 1975 to empower the neighborhoods of Southeast Baltimore by organizing around common quality of life issues. An AmeriCorps NCCC team worked with the SCDC to develop a sustainable strategy for residents and merchants to maintain clean alleys and a clean neighborhood. The team interviewed residents and merchants about their experiences of alley conditions, illegal dumping, and knowledge of city sanitation services. With this data, the team worked with SCDC staff to develop preventive practices, educational materials, and recommendations for neighbors and businesses to maintain clean alleyways and a clean neighborhood. Following their survey the team presented their best practices, recommendations, and the impact of their work at community meetings, in a newsletter, and through audio-visual presentations, including photo collages posted in public spaces. The team presented their recommendations to community ambassadors, business owners, neighborhood associations, and the Baltimore City Department of Public Works. Many of the team's suggestions have already been implemented in Baltimore.

Senior Corps Foster Grandparent Program

Youth in the juvenile justice system have many educational needs that must be addressed. According to the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services, 40 percent of the youth population in the department's care read at least two grade levels lower than their peers, and upwards of 40 percent of this population has been identified as Special Education. For these youth, Foster Grandparents provide critical positive support as role models, mentors, and tutors. At the Charles H. Hickey Jr. School, a facility for youth awaiting court or placement or in need of treatment services, two Foster Grandparents are working one-on-one with youth five hours per day, four hours per week. Since July 2014, 36 youth at the Hickey School have received tutoring and mentoring support. Foster Grandparents report that at least 80 percent of the youth they work with have shown improvement in their behavior and attitude during their stay, and they note that many of the youth with often share with them their hope for a successful future after leaving the facility.

Senior Corps RSVP

In response to the need to address the food insecurity rate facing the Baltimore region, Baltimore City RSVP and Baltimore County RSVP partnered to create the Baltimore RSVP Hunger Corps. In the Baltimore region (Baltimore City and Baltimore County) the emergent need for access to and availability of nutritious food for families is apparent as the food insecurity rate for the region is 15.9%. The Baltimore RSVP Hunger Corps was launched in 2014. Baltimore RSVP Hunger Corps volunteers are solely dedicated to service that 1) increases the availability of nutritious food to impoverished families; 2) increases the capacity of organizations working to decrease food insecurity; 3) educate the public on nutrition and healthy eating behaviors and; 4) improve the access to nutritious food. Over 100 RSVP volunteers have served in the Baltimore region with partner organizations such as the Maryland Food Bank and First Corinthians Church. More than 5500 individuals or families received food assistance such as food packages or emergency food assistance in 2014. Additionally, over 39,000 seniors received meals. These dedicated senior volunteers served nearly 10,000 hours.

Senior Corps Senior Companion Program

By providing vital services such as exercise and socialization, Senior Companion volunteers are helping the frail and elderly remain in their homes longer. With a two-year waiting list for senior care in Baltimore City and 20,000 senior awaiting senior care statewide, Baltimore's Senior Companions are able to provide support for those might not otherwise be able to access services and remain independent. From July 2013 to June 2014, 51 Senior Companions provided in-home and support services to 80 clients for four hours per day, up to five days per week. Another 12 clients received services through the city's adult day care centers. In this setting, two Senior Companions worked with groups of three to six clients with disabilities to improve communication and physical motor coordinator skills. Baltimore City Health Department has proudly sponsored the Senior Companion Program for nearly 30 years.

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 Maryland, 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 \$240,000 in expanding the impact of one nonprofit in Maryland.

Volunteer Generation Fund

In Maryland, the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism funds volunteer connector organizations to increase their ability to recruit and retain volunteers in diverse opportunities as well as increase other organizations' usage of effective volunteer management practices. Funded organizations include established volunteer centers and agencies focusing on engaging volunteers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) activities. For example: The Anne Arundel County Volunteer Center recruits and manages volunteers to support the work of community nonprofits throughout the county. Their volunteers also support National Days of Service such as Family Volunteer Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance. The Maryland Business Roundtable for Education recruits and manages volunteers engaged in STEM instructional and career-oriented support at two public high schools in Prince George's County.