

AmeriCorps State

The Michigan Community Service Commission supports the AmeriCorps Urban Safety Corps in Detroit. This program engages 36 AmeriCorps members in increasing public safety by boarding up vacant properties, establishing neighborhood block clubs, installing home safety equipment, and engaging thousands of volunteers. The program, a partnership between Wayne State University and the Detroit Police Department, combines the crime targeting capabilities of CompStat with the community organizing capabilities of AmeriCorps members to reduce crime in the Midtown, Jefferson East, and other neighborhoods.

The Mentoring to Access Corps, a Michigan Nonprofit Association program in partnership with Mentor Michigan and Michigan Campus Compact, engages 35 full-time AmeriCorps members with youth mentoring programs, colleges, and universities across the state. Mentoring AmeriCorps members increase the quantity and quality of youth mentoring relationships while also impacting college-going rates and career readiness for hundreds of K-12 youth in Michigan. Campus AmeriCorps members increase college access for high school youth in grades 9-12 who come from low-income families or who have parents who did not attend college.

AmeriCorps VISTA

AmeriCorps VISTA Bradley Beckwith is creating jobs and using unwanted electronics. Within three months at his host site, Bay Area Recycling for Charities, Beckwith transformed the e-waste recycling facility, staffed by one employee, into a multifunctional eRecovery platform that now provides jobs for 12 new employees. The eRecovery Michigan program accepts donations of electronic waste—anything with plug or battery--including computers, televisions, cell phones, and kitchen appliances. The 12 new workers, hired through an employment organization that provides training and support to persons with disabilities and other barriers to independence, refurbishes them for sale or strips them reusable materials. In short, eRecovery Michigan takes old electronics and recycles them, yielding jobs and protecting the environment. A member of the Traverse Bay Area VISTA project, managed by Rotary Charities of Traverse City, Beckwith and nine other VISTAs, help strengthen educational programs and economic development across six counties in northwest lower Michigan. Beckwith's efforts helped the eRecovery Michigan program expand its facilities by partnering with a local medical center and the Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District. He also created a database for donations, a manual on how to dismantle certain objects, and a safety manual as a training aid for the programs expanding employee base.

Using a small corps of paid staff and many dedicated volunteers, including AmeriCorps VISTA members, Catherine Health Center provides free or low-cost medical services to low-income and uninsured residents of Grand Rapids. VISTAs developed programs to help patients obtain medications and, through outreach and education, helped hundreds of residents sign up for health insurance. VISTAs and the community volunteers they recruited secured more than \$206,000 worth of medication for low-income patients through the Medication Assistance Program. They also enrolled more than 1,500 residents in the Live Heart Smart program, which helps people invest in healthy lifestyles and improve their health. To measure health status and behavior change among program participant, the VISTAs direct the teams that collect, analyze, and report on the outcomes.

AmeriCorps NCCC

An AmeriCorps NCCC team partnered with The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit to help maintain and renovate camp buildings, land and activities. Members also assisted in the facilitation of Camp Ohiyesa and Camp Nissokone's spring Outdoor Education programs. Corps members installed 38 window frames in three cabins, built 19 full sized bed frames, assembled 20 picnic tables, dismantled four old showers, and cleared 1500 pounds of brush. They also completed a full restoration of two 26-foot voyageur canoes. Additionally, the NCCC team served at the YMCA Camp Ohiyesa in which they helped prepare the campgrounds for visitors by clearing brush, cleaning a dining hall, health lodge, and 12 cabins. Corps members also completed a roofing project, which consisted of replacing 30 square feet of shingles on four cabins. The NCCC team also helped facilitate outdoor education as well. Programming included orientation, facilitating outdoor activities, playing games, and performing skits. This impacted over 392 children. As a result of the NCCC team's service with Camps Nissokone and Ohiyesa, campers have a safe, clean space where they can learn new things, explore the outdoors, and make new friends.

An AmeriCorps NCCC team worked with The Flint Housing Commission (FHC) to prepare public housing units for incoming residents. The FHC seeks to provide its residents with decent, affordable housing in a safe, secure environment helping them to reach their full potential and ultimately become self-sufficient. Members cleaned two, four bedroom apartments, including the bathrooms, kitchens, floors, and basements. In addition to cleaning the apartments, corps members repaired drywall, sanded and painted walls, and waxed the floors. The NCCC team completed seven apartments total, including one 4-bedroom and six 2-bedroom apartments. In addition, Corps members had the opportunity to assist with the Section 8 housing sign up held during their service with the FHC. During this event, over 2000 community members came to sign up for the wait list which had been closed for almost ten years. The FHC manages 1,248 Section B housing units and over 900 Section 8 subsidy vouchers. The housing units in which the team was working are rented to tenants for \$0-50 a month. Due to the work of the NCCC team, an additional seven families will gain access to clean and affordable housing.

Senior Corps Foster Grandparent Program

The Foster Grandparent program sponsored by Washtenaw County reported that the assistance and intervention provided by Foster Grandparents is helping children improve children's literacy rates. Children who learn to read by third grade have a higher propensity to graduate and those who do not. In response to the community challenge, the Foster Grandparent Program placing 58 volunteers to serve 200 youth between the ages of 8 and 11 in Washtenaw schools. Of the 200 youth served, a survey indicated 77 percent showed an increase in reading participation, and 71 percent showed improvement in overall reading skills. One parent commented: "Jeramiah could not read at all in fall; not even basic sight words. By June, he could read many pre-primer books to Grandma. He truly benefited from her support with his reading practice."

Senior Corps RSVP

RSVP of Ingham, Eaton and Clinton Counties has tackled disaster preparedness in the community. Citing the Lansing's 2012 Hazard Vulnerability Analysis and the number 1 priority--getting community residents prepared for disasters, RSVP worked with a local nonprofit "Do 1 thing", made up of agencies who work in emergency response. Do 1 thing is nationally recognized by FEMA and the Centers for Disease Control. "Do 1 thing" developed a 12 month emergency training program providing residents with simple choices. The program uses printed instructions sheets, a calendar and the "Do 1 thing" web site. While instructions are simple and adaptable, some need extra help in understanding and taking steps necessary to be prepared, an area where RSVP is instrumental. Once trained, teams of RSVP volunteers go out and educate seniors to do 1 thing each month to be self-reliant for at least three days. Of the seniors attending, 85 percent reported better understanding of what to do to be prepared, and 91 percent reported feeling better prepared for a disaster.

Senior Corps Senior Companion Program

EightCAP, Inc., the Senior Companion Program sponsor in Greenville, is extending the lives and independence of clients through able and caring Senior Companions. Services include transportation for medical appointments, errands, banking, and grocery shopping. Senior Companions provide companionship to socially isolated elderly. In-home companionship and social intervention play an important role in improving the quality of life of the clients as well as prolonging their independence and forestalling premature and expensive institutionalization. This year 38 Senior Companion volunteers are providing service to 153 seniors. Survey data shows that 93 percent of clients say they feel less lonely, 96 percent say they can remain living in their own home, and 97 percent say they are more satisfied with their lives.

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 Michigan, 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 \$3,255,967 in expanding the impact of 18 nonprofits in Michigan, selected and supported by four intermediaries.