

AmeriCorps State

AmeriCorps members serving in the Harlem Children's Zone's (HCZ) Peacemaker Program play a critical role in a pioneering comprehensive, community-building initiative called the HCZ Project. The Project is a neighborhood-based network of programs and services that create positive opportunities and outcomes for more than 23,000 children and adults who live in a 97-block area of Central Harlem. AmeriCorps members support three key programs within the HCZ Project to improve the academic outcomes of Central Harlem children and youth. AmeriCorps members support the primary focus area of success in school for 2,000 children in grades K – 5 at seven NYC public elementary schools in Harlem. Additionally, members support the school readiness of 237 three- and four-year-olds at the Harlem Gems pre-kindergarten programs and help prepare 200 high school youth for college.

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 New York City will have the literacy skills they need to reach their full potential. In 2013-14, AmeriCorps members served 704 students with the help of 979 volunteers in 12 schools across the city. The program exceeded expectations with 90 percent of target students accelerating their rate of learning. Further, 73 percent of target students narrowed their literacy gaps with their peers who read at grade level. Reading Partners currently engages 21 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 800 students in 14 schools with the help of approximately 1,000 volunteer tutors.

AmeriCorps VISTA

In an effort to address hunger and help lift people out of poverty, the New York City Coalition Against Hunger's Anti-Hunger Opportunity Corps VISTA project has 101 members placed in New York, Washington, DC and in 32 states. Last year, these members recruited more than 5,800 volunteers, and leveraged more than \$599,000 in cash. At the GrowNYC Grow to Learn site, VISTA members are focused on the creation and maintenance of school gardens in K-12, public and charter schools in NYC. VISTAs serving with Grow to Learn, the Citywide School Gardens Initiative, have worked with several school gardens and an Urban Farm on Governor's Island to develop their capacity, and have streamlined Grow to Learn's grant process and database system.

With 30 members serving in low-income communities in the Capital District of NY, Siena College AmeriCorps VISTA members have a strong impact in many areas. One of the Siena AmeriCorps VISTA Fellows was helping the Boys & Girls Club of Albany. Rebecca Clere was able to obtain the SEFCU Non-for-Profit Collaboration Challenge Grants for \$10,000. Rebecca has also obtained other grant funding to support programs such as Pediatric CPR/First Aid courses, SAT/ACT study books and tutors, and the expansion of the Healthy Habits fitness and nutrition program. Collectively, the 30 VISTA's have engaged 506 volunteers and raised more than \$404,800 in cash for the community programs.

AmeriCorps NCCC

An AmeriCorps NCCC team served with the Mayor of Buffalo's Division of City Services. The Division of Citizen Services coordinates several subsidiary programs and initiatives aimed at strengthening the community, reducing crime, increasing educational resources, and public works access. While there, the team worked on neighborhood restoration and beautification projects alongside neighborhood groups and community-based organizations. Corps members worked on lead removal while renovating multiple homes identified by the Erie County of Department Health to pass health inspections and ultimately deter child lead poisoning. The team painted several homes and informational signs, and participated in multiple community clean ups. They also removed graffiti and cleaned vacant lots throughout Buffalo. The team directly serviced 384 people; many whom were elderly, disabled, or youth residents in various communities around the city of Buffalo. At the completion of the project team removed approximately 5,000 lbs. of trash and debris, planted 80 shrubs while working in community gardens, restored over one acre at the Masten Park in Buffalo, and restored a local community bike path and park.

In 2014, two AmeriCorps NCCC teams served with NECHAMA, which means comfort in Hebrew. NECHAMA is a volunteer organization that provides natural disaster preparedness, response, and recovery services nationwide. Each year NECHAMA trains hundreds of AmeriCorps NCCC members how to safely and effectively respond to disaster. Both projects that teams worked on in 2014 were in response to Superstorm Sandy.

Corps members restored homes to individuals affected by Hurricane Sandy. Teams installed insulation, put up sheetrock, applied joint compound, tape, primed, and painted. Most homes that corps members worked on were barely studs. By the end of their service with NECHAMA, both teams had worked on restoring housing to 28 families.

Senior Corps Foster Grandparent Program

The Syracuse School District is investing \$350,000 to expand the Foster Grandparent Program to every 1st and 2nd grade school in Syracuse. In total, 167 Foster Grandparents will serve in the 2015-2016 school year. In FY 2015, Senior Corps will evaluate partnerships between Senior Corps Foster Grandparent Program grantees and models funded through AmeriCorps grants. CNCS is also providing technical assistance and training to support the adoption of national service best practices in Syracuse.

Senior Corps RSVP

Erie County RSVP, sponsored by the Erie County Department of Senior Services, has 788 active volunteers. As part of their Adult Education, they have coordinated University Express, which offers both lifelong learning for older adults, and a flexible, time-limited, quality volunteer opportunity for retired faculty and other highly skilled volunteers. University Express serves as a valuable recruitment vehicle for RSVP by reaching out to active older adults interested in continued learning and interaction with others. Thirty-five RSVP volunteers in University Express instruct short academic courses and lectures for adults 55 and over at senior centers. Volunteer instructors include retired faculty or other professionals who provide courses in diverse areas including literature, science, economics, history and social sciences. They led 40 classes for 1,520 seniors/students.

Senior Corps Senior Companion Program

The Henry Street Settlement Senior Companion Program has 121 volunteers who served more than 109,600 hours in one year, allowing 210 seniors to age in place and remain independent in New York City. These volunteers provide companionship and assistance with clients' daily tasks in order to facilitate their independent living. Because these seniors have assistance and socialization they are able to age in place. Survey results show that 93 percent of seniors are still living independently at home because a Senior Companion is helping them manage tasks such as preparing meals, shopping, managing money, doing house work, and taking medication. As one station reported, "The client and companion have a close bond. On numerous occasions the client has mentioned that the companion is one of the most interesting and endearing persons that the client has met. The client often tells me that she shares stories and personal thoughts with the companion. Taken together, the relationship is a source of contentment and confidence for the client."

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 New York, 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 \$5,793,377 in expanding the impact of 20 nonprofits in New York, selected and supported by eight intermediaries.