

National Service Impact in the District of Columbia



State Commission

Serve DC has strong partnerships with 14 AmeriCorps subgrantees in the CNCS impact areas of education, economic development, healthy futures and environmental stewardship. These 14 programs support 534 AmeriCorps members in the community who recruited, trained and supported 3,925 volunteers last year. Among other accomplishments, AmeriCorps members serving in Higher Achievement's Afterschool Academy helped 61 percent of students improve in math and 59 percent in reading. Byte Back AmeriCorps members helped 16 economically disadvantaged individuals get jobs after they completed and passed certification class and assessment. Playworks' 11 AmeriCorps members worked with 4,093 children in 10 low-income elementary schools with in-school and out-of-school programming. Jumpstart AmeriCorps members helped 137 children increase literacy skills from the fall to spring semester.

AmeriCorps State

The Latin America Youth Center (LAYC) located in Washington, DC serves high needs middle and high schools in the focus areas of education and healthy futures. Eleven AmeriCorps members provide academic assistance after school and in classroom. Last year, 158 students participated in LAYC's after school programs. The participants had an average attendance rate of 79 percent, a homework completion rate of 96 percent, and received an average 74.6 of hours of academic support per student. AmeriCorps members also provide in classroom health instruction and facilitate health-related events and projects. Using Evidenced Based Curriculum "Sex Can Wait" and "Making Proud Choices," LAYC's Stages of Life program served 237 students. Of those 213 students, or 89 percent showed improvement on their post-test scores.

Reading Partners has programs in 12 Washington, DC Public Schools. Reading Partners AmeriCorps members implement an evidence-based model that improves children's reading skills and has 16 AmeriCorps members who serve as site coordinators. The members provide in-person coaching to volunteers and develop tutor training sessions for the volunteers in order to prepare them to assist students who are reading one month to two-and-a-half years below grade level. During the 2014-2015 school year, Reading Partners DC exceeded all of their outcome and output measures. Forty-two more students enrolled in the Reading Partners programs than anticipated for a total of 700 students. Of these students, 654 completed the program by receiving at least 16 hours of tutoring, exceeding the completion rate target by 41 percent. AmeriCorps members administer mid-year and end-year assessments. By the end of the fourth quarter, 431 students gained at least one month of literacy skills for every month in the program, exceeding the target of the third performance measure by 44 percent.

AmeriCorps National

Washington, DC has one of highest rates of new HIV infections per capita in the nation. To address the HIV epidemic in the DC community, for the past 20 years AIDS United AmeriCorps members have been providing vital services. Each year, 12 full-time AmeriCorps members provide direct services, including HIV testing and counseling, health care access, prevention outreach, prevention education, and emotional and social services to at-risk populations. During that time, AIDS United AmeriCorps members have informed almost 20,000 people of their HIV status through HIV rapid testing, provided quality of life and health care access services to almost 15,000 people, reached more than 60,000 people through prevention education and outreach, and mobilized more than 6,000 volunteers.

City Year Washington, DC AmeriCorps has 169 members who serve full-time at 16 schools, helping more than 5,850 students at greatest risk of dropping out. City Year AmeriCorps members work alongside teachers, using research-based tools to improve students' attendance, behavior, and performance in math and English. The members also lead afterschool programs and school-wide initiatives to improve school culture. Thanks to the members' service, 70 percent of 6th through 9th graders stayed on track or improved their English grade during the school year, 95 percent of kindergartners through 5th graders who were tutored improved their literacy scores, and 96 percent of teachers and principals agree that AmeriCorps members helped boost attendance.

FoodCorps has 13 AmeriCorps members serving in Washington, DC. FoodCorps is a nationwide team of AmeriCorps leaders who work under the direction of local partner organizations to connect children to real food and help them grow up healthy. They teach children hands-on lessons about food and nutrition build and tend school gardens, teach cooking lessons, and help change what's on lunch trays so that children can eat healthy food from local farms. In the past year, the FoodCorps members in Washington, DC served 7,477 children, built or brought back into use 17 school and community gardens, harvested 1,839 pounds of produce, and recruited 828 community volunteers.

AmeriCorps VISTA

The See Forever Foundation's Maya Angelou Public Charter Schools (MAPCS) involves four AmeriCorps VISTA members in data analysis, project resources development, student engagement, and curriculum design. The VISTAs also develop and strengthen volunteer and mentoring program opportunities. The Foundation designs learning communities in low-income urban areas, where all students, particularly those who have not succeeded in traditional schools, can reach their potential and prepare for college, careers, and a lifetime of success. At the MAPCS High School, located in an underserved area east of the Anacostia River, the learning community program is experiencing great success, as 73 percent of its graduates enroll in college, compared with about 50 percent of high school graduates among African-Americans in local, low-income communities.

Higher Achievement's rigorous afterschool and summer academic program closes the opportunity gap for middle school youth in under-resourced communities. The program's proven model provides a demanding year-round learning environment, caring role models, and a culture of high expectations, resulting in college-bound scholars with the character, confidence, and skills to succeed. On average, 95 percent of scholars who complete Higher Achievement advance to top academic high school programs and 93 percent advance to college. With the support of AmeriCorps VISTA in the areas of program quality and evaluation, core research model development, volunteer/mentor recruitment and alumni support; by 2016, Higher Achievement aims to serve 70 percent more students directly and impact more than 7,000 students in Washington, DC, Pittsburgh, PA, Richmond and Alexandria, VA.

AmeriCorps NCCC

In partnership with the District of Columbia Public Schools, an AmeriCorps NCCC team worked with students in the Summer Extended School Year Program. NCCC members helped close out schools for the summer and to open the new River Terrace Education Campus. The team cleared out two schools, Mamie D. Lee School and Sharpe Health School, by packing up materials and cleaning furniture. NCCC members inventoried supplies and packaged over 150 supply kits. The team also provided support for qualified students with disabilities at risk for significant academic regression over the summer. AmeriCorps members facilitated arrival/dismissal, provided one-on-one tutoring, entered data, and set up and closed down the program at four of the eleven sites. The team also worked with four different after-care programs that focused on a variety of goals including STEM education, empowerment, and literacy. The NCCC team's support enabled more one on one learning environments so that each student received the individualized attention necessary for success.

A FEMA Corps team developed a curriculum and schedule for a 12-week training for Pilot Academy students. NCCC members engaged in inventory, accountability, deployments, ordering of supplies, spreadsheets, and IT assistance. Working with the students has helped FEMA Corps members learn FEMA procedures and protocol. It also broadened their understanding of service and why the initial response to disaster is so critical to a fast recovery.

Senior Corps Foster Grandparent Program

The United Planning Organization's Foster Grandparent Program has more than 200 Foster Grandparents serving in various types of educational institutions across the District of Columbia. From pre-school to Job Corps, District area seniors are making a difference in young people's lives, helping them achieve academic goals. The accomplishments of the DC Foster Grandparent Program have been highlighted in segments on CNN and Rock Center with Brian Williams, as well as in recent articles in the Washington Post. Currently, the work of 75 Foster Grandparents placed in regular and special education classrooms in Title I elementary schools like Plummer, Miner, and Malcom X, has helped increase the academic achievement of 85 percent of the students they work with, according to their teachers.

Senior Corps RSVP

The Washington, DC RSVP program is administered through the nonprofit Family Matters of Greater Washington. More than 150 volunteers serve in various capacities around the city. From working with veterans, to assisting low income students with literacy; residents over the age of 55 are making an impact in key areas like education and aging in place. Recently, RSVP in collaboration with the AARP Foundation launched an innovative program called Connecting to Communities where low-income seniors build connections and technology skills in a peer-to-peer setting. Since its inception, senior volunteers have trained more than 100 low income senior residents in the use of the Internet, email, social media, and common computer applications that would further their connections to information and other groups of people with similar interests. After successful participation in the program, all participants receive an iPad and in-home Internet service to help them stay connected.

Senior Corps Senior Companion Program

The Washington, DC Senior Companion Program is administered by the University of the District of Columbia's Institute of Gerontology. The program recruits and trains senior volunteers 55 years and older to serve other residents in their homes or at group facilities such as senior housing buildings and senior centers. These dedicated volunteers assist ill and home-bound elderly persons with errands, light housekeeping, meal preparation, and many other activities that allow them to remain in their home, stay connected with others, and age with dignity. For example, the VA Medical Center is a DC facility that houses veterans with various illnesses and diseases connected to their tours of duty. Many of these veterans do not have friends or family members in the area. Currently, 33 Senior Companions support 107 veterans at the VA Medical Center.

Social Innovation Fund

The Social Innovation Fund is investing \$762,500 to expand the impact of 10 nonprofits in the District of Columbia. Social Innovation Fund programs focus primarily on college preparation, workforce development, and healthy living. Positive Pathways, a program of the Washington AIDS Partnership, has provided access to care services and linked almost 1,100 individuals to HIV medical care. Through the KIPP Through College innovation program, 87 percent of KIPP alumni went on to their second year of postsecondary education, exceeding their goal of 85 percent. In the Urban Alliance program 98 percent of the interns graduated on time and 97 percent were accepted into a postsecondary program.

Volunteer Generation Fund

Serve DC's Volunteer Generation Fund initiative is designed to support nonprofit organizations that work with boys and young men of color in the District of Columbia in the areas of education, healthy futures, and economic opportunity. In partnership with the Taproot Foundation, the Serve DC My Brother's Keeper Volunteer Generation project uses pro bono volunteers to help improve the organizational capacity of nonprofits working in the aforementioned areas. Five nonprofit partners received grants for capacity building and intensive training from a proven volunteer management curriculum. Each project included a team of 5 Pro Bono Consultants who have donated 100 hours of service each. The impact of those hours can be seen in the number of volunteers that service grant recipients were able to recruit. For example, DC Greens, a fresh food initiative in intercity food deserts, was able to recruit 150 volunteers to staff their farmers' market; and DC Scores was able to recruit 350 volunteers to participate as coaches, referees, or summer camp volunteers to provide structured soccer activities to at risk youth throughout the school year and summer.