

State Commission

Serve Indiana manages a portfolio of 17 AmeriCorps State programs with more than 650 AmeriCorps members serving in 32 counties addressing critical needs in the areas of education, health, economic opportunity, disaster and capacity building. In the 2014-2015 program year, 37,148 economically disadvantaged students completed k-12 education programs. In addition, 23,749 students improved their academic performance in literacy and/or math. Additional programs include, but are not limited to, the Indiana Kids, Volunteer Roundtables, Serve Indiana Awards for Excellence, and Day of Service Mini-Grants.

AmeriCorps State

Indiana has two AmeriCorps programs that focus on early childhood education. Early Learning Indiana has 15 members who help pre-Kindergarten programs build their capacity to engage parents in their child's education and development, strengthen program-parent relationships, and help parents support their child's development, particularly in literacy. The AmeriCorps members are assigned to high-quality, pre-K programs in Fort Wayne, Evansville, and Indianapolis that participate in the state's pre-K pilot program. Near Eastside Education AmeriCorps members in Indianapolis are placed at Pre-K and elementary schools on the Near Eastside to provide education interventions for students and their families. The 23 AmeriCorps members tutor students to improve their math and literacy skills, help spark engagement with science, improve kindergarten readiness, and build parent confidence and capacity to support their children's academic performance.

Project ACES AmeriCorps has 165 members who serve at Boys & Girls Clubs in Bloomington, Ellettsville, Goshen, Middlebury, Nappanee, Elkhart, Evansville, Columbus, Franklin, Marion, Greenfield, Corydon, Crawford, New Albany, Jeffersonville, Bedford, Lebanon, Madison, Michigan City, Crawfordsville, Mooresville, Muncie, Noblesville, Rushville, South Bend, Tipton, Richmond, Hagerstown, Zionsville, Whitestown, and Culver. The members are positive role models for underserved children. The program offers homework help and supports healthy lifestyles, character and leadership development, and volunteer recruitment and management for Boys & Girls Clubs across Indiana. Thanks to the AmeriCorps members' support in the past year, more than 19,000 children completed education programming and more than 16,000 improved their performance in literacy and/or math. More than 60,000 children increased the amount of time they spent in physical activity. Members recruited more than 3,500 volunteers who gave more than 20,000 hours of service in youth development programs such as homework help and coaching.

AmeriCorps National

AIDS United AmeriCorps in Indianapolis has six full time members who provide HIV testing and counseling, health care access, prevention outreach, prevention education, and emotional and social services to at-risk populations. Members also respond to emergencies in the community. In the spring of 2015, Governor Pence declared a public health emergency due to an explosive increase in new HIV diagnoses. With their experience in HIV, dedication to service, and strong team dynamic, AIDS United AmeriCorps members provided residents of Scott County with critical services, including HIV testing, community education, and partner referrals for people who tested positive. Since 2005, members have informed almost 10,000 people of their HIV status through HIV rapid testing and counseled them on their risk behaviors. They extended community outreach to more than 15,000 people, providing information on HIV/AIDS risk reduction, community resources, and how to access care. Members have mobilized more than 1,100 volunteers in the Indianapolis area.

AmeriCorps VISTA

A team of six AmeriCorps VISTA members is serving at TeenWorks, which provides support services for low-income teens throughout the school year and a summer employment and college readiness program. TeenWorks aims to help teens develop self-confidence and recognize that going to college and being professionally successful is within their reach. The VISTA members have secured more than \$47,600 in operating funds and \$100,500 more in in-kind donations. They helped recruit 148 new community volunteers, who have given more than 500 hours of service. The members have helped TeenWorks to: develop standard operating procedures for all of its programs, revise and update the employee manual, create policies for the board of directors, investigate and choose databases for fundraising and operations, create the new Transitions Program and establish TeenWorks' social media presence, including a procedures manual. The VISTA members' efforts have directly affected over 570 at-risk high school students. They make a daily difference by their efforts with the TeenWorks 360 program and recruitment efforts for summer 2016.

Thanks to the AmeriCorps VISTA program, Indy Hunger Network has been able to develop and grow the Fresh Bucks program, which benefits local farmers and SNAP users within Greater Indianapolis. Fresh Bucks is a nutrition incentive program that doubles SNAP dollars spent on Indiana-grown fruits and vegetables at farmers markets and farm stands. In the first two years of operation, SNAP sales at markets operating the Fresh Bucks program increased 350 percent. Besides helping local farmers with increased sales, Fresh Bucks also directly helped citizens by allowing them to stretch their SNAP dollars on healthy, nutritious, local food. VISTA members set up partnerships with the Family and Social Services Administration, the State Departments of Health and Agriculture, and many community organizations in the Indianapolis area. This has had two big benefits: direct community outreach and more than \$130,000 in grant funds to expand the program. Fresh Bucks plans to expand next year to even more farmers' markets and stands, and to other outlets that are convenient for SNAP users.

AmeriCorps NCCC

The Hoosier National Forest contains about half of the state's public land, and attracts a substantial number of tourists for hunting, fishing, hiking, caving, and many other recreational activities. In partnership with the Forest, an AmeriCorps NCCC team surveyed and removed non-native plant species and conducted prescribed burns. The team burned 396 acres of land and prepared 19.3 miles of fire line. They planted a dozen trees and shrubs and 282 pounds of seeds. Along 10 miles of trails, the NCCC team installed 58 water bars. They refurbished and cleaned 25 public-use campsites for the upcoming camping season. The team's hard work helped maintain and even enhance the forest's biological diversity, reduced the amount of hazardous fuel in the forest, and protected recreational activities for tourists.

An AmeriCorps NCCC team partnered with the Hamilton County Parks and Recreation Department in Noblesville to build a community archery facility and other projects. The members helped build archery range fences, tamp down 11 fence posts, and seed one of the archery fields so that the facility can offer archery educational and safety programming and host archery related events and competitions. The team cleared 3,000 pounds of brush on the archery range's 3D trail, cleaned and tended the gardens, and swept and cleaned buildings. At a booth for the public that the department hosted at the Hoosier Outdoor Experience, members helped interpret artifacts and identify animal pelts. At the department's Twilight Trails Run and Walk, they helped with set-up, registration, trail marshalling, handing out water and medals, stocking a re-hydration table, and at the end, helped with break down and clean up.

Senior Corps Foster Grandparent Program

The Foster Grandparent Program of Hancock, Henry and Rush Counties, and its sponsor, The Interlocal Community Action Program, are both celebrating 50 years of serving the community. The Foster Grandparent Program's 55 grandparents serve at least 350 students at 17 public schools, daycare centers, and Head Start classrooms.

Senior Corps RSVP

In 2015 the United Way RSVP of Northwest Indiana was awarded the Community Relations Diversity Award from Urban League of Northwest Indiana. Its 332 volunteers serve at 44 community organizations. The program is sponsored by the United Way of Porter County, which covers four counties in the northwest of the state. United Way RSVP has partnered with 16 local organizations to provide meals and companion services to more than 18,000 at-risk seniors – in-home care that allows them to keep living independently and that gives respite for the aging population. There are 155 RSVP volunteers who provide daily meals and access to food; another 68 provide companionship to elderly and disabled citizens throughout the region. Thanks directly to these volunteers, 60 percent of the seniors who were served reported that they had an increase in social support, and 80 percent said that they were now eating more regular meals. Every one of the seniors who were served were able to stay in their own homes because of the dedication of our United Way RSVP volunteers.

Senior Corps Senior Companion Program

Catholic Charities Indianapolis sponsors one of the largest Senior Companion Programs in the country. Senior Companions respond to the acute community need for care and assistance of frail adults who are struggling to remain in their own home. They also give respite for the caregivers. Companions get training before and all during their service so they can offer the best possible care. The training also helps make their volunteer experience a truly positive one. Companions provide one-on-one in-home assistance. On average, they visit five hours a day, three to five days a week. Visiting so often provides time to build relationships, help with meal preparation, do light housekeeping, and escort people to doctors' appointments and other needs. This year, through 6 community partners and 3 low-income senior housing sites, 104 volunteers have served 128 frail adults and given respite to 45 caregivers.

Social Innovation Fund

Damien CareLink, a Social Innovation Fund (SIF) subgrantee of AIDS United, is providing coordinated HIV services and links to care for HIV+ people who aren't currently getting care. People served by the Damien Center have seen their "viral load" – the amount of HIV in blood samples – drop by 91-93 percent. LISC subgrantees in Indiana have served 1,826 people, placed 408 people in jobs, and helped 372 people increase their net worth. Across the state, SIF is investing \$110,155 and expanding the impact of seven nonprofits. The Social Innovation Fund (SIF) transforms lives by using evidence to find what works and make it work for more people. The SIF Classic and SIF Pay for Success programs harness the expertise of grant-making intermediaries to identify, evaluate and expand effective nonprofits serving low-income communities.