

State Commission

The Oklahoma Community Service Commission currently administers 11 AmeriCorps programs varying from intensive tutoring, mentoring, and teaching in Title One schools and community-based organizations to poverty alleviation through economic opportunity and food security programs. For the 2015-16 program year, 830 AmeriCorps members are serving throughout Oklahoma in 39 school districts and more than 45 nonprofit and community organizations state-wide, for a budget total of \$3,163,461. Another \$1 million is being leveraged locally each year in additional matching cash and in-kind support. Since 1994, more than 11,000 Oklahomans of all ages and backgrounds have provided more than 12 million hours of service addressing critical challenges and earning more than 24.4 million in education awards for their service.

AmeriCorps State

Each year, The Oklahoma In Action AmeriCorps program engages 45-50 AmeriCorps members in the fight against poverty. The goal of the program is to increase services available to low-income families and adults. Partner agencies work to promote food security, employment and education opportunities, housing access, legal services, and other direct services. AmeriCorps members provide GED tutoring, English as a Second Language tutoring, job readiness training, job placement, food pantry management, nutrition education, client in-take, and volunteer recruitment and management. More than 26,000 low-income families received services through the Oklahoma In Action program in 2015.

Each year, Project Transformation places 50 AmeriCorps members at summer day camps for low-income children, ages 5-12, in high poverty neighborhoods at eight locations throughout Bartlesville, Mangum, Muskogee, Oklahoma City, and Tulsa. The six hour-a-day program incorporates an individual reading and mentoring component that provides each child with a one-on-one literacy mentor in addition to educational enrichment opportunities through science, math, computer science, arts, and recreation; while providing college-age students a service learning experience and giving a local community a model of neighborhood transformation, dynamic community resources, and infused vitality.

AmeriCorps National

City Year Tulsa AmeriCorps has 50 AmeriCorps members who serve full-time at six schools, helping more than 3,130 students at greatest risk of dropping out. 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. In 2014-2015 at Clinton Middle School, every student in 7th and 8th grade finished both semesters with passing grades in mathematics. At Webster High School, the graduation rate increased 20 percent.

AmeriCorps VISTA

The Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma is the largest private hunger-relief charity in the state, providing enough to feed more than 116,000 hungry Oklahomans every week, 37 percent of whom are children. AmeriCorps VISTA members helped establish the Regional Food Bank in 1979 and have helped set the foundation for the organization's continued success. During 2015, Regional Food Bank distributed 49.9 million pounds of food through a network of 1,250 charitable feeding programs and schools throughout 53 central and western Oklahoma counties. The 48 AmeriCorps VISTA members assigned to the project work to build the long-term sustainability of anti-poverty and anti-hunger programs through statewide collaborative efforts that will provide service to under-resourced individuals and families. Summer Associate members assigned to the project provided summer feeding activities to 6,467 children at 93 sites, an increase of 1,753 children and 20 sites from the previous year.

Southeast Oklahoma Interlocal Cooperative (SOIC) is a local education agency accredited by the Oklahoma State Department of Education that has served numerous counties since its inception 40 years ago. SOIC currently has 48 schools on contract to provide special education therapy services and/or parent educator services. The 34 AmeriCorps VISTA members assigned to the SOIC project provide capacity-building services to schools and partner organizations including hospitals, chambers of commerce, and nonprofit community organizations in 17 southeast Oklahoma counties, including McCurtain County - designated as one of the top five most difficult places to reside in the United States. AmeriCorps VISTA members have recruited 723 community volunteers that contributed 13,430 hours of service. In addition, members have leveraged \$334,110 in donations to SOIC's schools and partner organizations.

AmeriCorps NCCC

During the summer of 2015, an AmeriCorps NCCC team was requested by the American Red Cross in Oklahoma City to assist in tornado and flood relief efforts in the central Oklahoma area. The team served with multiple departments within the relief operation, including Damage Assessment, Logistics, and Casework. In their time serving on the project, members created 33 maps and six emergency shelter trailers, made more than 200 calls to clients, and supported several of the organization's data systems. Since the recovery efforts were still in their early phases, many Oklahomans were still in need of immediate relief. AmeriCorps NCCC members served 16 Oklahoma counties in a number of ways by providing relief supplies, including food, water, and clean-up materials. The team also helped to set up emergency shelters to provide disaster survivors access to shelter, food, water, and emotional support.

Central Oklahoma Habitat for Humanity (COHFH) provides housing to low-income families using volunteer labor and donations. Families purchase homes through no-profit, no-interest mortgage loans, or through innovative financing methods. AmeriCorps NCCC members were trained to lead volunteer groups alongside site supervisors. AmeriCorps NCCC members served on 13 different build sites at various stages in the construction process during their six-week spike. They framed six houses, decked five roofs, and installed soffits, cornices, and fascia at five houses. They also painted exteriors at three houses, interiors at two houses and final detail work at five houses. The team also assisted with critical home repair projects on two additional houses, including weatherization and the tear down and rebuilding of a deck.

Senior Corps Foster Grandparent Program

Delta Community Action Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit organized for the purpose of executing, coordinating, and planning programs to alleviate and attempt to eradicate poverty in Garvin, McClain, and Stephens counties in Oklahoma. Two area shelters serve approximately 314 children and youth annually. Foster Grandparent volunteers with Delta Community Action provide assistance to children who are at risk due to neglect, abuse, abandonment or are in need of basic supervision. Many children come from homes where one or both parents are incarcerated. Shelter youth also include juvenile offenders as well as youth who may be at risk of delinquency. The calming influence and supportive relationship of the Foster Grandparent Program volunteers is a very important and positive service to the residents. In total, Delta Community Action's Foster Grandparent Program supports 70 volunteers that provided services to 245 children.

Senior Corps RSVP

RSVP of Enid and North Central Oklahoma's mission is to bridge the gap between those who need and those who give. The program empowers veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity by ensuring that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them. RSVP volunteers served more than 5,000 hours of service to Disabled American Veterans (DAV) last year. The DAV utilized their mobile command unit to help search and rescue for Moore tornado victims. While Moore was not in the project's service area, volunteers were committed to this issue and helped raise over \$1.2 million dollars in claims for the affected veterans.

Senior Corps Senior Companion Program

For 40 years, Sunbeam Family Services' Senior Companion Program has made positive impacts in the Oklahoma City area by providing companionship and respite services for isolated, homebound seniors. Over the last program year, only one client entered nursing home care out of 385 served. Every time a client avoids nursing home placement, the financial impact is an approximate community savings of \$48,000 annually. Caregiver clients, who receive respite services, and companion clients tend to be low-income individuals who would not be able to keep their loved ones at home without this free service. By Senior Companions providing 8-16 hours of service a week, seniors in need receive compassionate care in their own homes, which impacts the community through reduction of nursing home costs.