



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ServeOhio Announces AmeriCorps Grants to 20 Organizations

Nearly 700 AmeriCorps members to meet state and local needs

Columbus, OH – ServeOhio, Ohio’s governor-appointed commission on service and volunteerism, awarded \$6.5 million in AmeriCorps grants in partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).

The grants will support AmeriCorps service initiatives in local communities throughout Ohio, and provide data-driven results to help solve critical economic and social challenges. Nearly 700 AmeriCorps members at 20 nonprofits and government agencies will provide service that meets local community needs such as removing obstacles toward employment for veterans in Northeast Ohio, and prevention awareness to at-risk youth regarding human trafficking in Toledo. The newly-funded portfolio will address areas of education, economic opportunity, healthy futures, veterans and military families, environmental stewardship and disaster services.

“National service is an essential part of the solution to many of the social challenges facing our communities,” ServeOhio Executive Director William Hall said. “These AmeriCorps members will meet pressing local needs and strengthen Ohio communities as they develop civic and leadership skills that can last a lifetime.”

Ten AmeriCorps members will serve in the new **Star Corps Veterans Project in Trumbull, Portage, Lorain and Summit Counties**. They will provide direct services to improve and strengthen veteran and military families through securing housing and employment.

Two returning programs will continue to support Ohio’s Third Grade Reading Guarantee through direct reading interventions to pre-K to grade 3 in **Cuyahoga, Franklin, Delaware, Union and Richland Counties**. Ninety-four **Ohio Reading Corps** members will provide one-on-one and small group reading interventions to meet grade level reading proficiency by the end of the year.

AmeriCorps PATH (Prevention Awareness of Trafficking Humans) is Ohio’s first Governor/Mayor/Nonprofit partnership for an AmeriCorps program. Members will provide protection, prevention and education services to at-risk youth who may be victimized through human trafficking. The service takes place in **Toledo** due to its status as the 4th largest recruitment site for human trafficking in the country.

The following agencies and organizations were selected to receive funding through the ServeOhio grant competition:

- **American Red Cross of Greater Columbus** (*Central/Southeast Ohio*) - Disaster preparedness; Veterans and Military Families
- **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Ohio** (*Central Ohio*) - Education/Mentoring
- **City Year Cleveland** (*Cuyahoga County*) - Education

- **City Year Columbus** (*Franklin County*) - Education
- **Educational Service Center of Central Ohio** (*Central Ohio/Cuyahoga County*) - Education/Youth Literacy
- **Family and Community Services of Portage County** (*Northeast Ohio*) - Veteran and Military Families
- **Governor’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives** (*Lucas County*) - Human Trafficking
- **Montgomery County Education Service Center** (*Montgomery County*) - Education/Mentoring
- **Northeast Ohio Medical University** (*Northeast/East Ohio*) - Education/Service Learning
- **Ohio Association of Community Colleges** (*Statewide*) - Education/College Retention
- **Ohio College Access Network** (*Statewide*) - Education
- **Ohio Historical Society** (*Statewide*) - Economic Opportunity/Capacity Building
- **Ohio University** (*Athens County*) - Healthy Futures
- **Richland County Job and Family Services** (*Richland County*) - Education/Early and Youth Literacy
- **Rural Action** (*Southeast, Ohio*) - Environmental Stewardship/Economic Opportunity
- **State Library of Ohio Planning Grant** (*Statewide*) - Capacity Building/Economic Opportunity
- **Teach for America – Ohio** (*Cuyahoga, Hamilton, Montgomery Counties*) - Education/Professional Corps
- **United Way of Greater Toledo** (*Lucas County*) - Education/Graduation
- **Urban Appalachian Council** (*Southwest, Ohio*) - Healthy Futures/Adult Education
- **YWCA Columbus** (*Franklin County*) - Economic Opportunity/Education

"AmeriCorps members are improving the lives of millions of citizens and having a positive and lasting impact on the toughest challenges facing our communities," said Wendy Spencer, CEO of the CNCS. "I congratulate these organizations for their strong applications in a highly competitive year. Thanks to the dedicated service of AmeriCorps members, these organizations will increase their reach and impact on meeting local needs."

Since 1994, more than 775,000 Americans have provided more than 1 billion hours of service to their communities and country through AmeriCorps.

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ServeOhio, Ohio’s Governor-appointed commission on service and volunteerism, strengthens Ohio communities through service and volunteerism. Through programs and initiatives funded and supported by ServeOhio, thousands of Ohioans of all ages engage in and are recognized for their service. Interested participants may learn more about ServeOhio at www.serveohio.org, or on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

AmeriCorps is a national service program administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency that engages more than 5 million Americans in service each year and administers United We Serve, the President’s call to service. Individuals can learn about available opportunities and apply online by visiting AmeriCorps.gov.