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## **ServeOhio Announces \$6.3 Million in AmeriCorps Grants to 20 Organizations**

Nearly 800 AmeriCorps members to meet state and local needs

**Columbus, OH** – ServeOhio, Ohio’s governor-appointed commission on service and volunteerism, awarded \$6.3 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 800 AmeriCorps members at 20 nonprofits and government agencies will provide service that meets local community needs such as providing reading interventions with elementary students to support Ohio’s Third Grade Reading Guarantee, and providing hands-on guidance and assistance to first-time community college students across Ohio to increase college completion rates. 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 will last a lifetime.”

The **Ohio Reading Corps** will continue to support Ohio’s Third Grade Reading Guarantee through direct reading interventions to K through grade 3 in **Cuyahoga, Delaware, Franklin, Lorain, Mahoning, Montgomery, Ross, and Union Counties**. 120 AmeriCorps members will provide one-on-one and small group reading interventions to meet grade level reading proficiency by the end of the school year.

Seventy **Ohio College Guides** AmeriCorps members will serve as college access advisors to low-income, minority, and first-generation college students at **14 local high schools and college access organizations across Ohio**. Members will assist students with activities such as completing the FAFSA, college applications, scholarships and college entrance exams.

Forty **AmeriCorps College Completion Coaches** will provide hands-on guidance and assistance to 8,000 community college students on **16 campuses in Ohio**. Students served will demonstrate higher credit hour accumulation, higher persistence rates, and higher credit hour accumulation than students who did not receive coaching.

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

- **American Red Cross of Greater Columbus (Statewide)** - Disaster preparedness/Veterans and Military Families
- **City Year Cleveland (Cuyahoga County)** - Education
- **City Year Columbus (Franklin County)** - Education
- **Community Properties Impact Corporation (Franklin County)** – Education/Kindergarten Readiness
- **Educational Service Center of Central Ohio (Statewide)** - Education/Youth Literacy

- **Northeast Ohio Medical University** (*Northeast/East Ohio*) - Education/Service Learning
- **Ohio Association of Community Colleges** (*Statewide*) - Education/College Retention
- **College Now Greater Cleveland** (*Statewide*) - Education
- **Ohio History Connection** (*Statewide*) - Economic Opportunity/Capacity Building
- **Ohio University** (*Athens and Washington Counties*) - Healthy Futures
- **Rural Action** (*Southeast, Ohio*) - Environmental Stewardship/Economic Opportunity
- **State Library of Ohio** (*Statewide*) - Capacity Building/Economic Opportunity
- **Teach for America – Ohio** (*Cuyahoga, Hamilton, Montgomery Counties*) - Education/Professional Corps
- **Santa Maria Community Services** (*Southwest, Ohio*) - Healthy Futures/Adult Education
- **Sinclair Community College** (*Montgomery County*) - Education/Mentoring
- **United Way of Greater Toledo** (*Lucas County*) - Education/Graduation
- **University Hospitals Cleveland** (*Cuyahoga County*) – Healthy Futures/Access to Care
- **University of Dayton** (*Montgomery County*) – Economic Opportunity/ Youth Opportunity Corps
- **University Settlement** (*Cuyahoga County*) – Economic Opportunity/Financial Literacy
- **Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation** (*Mahoning County*) – Economic Development/Opportunity Youth/Neighborhood Revitalization

"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."

Throughout the nation, AmeriCorps programs engage more than 80,000 individuals in intensive, results-driven service each year through more than 14,000 organizations across the country. Upon completion of 1,700 hours of service, AmeriCorps members earn a \$5,730 Segal AmeriCorps Education Award to help pay for college or pay back student loans. Since 1994, more than 900,000 Americans have provided more than 1.2 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 AmeriCorps and volunteer engagement. 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](http://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 [www.nationalservice.gov](http://www.nationalservice.gov).