



SERVE OHIO
Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism



AmeriCorps *Service as a Solution*

Mary Cannon, Director of AmeriCorps



ServeOhio

- Mission: To strengthen Ohio communities through AmeriCorps and volunteer engagement.
- [ServeOhio](#) operates under authority pursuant to Section 121.40 of the Ohio Revised Code. ServeOhio is purposed specifically to administer grants in Ohio under the federal National & Community Service Trust Act of 1993.
- In PY 2017-2018, ServeOhio will administer over \$7 million in funds that will support 900 AmeriCorps members serving in 25 programs at 500+ local sites.



What is AmeriCorps?

- A program of The Corporation for National and Community Service that engages more than 80,000 Americans every year for a term of national service.
www.nationalservice.gov
- National & Community Service Trust Act of 1993
- Provides grants to organizations to design and operate AmeriCorps programs to strengthen organizational capacity to meet a compelling community need by directly engaging AmeriCorps members and community volunteers.



Ohio AmeriCorps Grants

- ★ Expand the capacity of organizations to meet identified critical community needs.
- ★ Allows organizations to recruit individuals from the community to serve as AmeriCorps members.
- ★ Community members who serve as **AmeriCorps members** gain skills, experience, and an Education Award to be used to further their education or repay student loans.
- ★ Members and volunteers gain a better understanding of community needs/challenges and how to solve them.
- ★ Align with an organization's mission.
- ★ Can be developed in response to a specific school(s) or district need.



AmeriCorps Members

- AmeriCorps programs allow Americans to make an intensive commitment to national service.
- AmeriCorps members serve 300-1,700 hours within a project period (no more than 12 months); members receive a modest living allowance during service and an education award upon successful completion of their service term. Many receive health insurance and loan deferment during service term.
- AmeriCorps members provide **direct service** on critical issues at the local level – serving primarily in community organizations, nonprofit agencies and educational institutions.



AmeriCorps Members

- Skill Building and Professional Development
- Career pathway
- Higher Education

In 2017-2018, members will receive over 124,000 hours of professional development and earn more than \$4.2 million in education awards.



AmeriCorps Experience

“AmeriCorps has influenced by goals in life, and how I want to contribute to helping my community. AmeriCorps helped change my life for bigger and better opportunities.”

– AmeriCorps Alum



AmeriCorps Focus Areas

- AmeriCorps funding falls within focus areas of:
 - Disaster Services
 - Economic Opportunity
 - **Education**
 - Environmental Stewardship
 - Healthy Futures
 - Veterans and Military Families



AmeriCorps In Education

- School Readiness and Family Engagement
 - CPO Building Blocks: Pre-K and Workforce Development
 - Horizon Education Centers: HEC Family Engagement
 - Springfield Neighborhood Partnership: PromiseCorps
- Activities for Increased School and Community Engagement
 - City Year Columbus and Cleveland
 - Educational Service Center of Central Ohio: Ohio Reading Corps and Math Corps (Third Grade Reading Guarantee)
 - Fairfield County Educational Service Center: FAST Forward (Truancy Bill)
 - NEOMed: Corps for Rural and Urban Success and Health (CRUSH)
 - Sinclair Community College: Mentoring Collaborative of Montgomery County
 - YMCA Central Ohio: Columbus Corps (DWTP)



AmeriCorps Impact

- CRUSH AmeriCorps members and more than 2,200 students spent 22,732 hours conducting 131 community-based projects in 2015-2016.
- Last year, Ohio Reading Corps members provided literacy-based services to more than 1,500 K-3 grade students with 65% met proficiency and/or made more than a year of progress.
- And, HEC members supported more than 400 preschool youth to increase literacy gains.



AmeriCorps Across Ohio

- Members will contribute **1.2 million hours** of service across Ohio this program year.
- Last year, members mobilized **9,413** community volunteers in **48,097** hours of service.



AmeriCorps Grants

- “People Power” - Funds are directly tied to a specific number of members and are solely for program expenses, such as member living allowance and benefits, member and staff training, supervision, supplies, and evaluation.
- Organizations that receive grants are responsible for recruiting, selecting, training and supervising AmeriCorps members within their programs.
- Is a federally funded grant that has required financial and programmatic reporting.
- Cost-share with funds specific to support AmeriCorps members, program administration, access to training and technical assistance resources, and entrance into a national network of organizations.
 - 24% applicant share/ 76% federal request based upon number of slots requested.



An AmeriCorps Grant

- Cannot duplicate services.
 - It can expand reach, scale or scope
- Is not cheap labor.
 - It is a effective approach to engage the community in meeting student-focused objectives
- Cannot meet every need
 - Can provide very specific, finite services to a targeted population.



Opportunities!

AmeriCorps programs could...

- Provide opiate and prescription drug prevention curriculum.
- Increase awareness around Human Trafficking prevention.
- Extend the school day or year with before, after and summer interventions.
- Engage parents as AmeriCorps members.



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For More Information

[ServeOhio Grants/Funding](#)

[2017-2018 Program Directory](#)

[10.18.17 Ohio AmeriCorps Application](#)

[Overview - Webinar 1:00 -2:30 pm](#)

Mary.cannon@serveohio.gov

614.728.5177