

Service as a Solution: Introduction to Ohio AmeriCorps

September 24, 2021

12:30pm

[Zoom](#)

ServeOhio

- Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism
- *To strengthen Ohio communities through AmeriCorps and volunteer engagement*

ServeOhio

- To administer AmeriCorps grants in Ohio under the federal National & Community Service Trust Act of 1993. Created the Corporation for National and Community Service, AmeriCorps the agency, whose mission is to provide Americans with service and volunteer opportunities.
- ServeOhio administers \$9 million with 30 partner organizations and more 900 AmeriCorps members at 500+ service locations leveraging millions in local public and private support.

What is AmeriCorps?

- One national service program that engages more than 80,000 Americans every year for a term of national service. www.americorps.gov
- Additional programs include AmeriCorps Seniors, NCCC and the Volunteer Generation Fund

What is an Ohio AmeriCorps program?

- Organizations design AmeriCorps programs & member positions that address locally-identified community needs that engaging AmeriCorps members and community volunteers.
- Ohio AmeriCorps Grants are provided to organizations to operate AmeriCorps programs that strengthen organizational capacity to meet its mission.
- An AmeriCorps program must be in line with an organization's mission and enhance, augment or expand services.

What can Ohio AmeriCorps programs do?

Including but not limited to:

- Reducing homelessness/increasing access to safe & affordable housing.
- Increasing the number of public awareness/education programs around a particular topic (literacy, health, etc.).
- Connect individuals with health resources.
- Mentor youth and adults
- Improving graduation rates.
- Reducing youth obesity.
- Increasing number of individuals receiving their GED's.
- Improving school performance and school readiness.

How do those things get done?

Apex to AmeriCorps programs are the **AmeriCorps members** who provide direct service activities that might include:

- ★ Connecting families to adequate healthcare.
- ★ Conducting community awareness programs.
- ★ Implementing nutrition and physical activity programs.
- ★ Assisting families with securing safe/affordable housing.
- ★ Assisting veterans with seeking employment.
- ★ Providing educational enrichment programs for youth.
- ★ Tutoring/mentoring students and adults.
- ★ Developing and conducting environmental education programs.

What is an AmeriCorps member?

- Not a volunteer or a staff person but an individual/member contracted for a national service term (100-1700 hours/term).
- U.S. citizen, national or legal permanent resident alien of the United States.
- May have specific age requirements; must be 17 with no upper age limit
- AmeriCorps members can receive an Eli Segal Education Award for successful completion of a term of service.
- Most AmeriCorps members receive a modest living allowance, full-time members are eligible for health insurance, and some members may be eligible for childcare.
- Must meet eligibility criteria - depends on the program.
- Someone who gets things done in their community!

AmeriCorps Members Get Things Done!

AmeriCorps provides human capital.
A different resource from other funding!

Eligible organizations

- **Nonprofit Organizations**
 - Community/Regional/Statewide
 - Faith-based
 - Secular
- **Government**
 - State/County/Local
 - Education
 - Districts, Collaborative, Higher Education

Application Documents

- Found on our [Grants/Funding page](#)
- Notice of Funding Opportunity
- Application Instructions
- Mandatory Supplemental Guidance
- Intent to Apply
- Financial Management Survey –required!

FY22 Funding Priorities

- COVID-19 responses to help local communities respond to and recover from the pandemic.
- Educational opportunity and economic mobility for communities experiencing persistent unemployment or underemployment, [and students experiencing homelessness or those in foster care.](#)
- Programs that prioritize civic engagement and social cohesion.
- Evidence-based interventions on the [AmeriCorps Evidence Exchange](#) that are assessed as having Moderate or Strong evidence.

FY22 Funding Priorities

- Programs that improve the quality of life of veterans and improves the well-being of military families, caregivers, and survivors.
- Rural intermediaries - organizations that demonstrate measurable impact and primarily serve rural communities with limited resources and organizational infrastructure.
- Environmental stewardship and climate change including renewable energy and energy efficiency, building community resilience, sustainable food systems and agriculture, and conservation and habitat preservation.
- Faith-based organizations providing any of the funding priorities.

Ohio AmeriCorps Grants

- Grants include an allotment of AmeriCorps member positions. Full-time, Three-Quarter-time, Half-time, Reduced Half-time, Minimum-Time, Quarter-time, Abbreviated-Time
- Ohio AmeriCorps programs must request at least 5 MSY's.
 - Member Service Year (MSY) = 1 Full-time Member
- Organizations that receive grants are responsible for recruiting, selecting, and supervising AmeriCorps members to serve in their programs.
- AmeriCorps grants have required financial and programmatic reporting.

Ohio AmeriCorps Grants

- ★ Grants provide partial funding to support AmeriCorps projects/programs; funds are not for general organizational expenses.
- ★ Cost-Reimbursement Grants must contribute a portion of the total grant cost to support the project – 24%. Cash and in-kind resources.
- ★ 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.

Benefits of an Ohio AmeriCorps Grant

- ★ Expands the capacity of organizations to meet identified critical community needs.
- ★ Entrance into a national network of organizations.
- ★ Allows organizations to recruit individuals from the community to serve as AmeriCorps members.
- ★ Members and volunteers gain a better understanding of community needs/challenges and how to solve them.
- ★ 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.

ServeOhio Resources

- Access to training and technical assistance resources
- Site and monitoring visits
- Stakeholder Outreach
- Staff

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For more information

- [2021 Ohio AmeriCorps Program Directory](#)
- [Ohio AmeriCorps Funding webpage](#)

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www.serveohio.org

www.americorps.gov