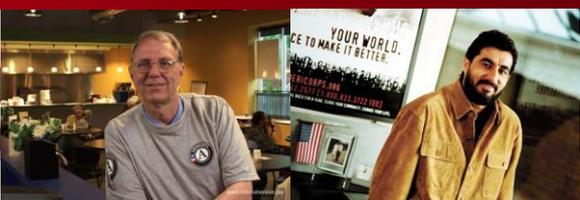# Service as a Solution: Introduction to Ohio AmeriCorps
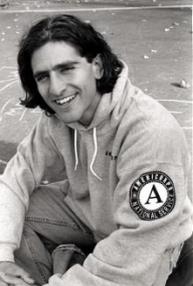
SERVE **OHIO**

Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism

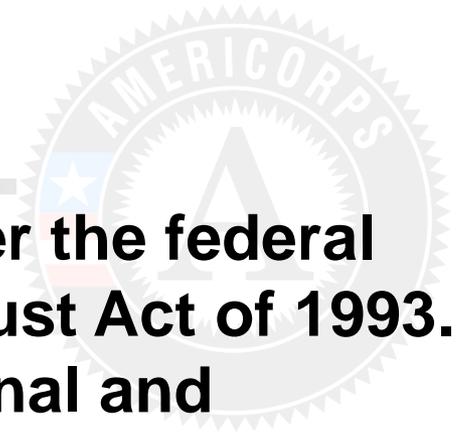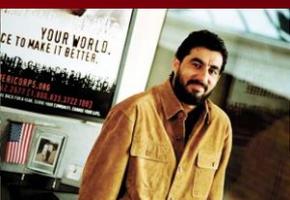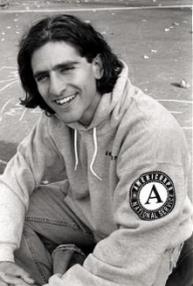# ServeOhio

- **Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism**

- **To strengthen Ohio communities through AmeriCorps and volunteer engagement.**

ServeOhio

- **To administer grants in Ohio under the federal National & Community Service Trust Act of 1993. Created the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) whose mission is to provide Americans with service and volunteer opportunities.**

- **ServeOhio administers $8.6 million with 24 partner organizations and 900 AmeriCorps members at 500+ service locations leveraging millions in local public and private support.**

3

ServeOhio
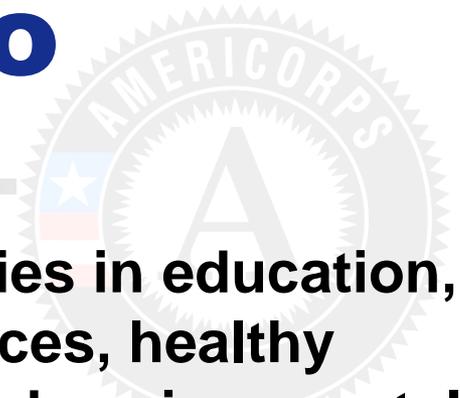
- **AmeriCorps funding supports activities in education, economic opportunity, disaster services, healthy futures, veterans/military families, and environmental stewardship;**

- **Provides mini-grants for <u>National Days of Service</u>, including Global Youth Service Day, 9/11 Day of Remembrance, MLK Day and Make a Difference Day;**

- **Championing and convening volunteerism through the Annual Conference on Service and Volunteerism and ServeOhio Volunteer Awards.**
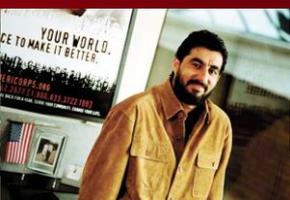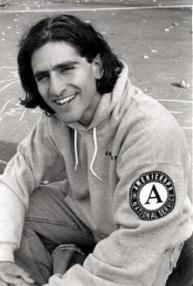
What is AmeriCorps?

- **One program of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) that engages more than 80,000 Americans every year for a term of national service. www.nationalservice.gov**

- **a.k.a. "domestic Peace Corps"**

- **"What is AmeriCorps" video.**

- **Additional CNCS programs include Senior Corps, NCCC and the Volunteer Generation Fund**
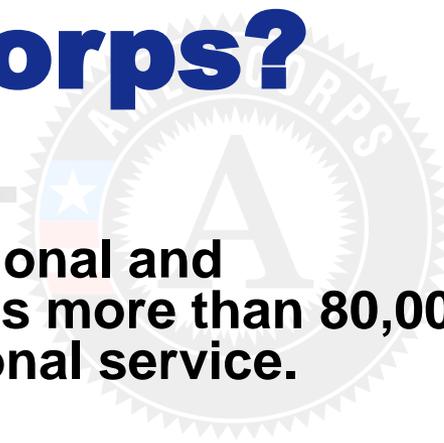
What is an Ohio AmeriCorps program?

- **Organizations design AmeriCorps programs & member positions that address locally-identified compelling community needs by directly engaging AmeriCorps members and community volunteers.**

- **Ohio AmeriCorps Grants are provided to organizations to operate AmeriCorps programs to strengthen organizational capacity to meet a community need.**

- **An AmeriCorps program must be in line with an organization's mission and enhance, augment or expand services.**
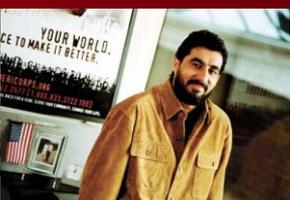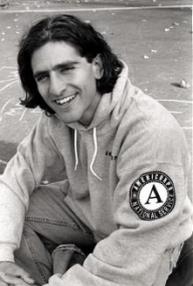
What can Ohio AmeriCorps programs do?

AmeriCorps programs address diverse community needs including, but not limited to:

- Improving graduation rates.

- Reducing youth obesity.

- Increasing number of individuals receiving their GED's.

- Improving school performance and school readiness.

- Reducing homelessness/increasing access to safe & affordable housing.

- Increasing the number of public awareness/education programs around a particular topic (literacy, health, etc.).
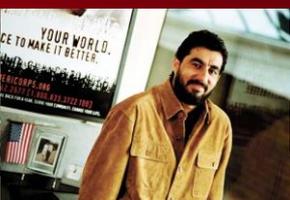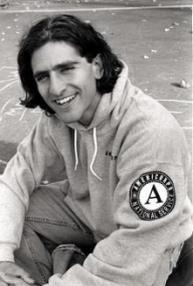
How do things get done?

Apex to AmeriCorps programs are the <u>AmeriCorps members</u> who provide direct service activities that might include:

★ Tutoring/mentoring elementary students.

★ Connecting families to adequate healthcare.

★ Assisting families with securing safe/affordable housing.

★ Assisting veterans with seeking employment.

★ Providing educational enrichment programs for youth.

★ Developing and conducting environmental education programs.

★ Conducting community awareness programs.

★ Implementing nutrition and physical activity programs.
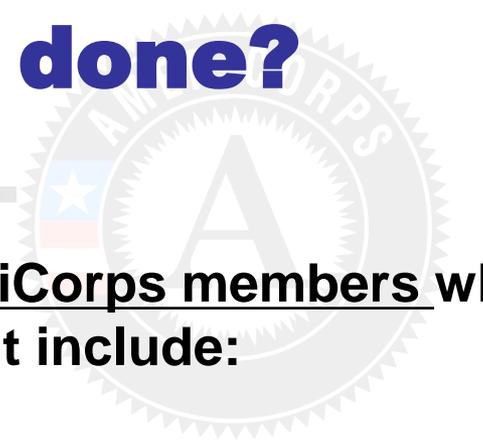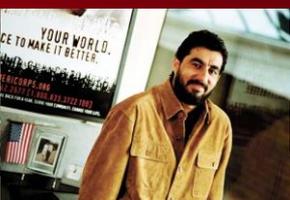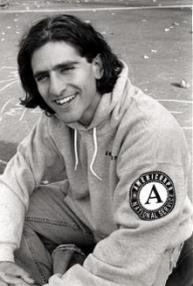
What is an AmeriCorps Member?

★ **Not a volunteer or a staff person but an individual/member contracted for a national service term (300-1700 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!**
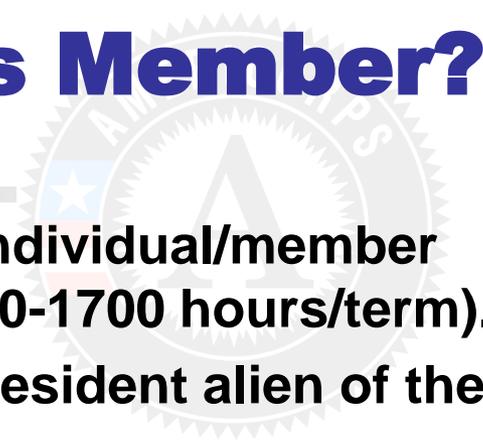
# AmeriCorps Members Get Things Done!

Activities/Services are provided by AmeriCorps members

Very different resource - human capital!
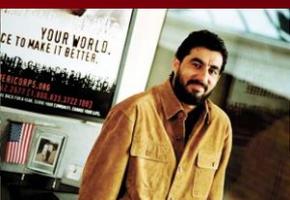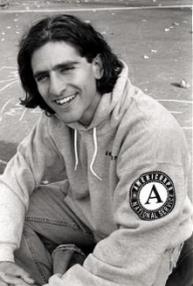
Ohio AmeriCorps Grants

★ **Grants include an allotment of AmeriCorps member positions. Full-time, Three-Quarters time, Half-time, Minimum-Time, Quarter-time.**

★ **Ohio AmeriCorps programs must request at least 5 MSY.**

    ★ **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.**

11
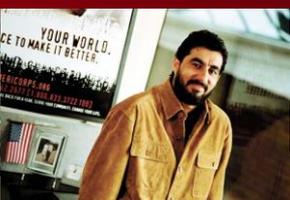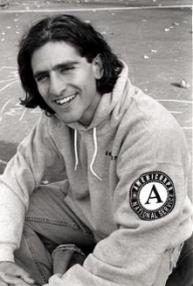
AmeriCorps State Grants

★ Grants provide *partial* funding to support AmeriCorps projects/programs; funds are not for general organizational expenses.

★ Cost-Reimbursement Grants <u>must</u> 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.
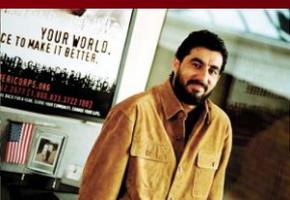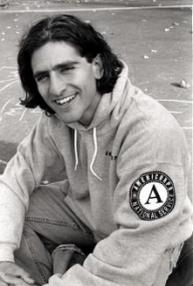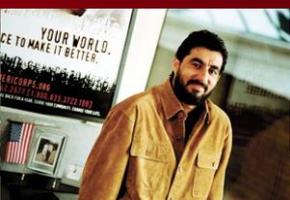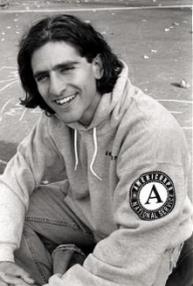
AmeriCorps Program Focus Areas

- **Economic Opportunity**
  - **Engaging opportunity youth, economically disadvantaged individuals ages 16-24 disconnected from school or work, either as the population served and/or as AmeriCorps members**
  - **Reducing employment barriers**
  - **Increasing employment opportunities**

13

AmeriCorps Program Focus Areas

- **Education**
  - **Early Education and Kindergarten Readiness**
 - **K-12 Success**
  - **Post-Secondary Support**

AmeriCorps Program Focus Areas

- **Healthy Futures**
  - **Reducing and/or Preventing Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse**
  - **Improving health**
  - **Increasing health knowledge**
  - **Improving access to medical care and health needs**

AmeriCorps Program Focus Areas

- **Rural intermediaries that demonstrate measurable impact and primarily serve communities with limited resources and organizational infrastructure.**

- **Veterans and Military Families -- positively impacting the quality of life of veterans and improving military family strength**
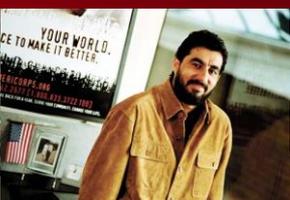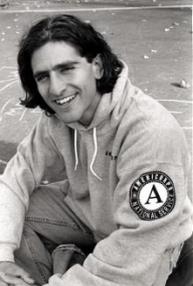
AmeriCorps Program Focus Areas

- ## Safer Communities
  - **programs that focus on public safety, and/or partnerships between law enforcement and the community**

- ## Faith-Based Organizations providing activities in the funding priorities/focus areas.
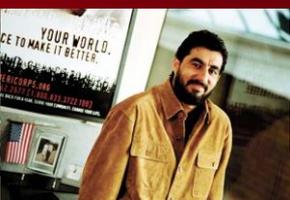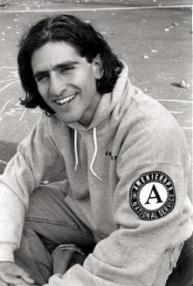
Benefits of an Ohio AmeriCorps Grant

★ **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 Provides

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

Is AmeriCorps a Right Fit?

- **What is our capacity?**
- **Can we secure commitments**
- **Who are potential partners?**
- **What programs currently exist in our community**
- **What does the research say?**
- **How will we document success?**
- **Why AmeriCorps?**

20

Application Documents

- **Found on our <u>Grants/Funding page</u>**
- **Notice of Funding Opportunity**
- **Application Instructions**
- **Mandatory Supplemental Guidance**
- **Intent to Apply – required!**
- **Financial Management Survey – required!**
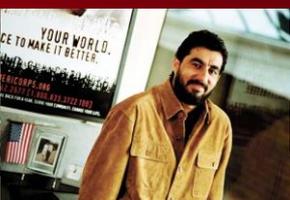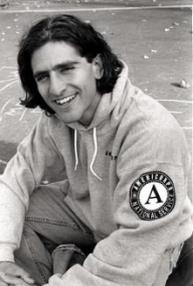
Application Assistance

3.6 or 3.20.19 Ohio AmeriCorps Application Overview Webinar 12-1:30 pm
Application requirements, Notice of Funding Opportunity overview, Open Q/A
RSVP is requested but not required – Click here to RSVP -
https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/500976605
If needed, dial-in number is 1 (669) 224-3412 with Access Code 500-976-605

4.8.19 Grant Workshop in Columbus from 1:00-4:45 pm
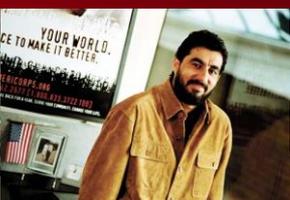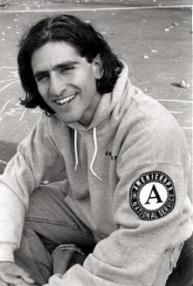In-Depth Application and NOFO Guidance at State Library of Ohio, Room D
All NEW applicants are *strongly encouraged* to attend & RSVP by 4.1.19

4.17.19   Required Intent to Apply due by 5:00 pm EST

4.24 - 5.27.19 Application Black-Out Period-content will not be discussed

5.1.19   Application submission deadline by 5:00 pm EST

For More Information

2018-2019 ServeOhio Program Directory

Mary.cannon@serveohio.gov

614-728-5177

www.serveohio.org

www.nationalservice.gov