

AMERICORPS



LISC AmeriCorps Members; Chicago, IL

AmeriCorps is a proven national service program that equips people and communities with the resources needed to tackle our nation's most pressing challenges. Since 1994, over 1 million AmeriCorps members have helped further the proud American legacy of commitment to the improvement of society through service in over 40,000 communities.

AmeriCorps members make a commitment to serve at nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups across the country. The program not only connects members with organizations dedicated to the betterment of their communities, but also creates jobs and provides pathways to opportunity for people of all ages entering the workforce.

What is AmeriCorps?

- The mission of the AmeriCorps program is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering.
- AmeriCorps grants are competitively awarded each year, **to more than 2,000 national, state and local organizations to place over 270,000 AmeriCorps members in locations across the country** to deliver results-driven service and address critical needs in urban and rural communities alike.
- AmeriCorps' [Strategic Plan](#) is designed to advance racial and economic equity through national service in partnership with local communities.
- AmeriCorps awardees provide matching funds to augment their award dollars, and demonstrate impact through standardized performance measures **capturing meaningful outcomes for members and the communities they serve.**
- AmeriCorps and the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund recently launched a joint initiative - **the Economic Mobility Corps** - that places full-time national service members in certified CDFIs to enhance their capacity to provide financial counseling and capacity building activities.

What are the outcomes?

- **AmeriCorps service provides a foundation upon which capacity building and innovation often occurs.** While expanding nonprofits' capacity to address unmet needs across the nation, national service also creates jobs and provides pathways to success in the workforce.
- **AmeriCorps provides opportunity for employment** - 8 in 10 alumni say AmeriCorps benefited their career path. Unemployed individuals who serve are 27% more likely to secure employment than those who do not serve their communities. That rate jumps to 51% for individuals who serve and don't have a high school diploma.
- **AmeriCorps service expands member's educational opportunities by increasing the affordability of higher education.** The Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards have provided more than \$4 billion to defray college costs and student loans for members.
- **Strong economic returns on national service investments.** For every dollar invested in AmeriCorps there is a return to society, program members, and the government is \$17.30.

What has been LISC's involvement?

- **LISC operates two distinct AmeriCorps programs –our Classic program and an Economic Mobility Corps program.**
- Since 1994, LISC's Classic Program has placed over **3,468 members in over 30 states and more than 102 unique cities and rural areas.** To date, members have been instrumental in:
 - Helping to develop **13,569 affordable housing units;**
 - Providing homeownership counseling and foreclosure prevention counseling to **52,952 people;**
 - Helping **37,018** clients with services helping **9,798** to secure employment; and,
 - Recruiting and managing **198,091 volunteers** who served a total of **920,003 hours.**
- **Members in our program represent the communities they serve.** In our most recent service year: 84% of members lived in the community they served; 68% self-identified as a person of color and 64% possessed an Associate's degree or higher.
- As an inaugural Economic Mobility Corps grantee, LISC is placing 61 members with 46 CDFI partners across the nation to provide financial coaching services with 76% of members serving in Persistent Poverty areas.
- LISC AmeriCorps is a strong career opportunity program. 76% of our members have earned education awards totaling more than \$9 million. A 2019 Urban Institute report, "A Pathway to Economic Opportunity for Communities and AmeriCorps Members" found that **92% of members were employed or in school six-months post service.**

Spotlight on Service

In addition to community impact, AmeriCorps service builds local leaders:

ANGELICA RICHARDS' service focused on economic security through job training and readiness programming. She helped rural youth (aged 16 -24) access scholarships to expand workforce opportunities as welders, machinists, lineman, medical office assistants, and other trades. Angelica said of her service: "A lot of people asked me, when you graduate college what do you like to do? I want to go back to Greenville, MS and help make it a better place."



REBECCA NIKODEM served two terms with Jefferson East, Inc. as a housing and neighborhood services coordinator to expand housing and financial stability. She focused on enhancing residents' chances for homeownership within the east Jefferson corridor by managing home repair applications on Detroit's lower east side and providing homeownership counseling. Rebecca remarked, "There is a tremendous need in our service area to help residents with self-sufficiency, financial capability, and resources for foreclosure prevention."



TOP: Angelica Richards, Washington County Economic Alliance Workforce Training Coordinator **BOTTOM:** Rebecca Nikodem, Detroit Jefferson East, Inc. Housing and Neighborhood Services Coordinator.

What can Congress do?

- Support an annual budget of no less than **\$650.8 million** for the AmeriCorps State and National Programs and increase resources to support 100,000 members per year.
- Maintain funding for the Economic Mobility Corps as part of the annual CDFI Fund appropriations.
- Pass the **ACTION for National Service Act** ([S. 779/H.R. 1588](#)), sponsored by Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI) and Rep. John Larson (D-CT), which would expand AmeriCorps funding to support no fewer

than 1 million members a year, increase service members' living stipends, and increase the capacity of communities to fight and adapt to climate change.

LISC is a national nonprofit housing and community development intermediary with offices in 38 different cities and a national rural network of 146 organizations.

For more information about AmeriCorps, please contact Michelle Harati at mharati@lisc.org.