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.

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.

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 are the outcomes?

What can Congress do?

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 3,200 members in 31 states and more than 102 unique cities and rural areas. To date, members have been instrumental in:
  - Helping to develop 13,484 affordable housing units;
  - Providing homeownership counseling and foreclosure prevention counseling to 52,176 people;
  - Helping 35,258 clients with services helping 9,453 to secure employment; and,
  - Recruiting and managing 184,057 volunteers who served a total of 853,036 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.

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.”

- Support an annual budget of no less than $557 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 bipartisan CORPS Act (S. 1165), sponsored by Senators Chris Coons (D-DE) and Roger Wicker (R-MS), which would double the number of service positions, increase service members’ educational awards and living stipends, and prioritize programs in rural and underserved communities in response to COVID-19.

LISC is a national nonprofit housing and community development intermediary with offices in 38 different cities and a national rural network of 145 organizations.

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