

## AmeriCorps: Pathway to 21st Century Workforce Skills and Careers



AmeriCorps provides ample career growth opportunities to its members and volunteers. National service is a proven pathway to employment in high job-growth sectors including education, public health, conservation, nonprofit management, and other fields. The AmeriCorps' network of 1.3 million alumni is an incredible resource for jobseekers looking to pursue mission-driven, service-oriented work.

While meeting critical community needs, AmeriCorps members gain hands on experience and skills to jumpstart their careers. They gain program specific skills like teaching, conservation, and emergency management, as well as general skills like leadership, teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving. AmeriCorps is especially beneficial for young adults from underserved communities facing the toughest employment prospects.

Research and surveys of AmeriCorps alumni have found positive effects on future employment:



80 percent of AmeriCorps alumni say AmeriCorps benefited their career path.



**82 percent** of alumni report that *AmeriCorps was a defining professional experience*.



42 percent of alumni employed within six months of service found a job through a connection made in AmeriCorps.

### How AmeriCorps is Strengthening Pathways to Employment

- Building new interagency partnerships including <u>Public Health AmeriCorps</u>, <u>Forest Corps</u>, and <u>Working Lands Climate Corps</u>.
- Encouraging state commissions and grantees to <u>develop apprenticeship programs</u> and/or provide their members with other workforce development strategies.
- Strengthening the pipeline from national service into federal service AmeriCorps alumni are eligible for the <u>Federal Pathways Program</u>.
- Prioritizing workforce pathways in AmeriCorps grant competitions.
- Aligning with the Biden Administration's focus on jobs through historic investments in workers and career pathways.



## **AmeriCorps Programs that Serve as Workforce Pathways**

#### FEMA Corps: Responding to Disasters and Strengthening Emergency Management

<u>FEMA Corps</u>, a 10-year partnership between Federal Emergency Management Agency and AmeriCorps NCCC, engages 18-24-year-olds in a year of full-time service to provide critical support to individuals and communities impacted by natural and man-made disasters while gaining professional development experience. FEMA has hired 23 percent of FEMA Corps graduates and offered jobs to 70 percent of the 2021 graduating class.

#### American Climate Corps: Addressing Climate Change through Training and Service

The <u>American Climate Corps</u> is a new Biden Administration workforce training and service initiative ensuring more young people will have access to the skills-based training necessary for good-paying careers in the clean energy and climate resilience economy.

#### **Green City Force: Improving Sustainability and Efficiency**

In New York City, <u>Green City Force</u> engages young adults living in public housing as AmeriCorps members in weatherizing buildings, maintaining urban farms to grow organic produce, and educating residents on sustainability and energy efficiency. Graduates go on to college or green economy apprenticeships and jobs.

#### **California Justice Leaders: Preventing Recidivism and Supporting Reentry**

The <u>California Justice Leaders</u> program engages formerly incarcerated and system-impacted individuals to provide reentry coaching and mentorship to justice-involved young adults who are facing many of the same challenges they once did. Serving through 20 community-based organizations in seven California counties, Justice Leaders receive training as reentry navigators and other professional development that expands their own future employment opportunities.

#### **Student Support Programs: Training the Next Generation of Educators**

AmeriCorps engages thousands of teachers, tutors, mentors and others in student support roles to improve student attendance and engagement, increase high-school graduation rates, and prepare students for college, careers, and full participation in civic life. AmeriCorps programs such as <u>Breakthrough Collaborative</u>, <u>Generation Teach</u>, <u>Teach For America</u>, and <u>Communities in Schools</u> recruit, train, and support AmeriCorps members in under-resourced schools and communities across the country.

# Recovery Corps: Fighting the Opioid Crisis and Filling Demand for Recovery Coaches

In response to the opioid epidemic, AmeriCorps has invested in a range of opioid and substance abuse prevention, reduction, and recovery programs. Through <u>Recovery Corps</u>, AmeriCorps members are serving as recovery coaches and navigators, providing services to help individuals overcoming addiction to remain drug-free.

#### Youth Mental Health Corps: Responding to the Youth Mental Health Crisis

The <u>Youth Mental Health Corps</u> is a public-private collaboration between AmeriCorps, the Schultz Family Foundation, and Pinterest. It was developed to support youth mental health in schools and communities while giving over 500 AmeriCorps members opportunities to earn credentials to continue onto a behavioral health career path.



