



Spotlighting the CEV Series: Work and Civic Life

The professional sphere is an increasingly important arena for civic engagement.

Historically, the primary purpose of work was to make a living. Yet over time, many workers have also come to view their jobs as outlets to pursue passions, express values, and make positive changes in society.¹ As individuals' professional and civic lives become more interconnected, it becomes increasingly important to have data that sheds light on this changing relationship.

Since 2008, AmeriCorps-sponsored Current Population Survey supplements have examined civic engagement in the economic arena through measures of values-based consumer behaviors. In 2021, AmeriCorps introduced additional questions adapted from the General Social Survey about employed Americans' attitudes toward the relationship between work and civic life. These new questions capture views about whether one's workplace or work contribute to the community and whether one's work is a source of pride or satisfaction.

As part of the "Spotlighting the CEV" series, this key findings brief explores national trends related to the relationship between work and civic life in 2021.

Over one-third of employed Americans report working for an employer that encourages civic engagement.

An estimated **36 percent** of employed Americans, or 51.2 million people, say their workplace encouraged volunteering or charitable giving in 2021.



Source for figures: Analysis conducted by the Office of Research and Evaluation, AmeriCorps, Civic Engagement and Volunteering (2021) Supplement data, U.S. Census Bureau.

Among Americans who work for an employer that encourages civic engagement, 42 percent actually do volunteer and 69 percent give to charity.

About the Series

Spotlight the CEV Series explores important findings from the Civic Engagement and Volunteering (CEV) Supplement of the Current Population Survey. Conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau in partnership with AmeriCorps, the CEV is a nationally representative, valuable resource for understanding various types of civic engagement over time. It has been administered biennially since 2017 with related datasets going as far back as 2002. CEV data can support actionable insights and data driven decision making.

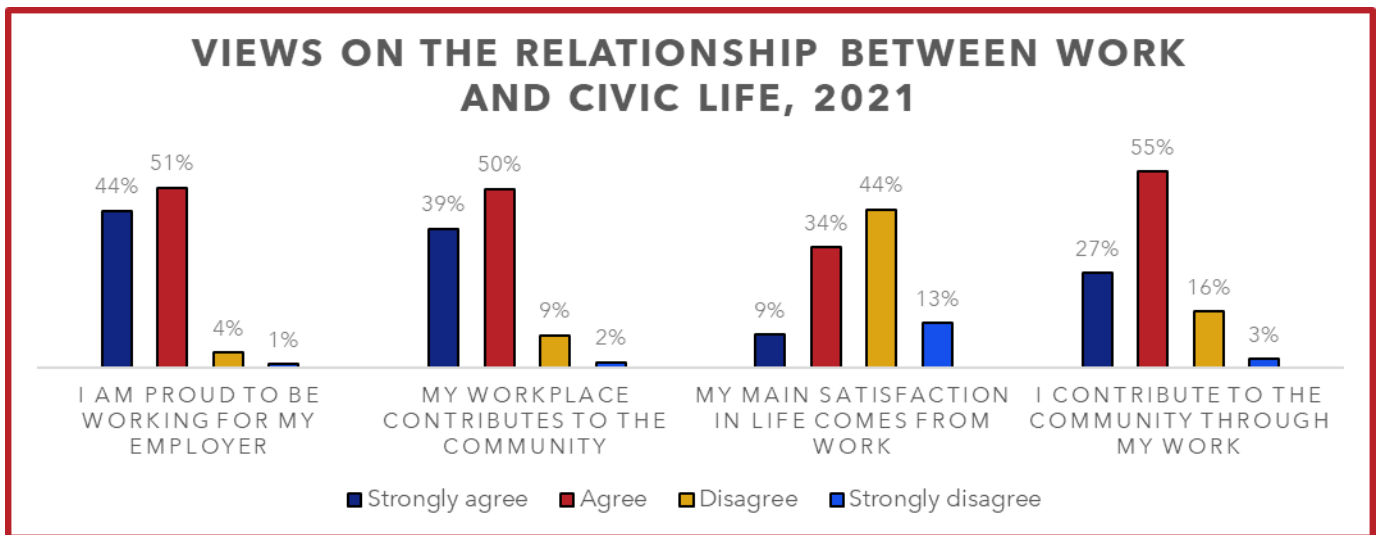
This series will explore six key constructs from the 2021 CEV Organizational Engagement, Informal Helping and Conversation, Local Collective Action, Engaging with Issues, Economic Engagement, and Political Engagement.

¹ Points of Life. "Work." *Civic Life Today*, Issue 6, June 2021. Available at: <https://www.pointsoflight.org/civic-life-today-work/>



The vast majority of employed Americans say their workplace and work contribute to the community, but less than half say their main satisfaction in life comes from work.

An estimated 82 percent of employed Americans report that they contribute to the community through their work, and 89 percent say their workplace contributes to the larger community. Nearly all employed Americans (95 percent) report they are proud to work for their employer. Only 43 percent of employed Americans agree or strongly agree that their main satisfaction in life comes from their work.



Explore the Data

The CEV data is available for public use. Visit the AmeriCorps Open Data portal at <https://data.americorps.gov>. For more information about the CEV data and findings, please reach out to the AmeriCorps Office of Research and Evaluation at AmeriCorpsCEV@cns.gov.

What's Next?

The AmeriCorps Office of Research and Evaluation and its partners are exploring the CEV data's implications for AmeriCorps programming and civic engagement in America more broadly. Ongoing research is digging deeper into understanding how perceptions of the relationship between work and civic life differ by individuals' demographic, occupational, geographic, and other characteristics.

About the Office of Research and Evaluation

The [AmeriCorps Office of Research and Evaluation](#) assists AmeriCorps and its partners in collecting, analyzing, and disseminating data and insights about AmeriCorps programs and civic life in America.

About AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps, the federal agency for national service and volunteerism, provides opportunities for Americans to serve their country domestically, address the nation's most pressing challenges, improve lives and communities, and strengthen civic engagement. Each year, the agency places more than 200,000 AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers in intensive service roles; and empowers millions more to serve as long-term, short-term, or one-time volunteers. **Learn more at [AmeriCorps.gov](https://ameriCorps.gov).**