



Our Nation is in the Midst of an Unprecedented Opioid Epidemic

This growing crisis is causing devastating effects on families, workplaces, the health care system, and communities. Recognizing the severity of the opioid epidemic, AmeriCorps has significantly increased its support of substance abuse prevention, education, and recovery programming as part of the federal government's efforts to combat the substance abuse and opioid crisis.

AmeriCorps: Preventing and Reducing Opioid Abuse

AmeriCorps is the federal agency connecting individuals and organizations through service and volunteering to tackle the nation's most pressing challenges. We engage more than 270,000 AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers in results-driven service at more than 40,000 locations across the country, including nonprofits, schools, faith-based groups, and local agencies. For decades, AmeriCorps has supported positive youth development through mentoring, tutoring, after-school, and summer programs that help youth stay in school, graduate ready for college or career, and refrain from risky behaviors including substance abuse.

Building on this track record, AmeriCorps has prioritized substance abuse prevention and reduction in its AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors programs. Working with Governor-appointed State Service Commissions and national and local organizations, AmeriCorps has substantially increased its investments in opioid and substance abuse projects.

What is AmeriCorps?

AmeriCorps is the only federal agency tasked with elevating service and volunteerism in America. We provide opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to give their time and talent to strengthen communities across our country.

AmeriCorps Seniors highlights the service opportunities available to Americans 55 and older who want to make giving back their second act.

By the Numbers

AmeriCorps invested more than **\$14 million last year** to support opioid-related programming.

6,600 AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers delivered opioid intervention programming at nearly **1,200 service sites across** the country.

AmeriCorps VISTA programs served nearly **630,000 adults and 123,000 youth** in opioid-related programming.

Using AmeriCorps to Prevent and Reduce Substance Abuse

AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers are serving with nonprofit groups, faith-based and community organizations, hospitals and health clinics, and state and local agencies across the country to provide drug abuse education, serve as recovery coaches, build capacity for anti-drug organizations, provide screening and assessments, establish state and local coalitions, prevent relapse and recidivism, and more. National service is a flexible, cost-effective strategy to address local community needs. Organizations working to combat the opioid crisis are using AmeriCorps resources through a variety of program models to expand the reach and impact of substance education, prevention, and recovery efforts.



Some of the Ways AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers are Combatting the Opioid Crisis:

- 1 Serving with Police Departments to Prevent Overdoses and Relapse**
- 2 Providing Drug Abuse Prevention and Education**
- 3 Building the Capacity of Drug Treatment and Recovery Organizations**
- 4 Supporting Safe Disposal of Prescription Drugs**
- 5 Serving as Recovery Coaches to Help Individuals Overcome Addiction**
- 6 Improving Opportunities for Employment for Those in Recovery**
- 7 Providing Substance Abuse Screening and Assessments**



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