



WHY Bridging and Belonging Matters

Collaboration Over Polarization

AmeriCorps members and volunteers' commitment to community engagement and capacity building demonstrate the power of bringing people together to solve local challenges.

Wellbeing

Members deliver resources, strengthen social networks, and build social capital with historically underrepresented communities that fosters resilience and deeper capacity to thrive.

Democracy

Members are stewards of a responsive democracy and national service is the symbol of a thriving society where engaged citizens contribute to the common good.

Belonging

Members come together, build trust and safety, celebrate their diversity and forge deeper levels of connection and purpose for themselves and the communities in which they serve.

Workforce Development

Members with training and practical experience build the muscle memory needed by every employer in every sector to connect across lines of difference.

Future Visioning

Members, reflecting the diversity of America, inspire others by their leadership and perseverance; they balance existing traditions with co-creating new experiences around community and civic engagement to build stronger futures.

bridging

noun

Coming together across divides to listen and understand each other, to find common ground, build relationships, and to make collaboration the norm.

belonging¹

noun

When everyone experiences social connection, psychological safety, and a sense of agency within a group, with all the richness that belonging entails.

Levels of Engagement and Activation



Agency

Activities, policies, and decision-making that AmeriCorps employs, demonstrating the value this work brings to our dynamic field.



Grantees and Sponsors

Activities in collaboration with grantees to support their adoption of bridge-building and belonging practices to benefit community partners and the members.



Members and Volunteers

Activities made available from AmeriCorps, grantees and sponsors to the member or volunteer, helping them develop bridge-building skills, growing their confidence and capacity during service and as alumni.

Resources / Tools

[Bridging Differences Playbook](#)
Greater Good Science Center

[Belonging Culture Curriculum](#)
Service Year Alliance

[Belonging Design Principles](#)
Othering and Belonging Institute

[The Belonging Barometer¹](#)
Project Over Zero / American Immigration Council

[Supplemental Guidance, Bridging Measures](#)
AmeriCorps State and National

[No Greater Means, No Greater Mission](#)
Convergence | David Eisner and John Gomperts

[Ask and All: A Plan to Expand National Service & Volunteering](#)
More Perfect and Partner Collective

[Business Bridging Divides](#)
Business for America

[US Surgeon General's Advisory on the Healing Effects of Social Connection and Community](#)
May 2023

Strategic / Activities

In collaboration with Service Year Alliance



AmeriCorps shares language and purposeful “why” between bridging, belonging, and national service.



AmeriCorps facilitates partnerships that advances a comprehensive research learning agenda.



AmeriCorps co-creates / supports a clearinghouse of content that builds capacity for all users.



As a grant maker, AmeriCorps funding supports bridge-building and belonging programs.