

# NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAMS PROVIDE A POWERFUL RETURN ON INVESTMENT

## Improving Lives, Strengthening Communities, and Fostering Civic Engagement Through Service

AmeriCorps offers transformative resources including funding and personnel to address pressing social challenges, strengthen communities, and generate potential benefits beyond the invested dollars. Return on investment (ROI) studies offer a way to demonstrate the value of national service investments. This fact sheet provides ROI estimates on dollars returned in short-term and long-term scenarios for every funder dollar invested in select AmeriCorps programs organized by AmeriCorps' key focus areas (see side box for more information on these calculations).<sup>1</sup>

### RETURN ON INVESTMENT (ROI)

ROI analyses compare a program's benefits to its costs to help assess program performance, demonstrate value to stakeholders, and build the evidence base to support decision making.

#### ROI analyses conducted consist of three calculations:

1. Total benefits per federal dollar
2. Total benefits per funder dollar
3. Federal government benefits per federal dollar

Each analysis estimated benefits under different assumptions that increased earnings attributable to the programs last for one year (short-term scenario), 15 years (medium-term), or 30 years (long-term).

## ROI Among AmeriCorps Programs

### PROGRAM | ASSESSED ROI PER FUNDER DOLLAR | INSIGHTS AND TAKEAWAYS

#### Disaster Services

#### SBP AmeriCorps

**-\$1.27-\$4.14**

- AmeriCorps members benefit from living allowances during service and experience increased wages, reduced unemployment, and increased educational attainment after service.
- Government experiences reductions in housing construction time, which decreases costs associated with housing displaced families, and benefits from lower construction costs when rebuilding homes.
- Government realizes increased tax revenue from the improved employment and earnings of AmeriCorps members and program participants, savings on other expenditures for corrections, public assistance, and social insurance.

<sup>1</sup> The AmeriCorps Return on Investment Studies (2020-2023) were independently conducted by ICF International and commissioned by AmeriCorps. For information on all performed ROI calculations, view these studies on the AmeriCorps Evidence Exchange: <https://americorps.gov/evidence-exchange/return-investment-roi-studies>.

**Economic Opportunity**

**Community Empowerment Technology Project (CTEP)**

**\$2.95–\$34.26**

- Employment and earnings increased for 10.3% of previously unemployed participants who credit the program with their employment success.
- AmeriCorps members enjoy increased wages, reduced unemployment, and increased educational attainment after serving.
- Government realizes increased tax revenue from the improved employment and earnings of AmeriCorps members and program participants, savings on other expenditures for corrections, public assistance, and social insurance.

**Green City Force**

**\$0.69–\$7.60**

- New York City Housing Authority residents benefit by receiving free fresh produce distribution.
- Society benefits from reduced carbon emissions through composting efforts.
- AmeriCorps members enjoy increased wages, reduced unemployment, and increased education attainment after services.
- Government benefits from increases in tax revenue from participants' and AmeriCorps members' improved employment and earnings; and savings on other government expenditures as a result of improved education and employment outcomes for members and program participants.

**Habitat for Humanity (HFH): AmeriCorps**

**\$0.62–\$2.61**

- Host sites rehab an average of eight and build five more homes than non-host sites.
- AmeriCorps members enjoy increased wages, reduced unemployment, and increased educational attainment after service.
- Homeowners benefit from cost savings when buying a new home and in home rehabilitation work. HFH household members benefit from medical cost savings due to improved health after move-in.
- Private insurance companies and other healthcare payers (including government) benefit from medical cost savings.

**YouthBuild AmeriCorps**

**-\$0.40–\$9.58**

- 72.5% of YouthBuild AmeriCorps member participants are placed in a job after serving. 67.8% without a high school diploma/equivalency earned one after serving.
- 59.9% of YouthBuild AmeriCorps member participants complete the program and earn an education award after serving. 12.8% enroll in post-secondary education.
- YouthBuild AmeriCorps member participants increase earnings with greater employment and use of education awards to pursue post-secondary education.
- Government increases tax revenue with economic activity and earnings, plus reduces spending on corrections, public assistance, and social insurance.

**Education**

**Breakthrough Central Texas, Austin Program**

**\$0.03–\$10.22**

- Program participants experience additional lifetime earnings from increased educational attainment as a result of educational support services.
- AmeriCorps members enjoy increased wages, reduced unemployment, and increased educational attainment after serving.
- Government benefits from increases in tax revenue from participants' and AmeriCorps members' improved employment and earnings; and savings on other government expenditures as a result of improved education and employment outcomes for members and program participants.

### College Possible's College Access Program

\$1.50-\$6.41

- High school students are more likely to enroll in college, leading to improved employment prospects and earnings.
- AmeriCorps members enjoy increased employment, earnings, and educational attainment after serving.
- Government realizes increased tax revenue from the improved employment and earnings of AmeriCorps members and program participants.

### Colorado Home Instruction for Parent of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) Program

\$0.12-\$6.77

- Government benefits from decreased spending on education because fewer HIPPY preschooler participants are held back in 9th grade.
- AmeriCorps members enjoy increased employment, earnings, and educational attainment after service.
- Government benefits from increases in tax revenue and savings on expenditures for crime, welfare, Medicare, and Medicaid due to increased education attainment of AmeriCorps members and preschooler participants.

### Minnesota Reading Corps (MRC): Kindergarten

\$5.47-\$6.99

- MRC Kindergarten participants have higher high school graduation rates.
- AmeriCorps members enjoy increased employment, earnings, and educational attainment after service.
- Government benefits from increases in tax revenue and savings on expenditures for crime, welfare, Medicare, and Medicaid.

## Environmental Stewardship

### Montana Conservation Corps

\$2.11-\$35.84

- AmeriCorps members benefit from living allowances during service and experience increased wages, reduced unemployment, and increased educational attainment after service.
- Government realizes increased tax revenue from the improved employment and earnings of AmeriCorps members; savings on other potential government expenditures, such as safety net costs.
- Society enjoys benefits to its ecosystem from wildfire mitigation, habitat improvements, and maintenance of trail systems.

### Nevada Conservation Corps

\$2.20-\$27.55

- AmeriCorps members benefit from living allowances during service and experience increased wages, reduced unemployment, and increased educational attainment after service.
- Government realizes increased tax revenue from the improved employment and earnings of AmeriCorps members; savings on other potential government expenditures, such as safety net costs.
- Society benefits from ecosystem services preservation and reductions in human health impacts due to lowering carbon dioxide emissions and air particulates from smoke.

### Washington Conservation Corps

\$0.52-\$8.36

- Native plant coverage increases, and noxious weed coverage decreases at restoration sites following the planting intervention.
- AmeriCorps members enjoy increased wages, reduced unemployment, and increased educational attainment after service.
- Government realizes increased tax revenue from the improved employment and earnings of AmeriCorps members and program participants; savings on other potential expenditures, such as safety net costs.

Healthy Futures

**AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) & Senior Companion Program (SCP)**

**\$3.50**

\$2.75 per funder dollar for FGP  
\$5.08 per funder dollar for SCP

- Programs improve health for participants, AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers, and caregivers.
- Participants who received services from SCP volunteers are able to remain in their homes longer and save on assisted living expenses.
- Participants saved on assisted living expenses and received less costly services at home.
- Government saves on health care expenditures.

**AmeriCorps Urban Safety Program Detroit**

**\$1.63-\$3.07**

- Neighborhoods served benefit from reduced criminal activity and related economic costs.
- Government benefits from reduced spending on criminal justice activities such as policing, legal services, and corrections.
- Households served enjoy increased lifetime earnings resulting from decreased lead exposure.

**Birth & Beyond Home Visitation Program**

**\$0.50-\$2.11**

- Mothers who participate at least one hour are 29% less likely to have Child Protective Services referrals.
- Lifetime government spending is less for healthcare, child welfare, criminal justice, and special education due to reduced child maltreatment.
- Government spending decreases for corrections, public assistance, and social insurance.

Veteran and Military Families

**Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs Vet Corps**

**\$0.82-\$13.66**

- Vet Corps members experience additional lifetime earnings from increased educational attainment as a result of educational support services.
- AmeriCorps members benefit from living allowances during service and experience increased wages, reduced unemployment, and increased educational attainment after service.
- Government realizes increased tax revenue from the improved employment and earnings of AmeriCorps members and program participants; savings on other expenditures for corrections, public assistance, and social insurance.

For more information about these return on investments studies, contact [evaluation@americorps.gov](mailto:evaluation@americorps.gov).

**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](#).**