

At A Glance: AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors Disaster Assets in Times of Disaster

AmeriCorps Disaster Services Unit

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Visit us at: <https://americorps.gov/disasterservices>

AMERICORPS STATE AND NATIONAL

AmeriCorps State and National supports a wide range of local service programs that engage thousands of Americans in intensive community service each year. AmeriCorps provides grants to a network of local and national organizations and agencies committed to using national service to address critical community needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment.

- I. **AmeriCorps Disaster Response Teams (A-DRTs)**
Capacity: 27 programs, approx. 2,500 members*
Capability: Direct service activities; volunteer management; leadership; capacity building
Deployment: Under a Mission Assignment from the state or the federal government. In some instances, A-DRT's may deploy within their own state without a formal Mission Assignment.
- II. **Grantees** (AmeriCorps State & National)
Capacity: Varies by state
Capability: Direct response activities; volunteer management; leadership; capacity building
Deployment: Programs which specialize in disaster response and recovery may choose to deploy.
- III. **State Service Commissions**
Capacity: Every state
Capability: Volunteer Reception Centers; long term recovery
Deployment: In coordination with the state to provide local support

AMERICORPS NATIONAL CIVILIAN COMMUNITY CORPS (NCCC)

AmeriCorps NCCC is a full-time, team-based residential service program for individuals ages 18-24. NCCC members are organized into 10- to 12- member teams and serve in local communities in all 50 states and U.S. territories. The mission of AmeriCorps NCCC is to strengthen communities and develop leaders through team-based national and community service. FEMA Corps is a unit of AmeriCorps NCCC whose members are devoted solely to FEMA disaster response and recovery efforts.

- I. **NCCC Traditional Teams**
Capacity: 4 campuses, 1,200 members
Capability: Direct service activities; volunteer management; leadership
Deployment: Request from a qualified organization [i.e. government agency (any level), nonprofit, faith-based organization, school, tribe]; under a Mission Assignment; assignment in partnership with American Red Cross.
- II. **FEMA Corps**
Capacity: 2 campuses, 500 members
Capability: Emergency management coordination support; capacity building; assist with specific FEMA operational tasks
Deployment: FEMA identifies the need and coordinates assignment with the Disaster Services Unit, NCCC Headquarters staff, and Regional Campuses; only FEMA can request and deploy.

AMERICORPS VOLUNTEERS IN SERVICE TO AMERICA (VISTA)

AmeriCorps VISTA members are passionate and committed to their mission to bring individuals and communities out of poverty. Members make a year-long, full-time commitment to serve on a specific project at a nonprofit organization or public agency. They focus their efforts to build the organizational, administrative, and financial capacity of organizations that fight illiteracy, improve health services, foster economic development, and otherwise assist low-income communities.

Capacity: Every state

Capability: Capacity building; long term recovery; indirect service

Deployment: May be redirected from their existing projects on short-term basis

AMERICORPS SENIORS

Senior Corps connects today's 55+ with the people and organizations that need them most. Senior Corps helps them become mentors, coaches or companions to people in need, or contribute their job skills and expertise to community projects and organizations. Volunteers receive guidance and training so they can make a contribution that suits their talents, interests, and availability.

III. **Retired Senior Volunteer Program** (RSVP)

Capacity: Every state

Capability: Direct service activities; leadership; capacity building; indirect service

Deployment: Service activities and work plans may be modified to add additional work plans to meet new community needs caused by disaster.

IV. **Foster Grandparents** (FGP)

Capacity: Every state

Capability: Temporary reassignment to related work if unable to continue service due to disaster.

Deployment: Service activities and work plans may be modified to add additional work plans to meet the new community need caused by disaster.

V. **Senior Companions** (SC)

Capacity: Every state

Capability: Temporary reassignment to related work if unable to continue service due to disaster.

Deployment: Service activities and work plans may be modified to add additional work plans to meet the new community need caused by disaster.

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AMERICORPS AND AMERICORPS SUPPORT SERVICES

Regardless of the size of the disaster event, there is at least one AmeriCorps or AmeriCorps Seniors program that can meet key needs in disaster response or recovery phases:

RESPONSE	AmeriCorps State/National	AmeriCorps NCCC - Traditional	FEMA Corps	AmeriCorps VISTA	Senior Corps
<i>Volunteer Coordination</i>	Yes	Yes	No	Yes - indirect services	Yes
<i>Base Camp Support</i>	Yes	Yes	No	Yes - indirect services	Yes
<i>Mass Care (sheltering & feeding)</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes, under FEMA operations/guidance	No	Yes
<i>Community and Public Info Outreach</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes, under FEMA operations/guidance	Yes	Yes
<i>Warehouse and Donations</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes, under FEMA operations/guidance	Yes - indirect service	Yes
<i>Call Center</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes, under FEMA operations/guidance	Yes - indirect service	Yes
<i>Direct Services: Debris Clearance; Mucking/Gutting; Blue Roof Tarping, etc.</i>	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
RECOVERY	AmeriCorps State/National	AmeriCorps NCCC - Traditional	FEMA Corps	AmeriCorps VISTA	Senior Corps
<i>Home Construction/Repair</i>	Yes	Yes	No	Yes - indirect services	Yes
<i>Public Facilities Renovation</i>	Yes	Yes	No	Yes - indirect services	Yes
<i>Needs Assessment</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes, under FEMA operations/guidance	Yes - indirect services	Yes
<i>Case Management</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes, under FEMA operations/guidance	Yes - indirect services	Yes
<i>Disaster Recovery Center Support</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes, under FEMA operations/guidance	No	Yes
<i>Long-Term Recovery Committee/Group</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes, under FEMA operations/guidance	Yes - indirect services	Yes
<i>Volunteer Management</i>	Yes	Yes	No	Yes - indirect services	Yes

AMERICORPS DISASTER RESPONSE TEAMS (A-DRTs)

AmeriCorps Disaster Response Teams (A-DRTs) are the AmeriCorps programs that have a heightened focus on disaster response service and are a nationally deployable resource.

Capacity: AmeriCorps currently has 25 A-DRTs, made up of 21 AmeriCorps grantees/sub-grantees, 3 State Service Commission, and the AmeriCorps NCCC; this totals to access to over approximately 2,500 AmeriCorps members.

Training: A-DRTs are trained in disaster services functions to include

- Incident Command
- Shelter Operations
- CPR/First Aid
- OSHA certified Chainsaw Training
- Volunteer and Donations Management
- Hazmat certification
- Mass Care/Family Services

A-DRT Capabilities	
<i>Individual Assistance</i>	Distribution of Life-Sustaining Supplies; Support for Mass Care (Sheltering; Feeding); Health and Wellness Checks Direct Service: Mucking and Gutting; Debris clean-up Emergency Roof Tarping; Emergency Home Repair Mold Suppression; Hazard Tree Removal/Chainsaw; Minor home repair; Critical Debris Removal; Flood Fighting (Sandbagging, etc.) Dispatch and Tracking of Donated
<i>Public Assistance</i>	Critical Debris Removal; Flood Fighting (Sandbagging, etc.); Dispatch and Tracking of Donated Equipment; Park and Public Lands Restoration
<i>Volunteer and Donations Management</i>	Volunteer Reception Center; Establish and Manage Operations Database Management; Damage assessments; Track Volunteer Hours (can be used for State soft match); Field Leadership for Volunteers: Deliver safety and task training; Support volunteer logistics Donations: Warehousing Support, Points of Distribution (POD) Donations Tracking
<i>Community Outreach</i>	Damage and Other Needs Assessment; Support to 2-1-1 or Other Call Centers; Client Intake and Tracking; Public Situational Awareness; Case Management; Support for MARCs; Transportation Staffing for Staging Areas and Logistics; Canvassing
<i>Capacity Building</i>	Support to Emergency Management; Support to VOAD, COADs, and LTRCs; Inter-agency Facilitation; Surge Capacity for Staffing; Support for Emergency Farm and Animal Care

Understanding the different A-DRT Programs: AmeriCorps Grantees and AmeriCorps NCCC within the A-DRT are two different AmeriCorps programs: AmeriCorps State and National grantees and AmeriCorps NCCC. The two programs are capable of the same basic direct services in disaster response, with each individual program having a varied level of experience and expertise. However, programmatically there are some differences between the two programs outlined below:

Program Structure and Capacity	AmeriCorps State and National	AmeriCorps NCCC
Team Size	6-8 member crews; capable of adjusting crew size if needed, including single resource deployments	8-12 member teams; teams are fixed size
Program Vehicles	Typically, 2 pickup trucks/SUVs	1 GSA 15-passenger van
Supervision	Crew leader (AmeriCorps or paid staff member)	Team Leader (AmeriCorps member)
Housing	Self-sufficient for initial arrival; able to identify housing partners	Require housing identified before deployment
Sponsor/Hosting Organization	Self-sufficient for initial arrival; able to identify local organizations to partner	Require work sponsor and site supervisor identified before deployment
Personnel Costs	Fee for service programs	Fully federally funded; no fee for service