



Illinois by the Numbers

 **10,722**

Members & Volunteers

 **1,504**

Service Locations

 **\$74.6m**

Total Investment

Meeting Needs in Illinois

Last year more than 10,700 Americans of all ages and backgrounds united to meet local needs, strengthen communities, and expand opportunity through national service in Illinois. AmeriCorps invested more than \$35.5 million in federal funding to support cost-effective community solutions, working hand in hand with local partners to empower individuals to help communities tackle their toughest challenges.

AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers are preparing today's students for tomorrow's jobs, helping communities and families impacted by COVID-19, reducing crime and reviving cities, connecting veterans to services, fighting the opioid epidemic, helping seniors live independently, and rebuilding communities after disasters.

AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers served at more than 1,500 locations across Illinois, including schools, food banks, homeless shelters, health clinics, youth centers, veterans' facilities, and other nonprofit and faith-based organizations. Through a unique public-private partnership, AmeriCorps and its partners generated more than \$39.1 million in outside resources from businesses, foundations, public agencies, and other sources in Illinois in the last year. This local support strengthened community impact and increased the return on taxpayer dollars.

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.

A Cornerstone of Our National Culture

By bringing people together to serve communities, AmeriCorps is making service to others an indispensable part of the American experience. We offer individuals and organizations flexible ways to make a local impact through our programs and initiatives.

Segal AmeriCorps Education Award

In exchange for their service, AmeriCorps members earn a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award that can be used to pay for trade school, college, or graduate school; or to pay back qualified student loans. **Since 1994, more than 47,000 Illinois residents have served approximately 67 million hours and earned education awards totaling more than \$165.4 million.**

Our Programs and Initiatives

AmeriCorps State and National matches individuals with organizations that see service as a solution to local, regional, and national challenges. There are thousands of opportunities in locations across the country to serve with nonprofits, schools, public agencies, tribes, and community and faith-based groups. Most AmeriCorps grant funding goes to Serve Illinois, the Governor-appointed State Service Commission, which in turn awards grants to organizations to respond to local needs.

AmeriCorps VISTA places individuals with organizations that fight poverty, to build capacity and make sustainable change. Through fundraising, grant writing, volunteer recruitment, and so much more, AmeriCorps VISTA members gain experience and leadership skills that put them on track for a life of service in the public, private, or nonprofit sector.

AmeriCorps NCCC is a full-time, team-based, residential program for 18-24-year-olds. Whether clearing trails for a national park or building homes for families in need, AmeriCorps NCCC members engage in a variety of projects in multiple communities while developing leadership and teamwork skills. AmeriCorps NCCC FEMA Corps serves communities, in coordination with FEMA, through disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.

AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparents provides grants to organizations to engage low-income Americans 55 and older in providing one-on-one mentoring and academic support to children with special or exceptional needs.

AmeriCorps Seniors Senior Companions provides grants to organizations to engage low-income Americans 55 and older in providing supportive, individualized services to help older adults and adults maintain their dignity and independence.

AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP provides grants to organizations to engage Americans 55 and older in tutoring and mentoring youth, responding to natural disasters, supporting veterans and their families, and meeting other critical needs.

Volunteer Generation Fund supports voluntary organizations and state service commissions in boosting the impact of volunteers in addressing critical community needs.

MLK Day of Service is observed each year on the third Monday in January as “a day on, not a day off.” MLK Day is the only federal holiday designated as a national day of service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities.

9/11 Day of Service calls Americans across the country to volunteer in their local communities in tribute to the individuals lost and injured in the attacks, first responders, and the many who have risen in service to defend freedom.

Learn More

To see other reports about national service in Illinois, email IL@cns.gov.