



OHIO AMERICORPS PROGRAM IMPACT

Ohio Community Service Council
www.serveohio.org

Ohio AmeriCorps....Getting Things Done!

The Ohio Community Service Council (OCSC) administers Ohio AmeriCorps programs through formula and competitive funding to help solve the state's most critical challenges. Each year, more than 25 programs are fully operational or in a planning year phase that will result in an operational program. AmeriCorps members serve with nonprofit, faith-based, K-12, higher education, and community-based organizations. Since 1994, the Ohio Community Service Council has supported hundreds of community-based organizations that are engaging local citizens to address their most pressing needs.

It has been well documented that the current economic conditions of the state are drastically impacting the health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities. AmeriCorps members are actively engaged in addressing those challenges by helping families remain in safe and affordable housing, tutoring youth to ensure they do not fall further behind academically, helping prepare high school juniors and seniors to apply to and attend a college or university, and supporting adults in obtaining additional education or their GED so that they may seek full-time employment. AmeriCorps members are getting things done!

Ohio AmeriCorps members engage thousands of community volunteers that give their time, energy and talents to support AmeriCorps programs. By engaging AmeriCorps members and volunteers, communities and organizations are pooling important resources, sharing services, and reducing duplication of programs while empowering and educating individuals in local communities.

William Hall
Executive Director

Ryan J. Schmiesing
Director of Programs

www.serveohio.org
614-728-5179

Current Programs

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc.

AMVETS Career Center

American Red Cross of Greater Columbus

Children's Hunger Alliance

City Year, Inc. – Cleveland

Council on Rural Services Programs, Inc.

Columbus Housing Partnership, Inc.

Family & Community Services, Inc.

First Grace United Church of Christ

Mercy Health Partners

Montgomery County Educational Service Center

National Church Residences

Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks

Ohio College Access Network

Ohio Historical Society

Ohio University

Public Allies, Inc.

Rural Action, Inc.

The Literacy Cooperative

The Ohio State University

Unified Health Solutions

United Way of Greater Toledo

Urban Appalachian Council

YWCA Columbus

Improving Academic Performance

AmeriCorps members and volunteers are helping ensure young people are prepared to enter school and improving grade level performance through school enrichment, after-school, and summer programs for youth, and community-based programs for adults.

- 93% of pre-school children participating in the *OSU Kid Corps* AmeriCorps program showed at least a two point increase in their summed scores on the Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS), an assessment designed to capture change in literacy skills.
- 70% of adults that were engaged in the *Urban Appalachian Councils* Project ACE mentoring programs, and completing pre- and post-tests, showed at least one grade level improvement as measured by the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE).
- 100% of children tutored in *City Year Cleveland's* AmeriCorps K-2 literacy program improved their reading skills based upon the LEARNS assessment.
- 84% of youth participating in *Columbus Housing Partnership's* AmeriCorps after-school program showed academic improvement of one letter grade on their final report card.
- 97% of responding parents of children in the YWCA after-school programs reported that they were better able to meet housing goals due to the availability of the after school program.



Improving Youth & Adult Literacy Skills

Literacy is the key determinant of whether an individual can gain employment, retain employment, and improve her/his employment status. The Literacy Cooperative, a joint effort of the Cleveland, George Gund and Martha Holden Jennings Foundations, was established to address the low levels of literacy in the Greater Cleveland area. The North East Ohio (NEO) Literacy Corps engages AmeriCorps members in serving youth and adults of that region. AmeriCorps members serve as Literacy Volunteer Coordinators, recruiting, training, supervising, and supporting community volunteers for specific literacy programs at host sites. Additionally, members serve as Direct Service Providers serve as tutors, workshop leaders, and assist teachers in helping young people succeed in the classroom.

the **literacy**
cooperative

Improving Individual & Community Health

AmeriCorps members and volunteers are helping improve individual and community health, through programs designed to reduce childhood obesity, increase access to quality food, increase the number of health screenings, and educate individuals and families healthy food choices.

- 74% of children participating in Children's Hunger Alliance CATCH curriculum programs, conducted by AmeriCorps members and volunteers, increased their cardiovascular endurance, with 46% of those children improving by 20% or more.
- 14,860 health screenings were conducted by *Ohio University's* ComCorps AmeriCorps members. Screenings for lice, vision, hearing, BMI, and immunizations and early detection helps assure individuals receive appropriate assistance and/or improves learning for young people.
- 120 adults with disabilities participated in socialization and education programs provided by the *Portage County Family & Community Service, Inc.* POWERcorps AmeriCorps program.
- 3380 volunteers were recruited and supported by AmeriCorps members and served 10,398 hours at the *YWCA Family Center* to assist with meal planning, preparation, and service. Volunteers also support financial literacy education programs and after-school programs.
- More than 4,000 individuals participated in one-on-one educational programs and support services, provided by the *Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks* HarvestCorps AmeriCorps members. A recent study shows that individuals accessing services through the Ohio Benefit Bank are decreasing their reliance on food pantries, moving less, not missing as many utility payments, and have reduced stress.



Reducing Childhood Obesity

Children's Hunger Alliance is a statewide non-profit agency working toward long-term solutions to fighting childhood hunger. Children's Hunger Alliance fights hunger and poor nutrition with education, physical activity information and supplemental resources for caregivers, parents and children. Through the Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities AmeriCorps program, members serve directly with young people by engaging them in nutrition education and physical activity programs. Both of these efforts are having a positive impact of improving knowledge and practices of young people as well as improving their overall physical endurance. In 2010, the Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities AmeriCorps program was recognized as one of the 52 most innovative AmeriCorps programs in the United States!



Empowering Individuals to Succeed

AmeriCorps members and volunteers are educating and empowering individuals to succeed by ensuring individuals maintain safe and affordable housing, facilitating adult education classes, mentoring students to improve college admission rates of first generation students; and assisting with employment preparedness.

- 90% of clients served by the *Homeless Prevention and Housing Opportunity* AmeriCorps program achieved their desired outcome of preventing an eviction or foreclosure, preventing utility disconnection, maintaining habitable housing, or eliminating health code violations.
- 79% of adults participating in the GED preparation program with the *Urban Appalachian Council's Project ACE* AmeriCorps program reached at least 9.0 grade level in both reading and math on the TABE test and passed the GED, earning high school equivalency certification.
- More than 40,000 central Ohio citizens participated in disaster and emergency preparedness educational programs through the *Prepare Central Ohio* AmeriCorps program operated by the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus.
- 29,137 high school students participated in individual and group mentoring to prepare them for the application process to a college or university through the *College Access Corps* AmeriCorps program.
- 80% of High School Juniors and seniors mentored by AmeriCorps members registered for or had taken the ACT; 86% of seniors had applied for post-secondary education as a result of being mentored by the *Cincinnati Youth Collaborative* College Access and Mentoring AmeriCorps members.



Supporting Ohio's Veterans

AMVETS Career Centers, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation that provides career, training and employment assistance for veterans, active duty service members and members of the National Guard and Reserves. The Career Services for Veterans AmeriCorps program places members in communities across Ohio to serve, directly supporting veterans. AmeriCorps members assist veterans with employment readiness skills, job development training/education, and placement. Additionally, through educational initiatives, AmeriCorps members educate business leaders about hiring veterans and helping them overcome perceived challenges. The Career Services for Veterans AmeriCorps program engages veterans, baby boomers, and recent college graduates as members.



Experiences that last a lifetime...

AmeriCorps

The Ohio AmeriCorps Program engaged AmeriCorps members in service to their communities while gaining valuable job skills, retraining for new careers, and learning more about local issues and how they can remain a part of the community after their service. Upon completion of a full-time term of service, AmeriCorps members receive a Segal Education award to use towards educational pursuits or repaying qualified student loans.

- Since 1994, over \$60.0 million in education awards have been received by individuals serving as AmeriCorps members in Ohio. Of that total, approximately \$35.0 million has been applied to institutions and/or lenders in the state of Ohio on behalf of AmeriCorps members.
- Approximately 10% of a member's time is dedicated to ongoing professional development related to their service, life after AmeriCorps, and related soft skills such as communications, team building, and leadership development, preparing them for careers in public service, non-profit leadership, and with other public and private sector employers.
- During their year of service, AmeriCorps members make important connections in their communities that will benefit their future job search or career transitions.
- AmeriCorps members will serve in local non-profits, faith-based organizations, public/private schools, higher education, and community-based organizations helping solve problems related to education, health, environment, economy, and supporting Ohio's veterans.



AmeriCorps member Experiences

Ohio University has a long history of engaging individuals in national service. In a recent survey of Ohio University ComCorps AmeriCorps alumni, 60% of respondents indicated they work in underserved areas and 36% of alumni continue living in a rural area. Most respondents indicated that their time in ComCorps redirected, assisted with, assured or determined their future careers. Alumni responding indicated ComCorps helped with understanding health issues in rural Appalachia, creating networks, valuing teamwork, instilling a sense of a lifetime of service, and a responsibility to those in need.

