



AmeriCorps 101



**Kansas
Volunteer
Commission**

Today's Learning Objectives

- What is AmeriCorps
- What areas of need does AmeriCorps target?
- How can AmeriCorps benefit my organization and community?
- How does AmeriCorps benefit participants?
- Is AmeriCorps a fit for my organization?
- AmeriCorps jargon?

What is AmeriCorps

- A network of local, state, and national service programs...
- Engaging thousands of Americans in service every year...
- Addressing a variety of critical needs in communities...
- While providing participants with tangible benefits, including experience, training, and an education award to finance their education.

AmeriCorps Programs

- Three types
 - AmeriCorps*State and National
 - AmeriCorps*VISTA
 - AmeriCorps*NCCC

AmeriCorps*State and National

- Largest of the three programs
- Members engage in direct service to address critical needs in education, environment, public safety, disaster services and other human needs
- Members serve in nonprofits, public agencies, and faith-based organizations
- Most of the funding for these programs is administered by Governor-appointed state commissions

AmeriCorps*VISTA

- VISTA=Volunteers In Service To America
- Helps individuals and communities implement grassroots solutions designed to alleviate poverty.
- Members serve full-time for one year
- Funding comes directly from CNC
- Behind the scenes, capacity-building
 - Recruiting volunteers
 - Raising funds
 - Managing projects
 - Etc.

AmeriCorps*NCCC

- NCCC=National Civilian Community Corps
- Program for men & Women ages 18-24
- Members serve full-time for 10 months
- Serve in teams of 10-14
- Based out of four regional campuses across the country
- Take on a series of 6-8 week projects across their region relative to education, environment, public safety, disaster services and other human needs.

What Areas of Need Do AmeriCorps programs Target

- Education
- Public Safety
- Health
- Environment
- Other Human Needs

CNCS Strategic Initiatives

- Mobilizing More Volunteers
- Ensuring a Brighter Future for All of America's Youth
- Engaging Students in Communities
- Harnessing Baby Boomers' Experience
- Supporting Disaster Preparedness

Examples of Appropriate Service Activities for AmeriCorps*State

- Tutoring at-risk youth
- Recruiting volunteers
- Teaching conflict resolution skills
- Environmental conservation activities
- Assisting crime victims
- Building affordable housing
- Restoring parks

Examples of Appropriate Service Activities for AmeriCorps*State

- Mentoring at-risk youth
- Teaching computer skills
- Managing after-school programs
- Improving health services
- Helping communities prepare for disasters
- Other direct service or capacity-building activities

Examples of **Prohibited** Service Activities for AmeriCorps*State

- ❑ Attempting to influence legislation
- ❑ Organizing or engaging in protests, strikes, petitions or boycotts
- ❑ Assisting, promoting, or deterring union organizing
- ❑ Any political activities
- ❑ Engaging in religious instruction, proselytization, worship activities

Examples of **Prohibited** Service Activities for AmeriCorps*State

- ❑ Administrative duties (i.e. acting as your agency's receptionist, clerical work, etc.)
- ❑ Constructing or maintaining a facility inherently devoted to religious instruction or worship
- ❑ Providing a direct benefit to a for-profit organization, labor union, political party, or religious organization

Examples of **Prohibited** Service Activities for AmeriCorps*State

- Providing services and activities that could otherwise be performed by employed workers or volunteers, or that will supplant the hiring of, or result in the displacement of, employed workers in the community

Need More Information?

Contact the
Kansas Volunteer Commission
785.368.6207
Shelby Hoytal, Executive Director
shoytal@ksde.org
Jonathan Loppnow, Program Officer
jloppnow@ksde.org