

# National Service Strengthens Education



The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) is a federal agency that annually engages millions of Americans in service and volunteering at more than 50,000 sites across the country. Senior Corps and AmeriCorps members play a vital role in helping communities design and implement locally determined, results-driven, cost-effective solutions to local problems, including improving education. In so doing, members not only improve the schools and communities they serve, they also transform their own lives.

## AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs play a critical role in strengthening schools across the country.

- National service supports **millions** of youth, helping them to graduate prepared for college, careers, and life.
- More than **44,000** AmeriCorps members and nearly **45,000** Senior Corps volunteers provide in-school and after-school support to at-risk youth.
- Senior Corps and AmeriCorps members serve in almost **12,000** schools, including **1 out of every 4** low-performing schools and **1 out of every 10** charter schools.
- AmeriCorps and Senior Corps literacy and math programming documented improved academic achievement of more than **540,000** students in rural, urban, and tribal schools across the country last year.
- Larger than many education foundations, **over half of CNCS's budget** supports education-related programs.

## National service programs are a cost-effective strategy to improve education and ensure more young people succeed in school and in life.

CNCS provides a substantial return on investment. A Columbia University study found that every dollar invested in national service generates a nearly **4-to-1** return to society in terms of higher earnings, increased outputs, and other community benefits. National service members are a vital resource for schools and after-school programs, helping to improve their capacity, expand their reach, and maximize their impact at a low cost to taxpayers.

- Early learning
- Mentoring
- Tutoring
- Family engagement
- School climate
- STEM programs
- After-school and summer school
- Improving attendance
- Social emotional learning
- Wraparound services
- Classroom instruction
- School improvement
- High school completion
- College access and retention
- Workforce development



## CNCS evidence-based programs support students across the cradle-to-career continuum.

National service programs are not only cost-effective, but also deliver results. Rigorous independent evaluations have demonstrated that CNCS programs: improve school readiness, increase reading and math achievement, improve school attendance and behavior, and increase access to college and careers.

### AmeriCorps helps increase college access and reduce college debt.

Higher education is one of the most important investments that Americans can make in their future, lowering the risk of unemployment and increasing their potential earnings. AmeriCorps helps address rising college costs by providing financial assistance to members who complete their service through the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award.

- Since 1994, AmeriCorps members have earned more than **\$3.3 billion** to help pay for college, technical school, or to repay qualified student loans.
- More than **11,300** AmeriCorps alums have made more than **\$33 million** in Segal AmeriCorps Education Award payments to Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

### National service creates a vital pipeline into the teaching profession.

At a time when some schools are faced with teacher shortages in high-need areas, more than **9,200** AmeriCorps members served or were trained to serve as teachers in urban, rural, and tribal schools across the country in 2016. These teachers reach hundreds of thousands of low-income students. Approximately **30%** of Teach For America teachers teach an elementary or secondary STEM subject, making them one of the largest providers of STEM teachers in the nation.

Additionally, many AmeriCorps members who have gained experience working with youth decide to pursue a career in teaching.

- A 2015-2016 evaluation of Jumpstart found that by the end of their service year, **35%** of college members expressed interest in working in the early childhood education field and **24%** expressed interest in a career in teaching in other levels of education (non-early childhood).
- A 2015-2016 survey found that **45%** of City Year AmeriCorps members were interested in pursuing a teaching career at the end of their service.
- Longitudinal and outcomes studies show sustained, significant impact on the likelihood of AmeriCorps members going into public service careers, such as nonprofits or education.