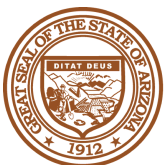


Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism

Annual Report



Governor's Office
of Youth, Faith
and Family



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KATIE HOBBS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

TONYA HAMILTON
CABINET EXECUTIVE OFFICER

July 31, 2024

Governor Katie Hobbs
1700 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Governor Hobbs,

Serving as the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism Chair has been an honor and privilege. I want to acknowledge the Commission's work and dedication to elevating the importance of service and volunteerism in Arizona. By amplifying awareness of volunteerism as a solution to Arizona's most critical challenges, we have empowered individuals and communities to take impactful action, ensuring the prosperity of every Arizonan.

In the past grant year, the Commission's funding supported 32 AmeriCorps State programs across Arizona, offering crucial assistance to 1,240 AmeriCorps members who earned approximately \$2.8 million in Segal Education awards. Additionally, AmeriCorps members successfully recruited and managed an additional 17,800 volunteers, who collectively contributed 50,964 hours to address pressing needs across the state. Furthermore, federal investments distributed through the AmeriCorps federal agency resulted in an additional 2,860 members and volunteers serving within Arizona. The positive impact of Arizona's AmeriCorps members and their recruited volunteers continues in communities throughout the state. Nearly 79,000 children and youth received educational and social support, over 100 Arizonans gained access to job training and placement services, and 600 individuals received essential independent living support. Moreover, AmeriCorps members served nearly 800 veterans, active-duty military personnel, and their family members.

The Commission has effectively enhanced cooperation, coordination, and collaboration among all AmeriCorps programs, including State and National, Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), and Seniors. Notable collaborations include service projects for 9/11 Day and MLK Day, co-presenting at national conferences, cross-program recruitment of members and partners, and sharing best practices for program management.

The Commission looks forward to what next year has to offer and all that AmeriCorps can do to support communities throughout Arizona.

Sincerely,

Donna J. Davis, *Chair*

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PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE

The [Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism](#) (the "Commission") is administered by the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF) and continued through [Executive Order 2023-19](#), amending and superseding 2014-07. Established under the premise to advise and assist in developing and implementing a comprehensive, statewide plan for promoting volunteer involvement and citizen participation, the Commission works hand in hand with organizations across Arizona to create cost-effective community solutions that empower individuals with opportunities to help tackle their community's toughest challenges. The Commission also serves as Arizona's liaison for national and state organizations that support its mission, utilizing national data from federal reports to guide its work: National Service in Arizona and Volunteering and Civic Life in America.

National Service in Arizona

The [National Service in Arizona Annual Report](#), published by the federal agency AmeriCorps, reveals the agency's financial investment in the state, the local funding generated as a match, and the number of service members and sites. Upon completing their service terms, members receive the Segal Education Award to repay student loans or pursue further education, such as post-secondary, career and technical, or certificate programs. In 2023, AmeriCorps invested \$13.7 million in federal funds and secured an additional \$3.8 million in local support to match the federal investment.



Volunteering and Civic Life in America

Every two years, the United States (US) Census Bureau and the AmeriCorps federal agency collaborate to conduct a comprehensive national survey on volunteerism and civic engagement in the US. The latest survey, conducted from September 2020 to 2021 during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, examines organizational volunteering, informal assistance to others, and other civic behaviors. [Click here](#) to view the full report. Arizona-specific data is available [here](#).

MEMBERSHIP

The Commission comprises individuals appointed by the Governor who serve at her pleasure, without compensation. The following members currently serve on the Commission:

Donna Davis, Chair

Education Forward Arizona

Robert Ashcraft

Arizona State University, Lodestar Center for
Philanthropy and Nonprofit Innovation

Ariel Baber

AZCEND

Tyler Butler

Collaboration for Good

Victoria Carlson-Foscuz

Certified Volunteer Administrator, Retired

Kimberly Rice

Arizona Department of Education

Felipe Garcia

Student, University of Arizona

Wynn 'Chris' Gibbs

USAF Retired, Lions Club

Michael Hammett

City of Phoenix

Helain Lewis

Academies of Math and Science

Donna Martin

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Valley

Alex Gabaldon

Grand Canyon

Thomas Winkel

Arizona Coalition for Military Families

Carla Nuñez

AmeriCorps Federal Agency, Ex-Officio

ACTIVITIES

Arizona Summit on Volunteerism and Civic Engagement

May 24, 2023

Established in 2010, the Arizona Summit on Volunteerism and Civic Engagement brings together individuals, groups, leaders, and representatives of Arizona's volunteer, civic engagement, and service-learning communities to improve their skills to serve Arizona communities better. In May 2023, the 12th Annual Arizona Summit on Volunteerism and Civic Engagement brought together over 250 individuals for the first in-person since the pandemic. The Summit featured 24 workshops covering inclusivity in volunteer programs, leadership development, and volunteer support across four tracks: beginner volunteer management, intermediate skills, best practices for community collaboration, and youth/volunteers. Post-event survey results indicated attendees were satisfied with the variety of workshops offered and the skills of the trainers.

AmeriCorps Program Orientation

August 10, 2023

In August, the annual subgrantee orientation in Phoenix brought together over 50 representatives from the 32 AmeriCorps State Programs. The orientation allows a review of compliance requirements and connects new programs/staff with experienced ones and commissioners to learn about the programs' goals.

9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance

September 11, 2023

Arizona AmeriCorps members participated in various projects to honor the [9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance](#). In Phoenix, members worked with St. Mary's and United Food Banks to pack over 260,000 meals. In Flagstaff, the Northern Arizona University (NAU) Center for Service and Volunteerism (CSV) organized an event at City Hall, where flags were placed on the lawn to honor each person who died on September 11, 2001. In Tucson, AmeriCorps members improved the property of Youth on Their Own by painting a mural and tending to the garden. Additional members helped to sort fruits and vegetables at the Community Foodbank of Southern Arizona.



Arizona Climate Resilience Corps

Launched September 2023

The [Arizona Climate Resilience Corps \(AZCRC\)](#) is a state-led program created in collaboration with the GOYFF and the NAU CSV in response to [President Biden's American Climate Corps](#) initiative. The AZCRC received a \$945,000 philanthropic grant and almost \$500,000 in federal AmeriCorps funding to expand the Environmental Literacy Corps (ELC) program, which began in 2021.



It has placed more than 70 members throughout Arizona through over 25 partnering organizations, primarily focusing on enhancing Arizona’s environmental education programming and contributing to climate mitigation efforts, such as removing invasive weeds, addressing extreme heat issues, and promoting water conservation.

In May 2024, the AZCRC program was recognized by the NAU Sustainability Leadership Awards, receiving the Flagstaff Community Organization Top Honors award.



HandsOn Greater Phoenix 30th Anniversary Sponsorship

October 2023

[HandsOn Greater Phoenix](#) puts volunteers to work where they are needed most. It envisions a day when all people realize their power to make a difference and actively engage in their communities. The Commission was proud to sponsor HandsOn Greater Phoenix’s 30th Anniversary celebration, which approximately 90 individuals attended.

National Competitive Application Support

November 2023

Every fall, the federal agency AmeriCorps sponsors an annual National Competitive solicitation and the State Formula Competition, which takes place every three years. The federal solicitation allows programs operating in multiple states to apply for additional funding and for the state to access more federal funds beyond the formula allocation. For fiscal year (FY) 2024, the Commission facilitated the submission of 11 new and five continuation applications. Four new programs received \$2.8 million in funding, and five continuing programs were awarded nearly \$1.9 million for the upcoming program year beginning in August 2024. These funds are in addition to the annual state allocation and [American Rescue Plan Act \(ARPA\)](#) of approximately \$5.9 million, totaling \$10.6 million to support communities across Arizona.

Southern Arizona Volunteer Managers Association Awards Sponsorship

January 18, 2024

The Commission was the presenting sponsor of the [2024 Southern Arizona Volunteer Managers Association \(SAVMA\) Awards](#), an annual event honoring individuals for serving communities in southern Arizona throughout the previous year. Presenting awards included Program Volunteer, Board Member, Youth Volunteer, Volunteer Program, Corporate Volunteerism, and Volunteer Administrator. Two Commissioners received awards: Felipe Garcia, 2023 Youth Volunteer, and Tori Carlson, 2023 Volunteer Administrator.



AmeriCorps Week

March 10-16, 2024

AmeriCorps Week is observed annually as an opportunity to recognize current and former AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers for their service, thank community partners, and raise awareness about AmeriCorps' impact on the lives of those who serve, all to encourage others to follow in their footsteps of service.

Governor Katie Hobbs recognized AmeriCorps Week and the members and volunteers serving across Arizona with a [proclamation](#). AmeriCorps programs also participated in a social media campaign highlighting member service stories and community impact throughout Arizona, recognizing AmeriCorps as “not just a moment; it’s a movement.”



As part of the AmeriCorps Week celebration, the Commission hosted AmeriCorps State and National Director Sonali Nijhawan in Flagstaff. Director Nijhawan met with the AZCRC, took the AmeriCorps Pledge, and learned about the [City of Flagstaff's Office of Sustainability Community Gardens](#) program, which AmeriCorps VISTA members first created and continues to expand annually through AmeriCorps member support. AmeriCorps members then led the group along an urban trail, discussing water conservation and invasive species removal efforts along the [Rio de Flag](#). The group also received a lesson in fire ecology using the [Fire Ecology Learning Lab \(FELL\) Curriculum](#) delivered in classrooms around the state and visited the [Arizona Conservation Corps \(AZCC\)](#) to learn about the [Wood for Life Project](#), where members work with the [National Forest Services](#) to thin forests and mitigate the risk of wildfires. The wood from forest restoration efforts fuels Indigenous communities that rely on firewood to heat their homes.

Partnership with the Arizona Media Association

Launched April 2024

The Commission partnered with the [Arizona Media Association](#) for the second year to fund a public service announcement (PSA) campaign. The previous campaign in FY2023 was highly successful, delivering a 15:1 return on investment with over 4,000 TV and 14,000 radio airings in six months and over one million digital impressions monthly. The focus of the 2024 campaign is “30 Years of AmeriCorps in Arizona,” within its first two months of launching, it achieved a 12:1 return on investment with approximately 2,300 TV and Radio ads, garnering 1.5 million digital impressions monthly. The PSAs are viewable here: [PSA 1](#) and [PSA 2](#).

Inaugural Symposium on Climate in Our Nation's Service

April 18, 2024

The [AmeriCorps Office of Research and Evaluation](#) and the [Center for Environment, Community, & Equity \(CECE\)](#) hosted the inaugural Symposium on Climate in Our Nation's Service. The symposium is



part of a more extensive partnership between AmeriCorps and CECE to develop research strategies and impact metrics to support the expansion of work at the intersection of climate change and national service. The GOYFF AmeriCorps Director Emily Litchfield represented the Commission and joined fellow AmeriCorps Directors from Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, Vermont, and Washington, DC. The group received insights from leaders across the federal government, including the [White House Climate Policy Office](#),

AmeriCorps, Department of the Interior, and the US Forest Service. Following the briefing, State AmeriCorps Directors, Federal AmeriCorps, and CECE leadership discussed the practical aspects of building evidence around climate-related national service programs, such as research agendas and performance metrics.

Sponsoring the America's Service Commission National Service Training

April 2024 (in-person) and May 2024 (virtual)

The Commission sponsored the annual National Service Training hosted by [America's Service Commissions \(ASC\)](#), the National Association of State Service Commissions. In April, staff from organizations receiving AmeriCorps funding traveled to Minneapolis, Minnesota, for a three-day training, learning about federal regulations, managing team members, developing programs, and assessing community needs. Similar content was available in a virtual format in May, and all organizations in Arizona that receive AmeriCorps funding participated. Additionally, four staff members had workshop proposals selected and presented at the conference:



- Russ Dickerson, NAU AZCRC: Participated in a panel discussion on public-private partnerships supporting the work of Climate Corps across five states
- Sarah Haber, Arizona Serve, and Andrew Facemire, NAU Student Retention Project: developing partnerships with the community
- MJ Chamberlain, Earn to Learn: Tools and resources for organizations in the digital age
- Kainoa Spenser, Service and Volunteerism Specialist at GOYFF: Collaborating with Service Commissions

Service Enterprise Initiative

July 2023 - June 2024

The [Service Enterprise Initiative \(SEI\)](#) is a national program that provides training and certification to nonprofits committed to implementing exemplary volunteer management practices to achieve operational efficiency and more significant social impact. In 2024, the SEI's national administration transitioned from the [Points of Light](#) to the [Association of Leaders in Volunteer Engagement \(ALIVE\)](#),

which involved updating the SEI curriculum, introducing virtual training capabilities, and enhancing the coaching experience.

Administered by the Arizona State University (ASU) Lodestar Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Innovation, SEI remains a critical focus for the Commission. In the past year, 15 Arizona organizations completed the reaccreditation process. Additionally, three Commissioners were recertified as SEI trainers and are engaging in community outreach to deepen their understanding of the program.

AMERICORPS STATE PROGRAMMING OVERVIEW

2022-2023

Significant achievements occurred in the 2022-2023 AmeriCorps program year, which ended on August 31, 2023. In Arizona, 32 AmeriCorps State programs supported 1,241 AmeriCorps members, representing five new programs and 1.5 times more AmeriCorps members compared to the previous year. Additionally, AmeriCorps members nearly tripled the number of volunteers involved, reaching 17,828 from 6,363. These volunteers contributed over 50,000 hours working alongside AmeriCorps members to address crucial needs in communities across the state.

The following programs operated during the 2022-2023 program year and will continue operations in the 2023-2024 program year. Find executive summaries for each program in the Commission's 2022 and 2023 Annual Reports [here](#).

[ACCEL](#)

[American Conservation Experience](#)

[Area Agency on Aging, Region One](#)

[Arizona Caregiver Coalition](#)

[Arizona Conservation Corps](#)

[ASU BE SAGE Program](#)

[ASU - Experience Matters](#)

[ASU - School of Social Work](#)

[Arizona Superior Court - Maricopa County](#)

[Arizona Supreme Court](#)

[Boys & Girls Clubs of the Valley](#)

[Earn to Learn](#)

[Education Forward Arizona](#)

[Helen's Hope Chest](#)

[Hushabye Nursery](#)

[Hustle PHX](#)

[Maggie's Place](#)

[NAU - ARCC](#)

[NAU - Environmental Learning Corps](#)

[NAU - Public Health Corps](#)

[notMYkid, Inc](#)

[Pima Prevention Partnership](#)

[Prescott College - Economic](#)

[Prescott College - Healthy Futures](#)

[Prescott College - Public Health Corps](#)

[Teach for America](#)

[The Be Kind People Project](#)

[UA - Math STEM](#)

[UA - Wildcat Corps](#)

2023-2024

During the AmeriCorps National Competitive solicitation, the Commission added three new programs for the 2023-2024 year that began on September 1, 2023, and will conclude on August 31, 2024. Additionally, Maggie's Place and the Arizona Supreme Court AmeriCorps Programs received three more years of funding, increasing the number of AmeriCorps State and National programs in Arizona from 29 to 32, and the total federal investment in the state increased from \$10.4 million to \$13.7 million. Below are the executive summaries for the programs added for the 2023-2024 program year.

Arizona Corporation Commission

The [Arizona Corporation Commission, Securities Enforcement Division](#) will have six halftime AmeriCorps members to assist with investigations, collect and analyze statistics related to complainant demographics, and allocate resources to community education and fraud prevention efforts. The primary focus will be protecting investors, particularly seniors and vulnerable adults, from financial exploitation to reduce securities violations.

Arizona Teacher Residency

The [Arizona Teacher Residency](#) program will involve 40 Three Quarter Time AmeriCorps members serving as teacher residents, supporting students in K-12 classrooms at eight Title 1 schools in Arizona. By the end of the first program year, the AmeriCorps members will improve the academic performance of 500 students across 40 classes.

West Valley Health Equity

The [West Valley Health Equity](#) will have 15 AmeriCorps members providing health and mental health education, awareness, and emotional regulation skill-building to pregnant and parenting women in Arizona. At the end of the first program year, the AmeriCorps members will be responsible for 70% or 140 out of 200 participants demonstrating an increased score on the [Arizona Self-Sufficiency Matrix](#) in substance use (decreased use), mental health, and social connections.