



# AmeriCorps Georgia

## ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

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### **ABOUT THIS REPORT**

This Annual Report provides an overview of the Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism's financials and its impact in Georgia for the 2024-2025 program year. The information, data, and analyses in this report provide an assessment of the Commission's yearly activities and accomplishments in support of its mission. If you have questions relating to this report, please contact our office at [AmeriCorpsGA@dca.ga.gov](mailto:AmeriCorpsGA@dca.ga.gov) or at the below mailing address:

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Georgia Serves  
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## MESSAGE FROM GEORGIA SERVES

Dear Friends of Georgia Serves,

We are pleased to present the 2024-2025 Annual Report for Georgia Serves! Georgia Serves' mission is to promote opportunities for citizens to serve, support organizations that utilize volunteer service to address community problems and ensure that investments in service are protected and effectively managed.

We support the organizations within our portfolio of programs by providing grant opportunities, training, and technical assistance. We are grateful to the organizations that support those programs through in-kind and cash donations.

We want to extend a huge "Thank You" to all our many stakeholders, including the Georgia Association of Broadcasters, for airing public service announcements that encourage people to get involved as AmeriCorps members and as sponsors of AmeriCorps programs.

We are also grateful to the many volunteers who serve alongside AmeriCorps members, supporting the programs to become more sustainable and benefit Georgia's citizens further.

Your support for Georgia communities is invaluable! We are excited about the vast range of possibilities that service and volunteerism offer.

Yours in Service,



## ABOUT US

Georgia Serves, aka “The Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism,” is located within the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and operates as the federal agency's administrative agency for funds from AmeriCorps.

The Georgia Legislature created the Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism (GCSV) in 1994 in response to the National and Community Service Act passed by Congress in 1993. Currently, there are 17 voting members on Georgia Serves' board. Commissioners, also known as board members, are appointed by the Governor and serve three-year renewable terms. They are responsible for promoting volunteerism, raising awareness about impact, assisting in the decision-making process, and contributing to the overall success of AmeriCorps Georgia.

Five Georgia Serves staff members are housed in the Community Development Division of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Their responsibilities include providing oversight, ensuring compliance, monitoring, offering technical assistance, and providing support to their portfolio of programs.

## OUR PURPOSE

Georgia Serves grant funds to qualifying agencies to support the implementation of AmeriCorps programs in their communities. These organizations recruit AmeriCorps members who provide direct, community-specific services to the targeted population. Through AmeriCorps, organizations are provided the opportunity to address critical needs in their communities and neighborhoods in areas of Education, Economic Opportunity, Disaster Services, Healthy Futures, Environmental Stewardship, and Veterans/Military Families.

## WHAT WE DO

- ❖ We create and promote opportunities for Georgians to serve their communities.
- ❖ We support organizations that use volunteer service to solve Georgia's community problems.
- ❖ We ensure that investments in volunteer service are protected and managed effectively.

## BOARD AND STAFF

### Commissioners

Matt Campbell <b>Board Chair</b>	Cynthia Jenkins <b>Board Vice Chair</b>
Ann Rosenthal <b>Secretary</b>	Dr. Myra Tolbert <b>Program Committee Chair</b>
Michael Smith <b>Legislative Education Committee Chair</b>	Jen Guynn <b>Service &amp; Development Committee Chair</b>
Aimee Yrlas Simpson	Kristie Sharp
Cayanna Good	Maria Rose Marsh
Christy Ellerbee	Myra Cunningham (Ex-Officio)
David Hamilton	Rosla Plant
June O'Neal	Dr. Said L. Sewell
Kathy Colbenson	Semba Brittian

### Commission Staff

	Vacant <b>Executive Director</b>
Kimberly DuPree <b>Fiscal Grants Manager</b>	Alexis Roberson <b>Grants Specialist</b>
Zaneta Ivery <b>Senior Grants Specialist</b>	Marcia Paul <b>Grants Specialist</b>

The GCSV board is essential to the mission of Georgia Serves, as it contributes to making sound investment decisions with the federal funds granted to us in Georgia. We, the GCSV staff, make concerted efforts to keep the board informed, educated, and current on the happenings within the portfolio of programs. The board strives to visit a minimum of one to two programs annually, providing a tour and time for questions and answers. The board is provided the opportunity to speak with AmeriCorps members, staff, and other stakeholders involved in the programs.

## Georgia Serves 2024-2025 Statistics

- 19 programs were overseen by Georgia Serves staff in 2024-2025
- 18 formula grants
- 1 Public Health AmeriCorps grant
- 2,607 persons applied to be AmeriCorps members
- 645 AmeriCorps member slots were awarded
- 592 members were recruited to serve
- 506 AmeriCorps members earned Education Awards
- 811,618 AmeriCorps member hours were served
- AmeriCorps members recruited 5,545 volunteers
- 19,916 hours were served by recruited or managed volunteers
- 2,503 individuals received job training
- 140,493 clients were served



**AmeriCorps**  
Georgia

## FEDERAL FUNDS

GRANT	AMOUNT
<i>Training &amp; Technical Assistance Grant</i>	\$554,681
<i>Commission Support Grant</i>	\$463,075
<i>AmeriCorps Passthrough Funds</i>	
• AmeriCorps Formula Funds	\$5,410,172
<b>TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$6,427,928</b>

All awardees must leverage federal funds with either cash, in-kind contributions, or a combination of both. The Governor and the Georgia legislature generously contributed \$387,689 in state appropriations to match the Commission's Support Grant, and by partnering with the Georgia Association of Broadcasters, Georgia Serves received \$543,552 in in-kind match from public service announcements across the state.

## LEVERAGE/MATCH

State Funds	\$387,689
Public Service Announcements	\$543,552
Cash Leverage as a result of AmeriCorps grants	\$1,916,990
Dollar value of volunteer time	\$649,859
<b>TOTAL LEVERAGE</b>	<b>\$3,498,090</b>

According to the Independent Volunteer Sector, in 2024, the value of volunteer time in Georgia was \$32.63 per hour. Volunteers served a total of 19,916 hours, which equates to \$649,859. In 2024-2025, Georgia leveraged \$0.54 for every federal dollar invested.

## 2024-2025 Portfolio of Programs

- Atlanta Police Foundation
- Breakthrough Collaborative AmeriCorps Program
- CASA Inc.
- College AIM
- Communities in Schools of Georgia AmeriCorps Reading Tutorial Program
- Goodwill Industries of the Southern Rivers, Inc. AmeriCorps Program
- Hands On Atlanta, Inc. AmeriCorps
- Kennesaw State University Research and Service Foundation
- New American Pathways AmeriCorps Project RISE
- One World Link AmeriCorps Project
- One World Link – Public Health AmeriCorps
- Relay Graduate School of Education/Relay Georgia AmeriCorps Teaching Residency
- Sewa International Atlanta
- Teach For America – Metro Atlanta
- The Scholarship Academy, Inc./Workforce Readiness AmeriCorps Financial Aid Awareness Program
- The University of Georgia – Georgia 4-H AmeriCorps Project
- The University of Georgia Office of Service-Learning
- The University of Georgia Research Foundation – Community Food Fellows
- Youth Villages-Inner Harbour Campus/Youth Villages AmeriCorps Program

The Georgia Commission funded 19 AmeriCorps programs for the 2024-2025 program year, and these programs successfully recruited 592 AmeriCorps members to serve at various sites. These members recruited 5,545 volunteers across the state, who served 19,916 hours.

In 2024-2025, 2,607 persons applied to be AmeriCorps members. As in years past, there is a significant difference in the number of AmeriCorps members recruited versus the number of applicants.



## AmeriCorps Program Impact

**College AIM** delivered college and career readiness programming to high school and college students in DeKalb County, GA, at Towers High School, McNair High School,

Stone Mountain High School, and two additional high schools as determined by DeKalb County School District.

- Four previously unemployed individuals became AmeriCorps members through the College AIM program.
- College Readiness Prep: College AIM served 2,640 children and youth.
- Career Readiness Programming: They provided job training to 106 individuals.

**Communities In Schools of Georgia (CIS)** AmeriCorps members accelerated the academic progress of at-risk students through tutoring and mentoring in reading/math.

- In 2024-2025, Communities in Schools served 421 children and youth.
- 12 people received job training and placement.



Angela Williams (Berrien County) served as an AmeriCorps member with CIS of GA for two terms. She began her service in September 2023 and, during her tenure, supported more than 80 students at Berrien Elementary by providing math and literacy assistance. Angela was always professional and deeply dedicated to the growth and development of every student. After her second year of service, she was selected to join the Communities In Schools staff as a full-time team member.

*"My experience working as a CIS AmeriCorps Tutor gave me the opportunity to work closely with the Site Coordinator at the elementary school where I served. This enabled me to become familiar with the school system and learn more about what Communities In Schools do. Working with my FCCIS (Family Connection/CIS) team allowed me to serve not only in the school, but also in community projects.*

*I am thankful for my two years of experience with AmeriCorps, as it prepared me for my role as a CIS Site Coordinator. I am honored to continue working with my FCCIS team and the Berrien Academy team, who are passionate about serving each other, our community, and an outstanding group of teenagers at Berrien Academy."*

**Goodwill Industries of the Southern Rivers** AmeriCorps members provided outreach and recruitment strategies in the 50-county territory served by Goodwill Industries of the Southern Rivers (Goodwill SR). The recruitment and outreach strategies of AmeriCorps members helped increase client engagement, enabling individuals to achieve gainful and meaningful employment. Additionally, AmeriCorps members leveraged volunteers who engaged in preparing taxes through the Volunteer Income

Tax Assistance program, tutoring for the GED program, and serving as guest speakers for the youth employment program.

- In 2024-2025, Goodwill members served 23,305 individuals, in efforts to connect them to work.
- 3,768 showed improved job readiness.
- 1,625 individuals secured employment.
- 14,744 individuals received outreach services and returned to the centers because of the outreach.
- 7,112 individuals received financial education.
- 5,723 tax returns were completed.
- 3,011 individuals were supported by AmeriCorps members and showed improvement in financial knowledge.
- AmeriCorps members recruited 26 volunteers who served 4,339 hours. 2,430 individuals received job training and placement.



On MLK Day, the Goodwill SR AmeriCorps team sorted and packed food boxes for Feeding the Valley Foodbank. The team packed 7,800 pounds of food, which will provide 6,000 meals to the community.

**Hands On Atlanta (HOA)** AmeriCorps members provided literacy/math tutoring, social and emotional learning (SEL) skill-building, and after-school educational enrichment to economically disadvantaged elementary students in the City of Atlanta, Fulton County, DeKalb County, and Cobb County, Georgia. AmeriCorps members were responsible for improving academic performance in literacy and math. In addition, AmeriCorps members leveraged volunteers who engaged in serving economically disadvantaged elementary students and their families through wrap-around services, including after-school educational enrichment, weekend backpack meals, parent engagement, and teen service-learning opportunities.

- Four previously unemployed individuals were recruited by Hands on Atlanta to serve as AmeriCorps members in 2024-2025.
- In 2024-2025, 417 children and youth were served.
- 17,928 volunteers were recruited by Hands on Atlanta AmeriCorps members and served a total of 32,559 hours.
- 165 students received ELA (English Language Arts) Tutoring, and 119 students showed improvement in ELA.
- 123 students received math tutoring, and 90 students had improved math scores.
- 129 elementary school students received support in SEL (Social Emotional Learning) to help them succeed both academically and socially, and 88 students showed improvement.

**Michael Smith, CEO of AmeriCorps, visited HOA on January 17, 2025.**



In the above photo, Marcia Paul (GA Serves Program Officer) poses with Kristen Thomas (HOA Program Director)



Marcia Paul (left), GA Serves Program Officer, Michael Smith (middle), AmeriCorps CEO, and Kimberly DuPree (right), GA Serves Fiscal Grants Manager

## Kennesaw State University (KSU) Service Fellowship

AmeriCorps members enhanced the capacity of nonprofits throughout Cobb County and the surrounding area, while also providing direct service to clients of site partners.

- 16 nonprofit organizations hosted AmeriCorps members, and all of them reported that their efficiency, effectiveness, and program reach were increased by having AmeriCorps members.
- KSU AmeriCorps members recruited 525 volunteers who collectively served 1,575 hours in the 2024-2025 period.

**New American Pathways** AmeriCorps members supported refugee and immigrant self-sufficiency and long-term success by providing individualized direct services through education in core programs, including both youth afterschool/summer academic programming, as well as adult education, at multiple DeKalb County sites.

- In 2024-2025, New American Pathways AmeriCorps members served 20,089 hours.
- They served 323 students, and 113 showed improved academic performance.
- They served 1,002 individuals to ensure safe and stable households.
- They served 1,546 individuals to increase economic self-sufficiency, and 1,181 achieved self-sufficiency.
- They recruited 317 volunteers who served 5,178 hours.
- After serving, 6 AmeriCorps members remained in the education field.



Below are quotes from some of their AmeriCorps members:

- "I researched and created a map of communities and their closest providers that accept Medicaid." – Marcel
- "I organized and led two free book fairs with over 1,347 donated books." – Nancy
- "Overall, my experiences have strengthened my dedication to community service and the importance of empathy, effective communication, and collaboration in making a meaningful impact." – Roland

- “This year taught me that real impact doesn’t always happen overnight, but with consistency, care, and connection, change begins to take root.” - Emmanuel
- “This experience has broadened my understanding of how impactful programs can transform lives.” - Saraj
- “Thank you for investing in my growth and for empowering me to make a difference.” – Najla
- “I taught 111 clients how to use the MARTA system.” – Sav
- “I taught financial literacy workshops on budgeting, banks, and credit. I applied for jobs for 328 clients.” - Shreya



**One World Link (OWL) Public Health** AmeriCorps members provided community health outreach and support as well as recruit, train, and develop a new generation of public health leaders ready to respond to health needs, with special emphasis on those who have historically not had access to public health in the Central Georgia footprint of Bibb, Baldwin, Hancock, Houston, Jones, and Peach counties.

- In 2024-2025, OWL Public Health AmeriCorps members served 815 individuals to promote healthy futures, and 603 demonstrated improvement in healthcare access.
- OWL Public Health AmeriCorps members recruited and managed 130 volunteers.
- They served 15 veterans.
- Hope Center, an infectious disease clinic for community members living with HIV/Aids in Macon, hosted three AmeriCorps members. These members impacted 715 patients at the Hope Center. Seventy-five individuals and families received food baskets to combat food insecurity, resulting in their utilization of the food pantry rising by 100%.
- In Colquitt County, 44.1% of households have one vehicle or less. This presents a major barrier to residents accessing services and gaining self-sufficiency. As a result, United Way Worldwide partnered with Lyft to offer Ride United Transportation Access (RUTA) to local United Ways. AmeriCorps members oversaw this project, helping over 580 individuals throughout Colquitt County access transportation to non-emergency medical appointments, job interviews, workforce development training, court appearances, food banks, grocery stores, and other health- and human-related services in the local area.
- Colquitt County does not have the funding to support 211 United Way services technology. AmeriCorps members served as 211 operators

and assisted approximately 350 individuals in navigating services daily. AmeriCorps members distributed 530 cases of feminine hygiene products throughout Colquitt County.

- Through the United Way of Colquitt County, AmeriCorps members helped serve 823 individuals by increasing the capacity of 23 local partners and 40 programs.

**One World Link (OWL) Rural** AmeriCorps members provided capacity-building services at nonprofit organizations in South Georgia rural counties. In addition, the AmeriCorps members leveraged volunteers, who engaged in tackling some of the most challenging problems in the South Georgia region, including education, economic opportunities, healthy futures, homelessness, financial literacy, and capacity-building activities focused on deepening equity efforts for rural communities with populations of less than 50,000 and where the poverty percentage is 10% or greater.

- In 2024-2025, OWL Rural AmeriCorps members served 100 children and youth.
- They served eight veterans.
- They recruited 125 volunteers.
- 8 organizations received capacity building services, with all showing an increase in their efficiency, effectiveness, and program reach.

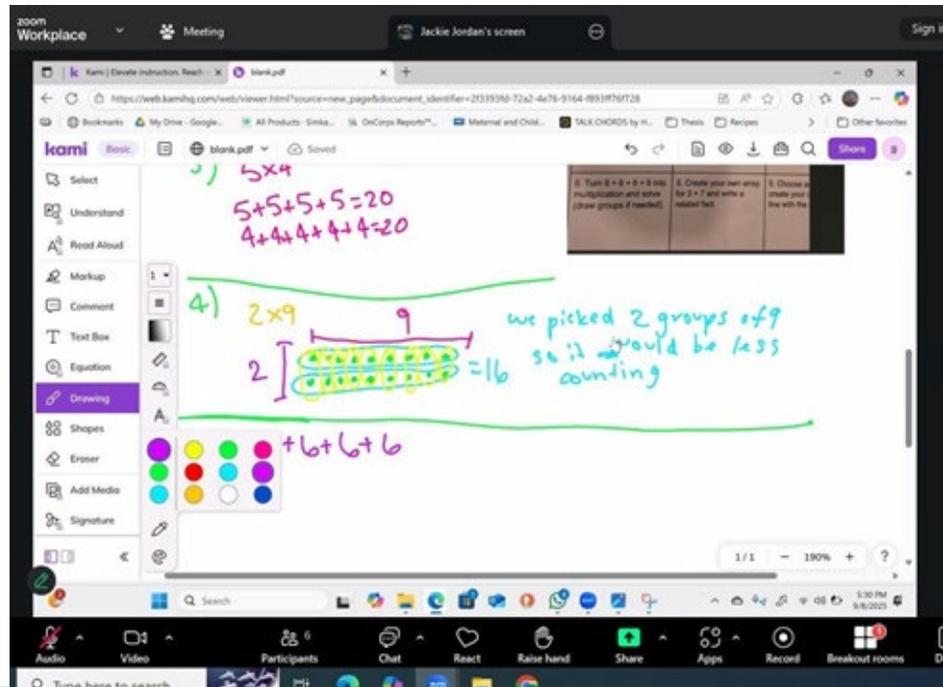
**Relay Graduate School of Education** AmeriCorps Professional Corps members participated in the innovative teacher residency program, Relay Georgia Teaching Residency, across Atlanta Public Schools and KIPP (Knowledge Is Power Program) Metro Atlanta. AmeriCorps members helped to improve outcomes for K-12 students and were prepared to become certified to serve as full-time teachers.

- In 2024-2025, Relay Graduate AmeriCorps members served 2,620 children and youth.
- 1,306 students were served and achieved academic growth.
- Members recruited and managed 32 volunteers.

**Sewa International** AmeriCorps members served as tutors and Supplementary Intervention Specialists (SIS) for children in kindergarten to 10th grade. These members provided supplementary language intervention and tutoring in STEM subjects to enhance academic performance for children from marginalized populations residing in apartment complexes in the DeKalb and Fulton County communities.

- Sewa AmeriCorps members served 167 students in afterschool tutoring, and 120 showed improvement in academic performance.
- Members recruited and managed 50 volunteers who served 833 hours.

Now in its fourth year, the Sewa AmeriCorps Program continues to assist students by providing homework assistance virtually Monday through Thursday.



In this photo, a Sewa AmeriCorps member explains a math problem to a student during a virtual breakout room session.

**Teach For America** AmeriCorps members teach for two years in low-income and disadvantaged schools in Atlanta Public Schools, as well as in Clayton, Fulton, DeKalb, Gwinnett, and Newton counties, and several State-Commissioned Charter Schools, going above and beyond traditional expectations to help students achieve at high levels.

- In 2024-2025, AmeriCorps members served 13,400 individuals despite schools not reaching a 100% enrollment rate.
- 9,074 K-12 students demonstrated improved academic performance.
- 230 corps members taught in over 120 schools across Metro Atlanta. This represents almost three times the growth since 2021.



- Their current teaching corps also contains many traditionally underrepresented groups in education: 87% of their teachers identify as people of color, and 47% of the teachers were the first in their families to graduate from college.

**The Scholarship Academy** AmeriCorps members served as facilitators of a Financial Aid Prep Course by hosting quarterly financial aid awareness events and conducting county-wide financial aid assessments and training in school systems in the metro-Atlanta area.

- In 2024-2025, 1,352 individuals showed an increase in financial aid awareness and completed FAFSA applications.

**The University of Georgia** 4-H AmeriCorps members delivered research-based Positive Youth Development (PYD) programming to students in grades 4-12, including in-school educational club meetings and Project Achievement in the following counties: Banks, Barrow, Ben Hill, Bibb, Bleckley, Bryan, Bulloch, Candler, Carroll, Catoosa, Cobb, Cook, Dougherty, Evans, Haralson, Houston, Laurens, Morgan, Murray, Oglethorpe, Paulding, Peach, Tift, Toombs, Whitfield and Wilkes.

- UGA 4-H AmeriCorps members served 16,869 students through educational club meetings, and 3,201 students demonstrated an increased knowledge of content.
- 12,918 students participated in the 4-H project achievement process, and 726 showed an increase in confidence in public speaking.
- 4-H AmeriCorps members recruited and managed 328 volunteers during the 2024-2025 period.

### **The University of Georgia Community Food Fellows**

AmeriCorps members addressed local food insecurity and food waste by engaging in food recovery, produce harvesting, meal delivery, and community education.

- UGA Food Fellows AmeriCorps members prepared 27,000 meals and provided them to individuals and families.
- 146,300 pounds of food were provided to individuals.
- AmeriCorps members recruited and managed 138 volunteers who served 146 hours.

In the photo below, Alexis Roberson, GA Serves Program Officer (center), is pictured with UGA Food Fellows AmeriCorps members.



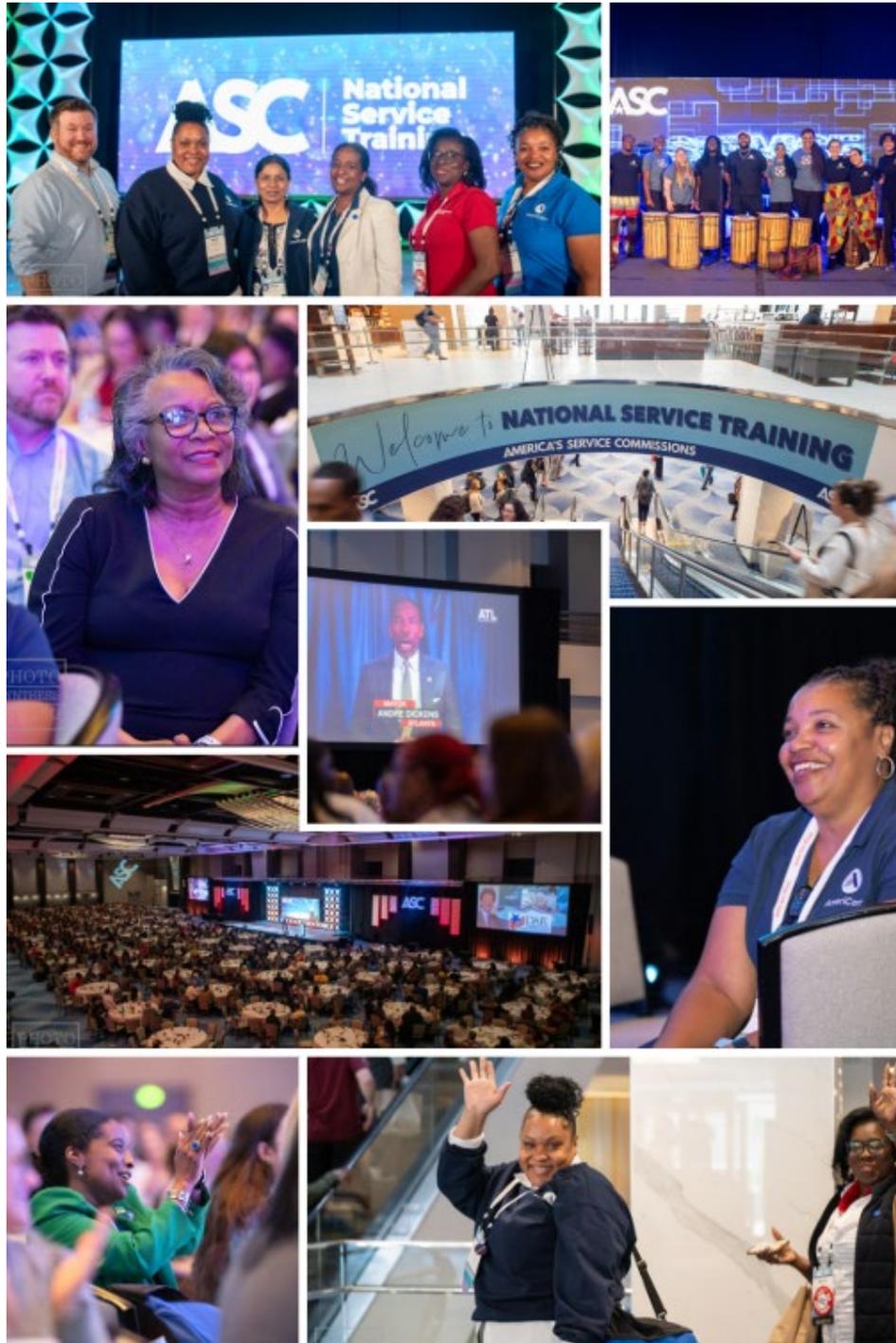
**Youth Villages** AmeriCorps members served full-time, providing tutoring, life skills training, service learning, and enrichment activities at the Youth Villages-Inner Harbor Campus residential facility, an accredited school in Douglasville, GA. Members were responsible for increasing academic engagement, improving civic engagement, and addressing life skill deficits in a vulnerable population of youth with severe emotional and behavioral issues. In addition, members provided community-strengthening activities to local nonprofits and organizations, leveraging volunteers who engaged in meeting community needs.

- In 2024-2025, Youth Villages served 132 youth.
- 47 students received career, education, and future life success tutoring, and they all showed improvement in these areas.
- 27 students engaged in service-learning activities, and they all showed an increase in civic engagement.
- Members recruited 36 volunteers who served 121 hours.

## National Service Training

Atlanta was the proud host of the National Service Training (NST) April 8-10, 2025. This annual event is sponsored by America's Service Commissions.

In the upper right-hand corner, the Youth Villages African Drum Corps opened the conference, capturing everyone's attention with their drumming presentation. The energy of the drum corps was mirrored by attendees, who were filled with excitement and upbeat energy!







## Honor and Recognition

During the National Service Training in Atlanta, Georgia, on April 08, 2025, at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel, America's Service Commissions (ASC) presented Linda Thompson with a Certificate of Recognition Award to honor her with induction into the ASC Honor Roll for blazing a trail and leaving a lasting impact on the service network. This prestigious award was presented to Linda in recognition of her many years of dedicated service and commitment to the organization. Her hard work and dedication exemplify the spirit of the award. In recognition of her unwavering commitment and dedicated service, Linda was presented with this award as a token of gratitude.

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**Thank you for your continued  
contributions to Georgia Serves!**

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## Day of Service

On January 17, 2025, Hands on Atlanta (HOA) members and volunteers were honored to have Michael Smith, CEO of AmeriCorps, join them in Atlanta for the **Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service**. Members and volunteers served at the HOA warehouse, where they packed hygiene kits and painted a mural.



## Georgia Student Service Awards (GSSA)

In 2024-2025, 602 Georgia high school graduates participated in the program. These graduates served more than 120,400 hours. Thirty-nine high schools from around the state participated in the GSSA program.



The Georgia Student Service Awards program allows public and private schools to participate. Home-schooled students may also join if hours can be certified. Service or community hours can be earned through school-sponsored activities and other outside not-for-profit organizations, such as churches and civic/community clubs.

## RETIREMENT OF GEORGIA SERVES' EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



In December 2024, we all celebrated the remarkable career of Executive Director, Linda Thompson. For the past 10 years, Linda has served as the Executive Director of Georgia Serves, making invaluable contributions, leading the organization, fostering innovation, and ensuring program satisfaction. She has been a true cornerstone for Georgia Serves, known for her dedication, wisdom, and commitment to AmeriCorps. Previously, Linda served as Executive Director with the Missouri State Commission.

As she looks forward to embracing the new adventure that retirement holds, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for her unwavering support, mentorship, and camaraderie throughout her years to national service.



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*Congratulations on your well-deserved Retirement, Linda Thompson! Georgia Serves has been blessed to have you as Executive Director, and I'm thankful for your guidance and leadership over the past few years. Whoever comes next has some big shoes to fill! Thank you for all your hard work and your many years of service and volunteerism.*

*- Matt Campbell, Chair*

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*We are deeply grateful for Linda's commitment and wish her a long, happy, and fulfilling retirement.*

*-Georgia Serves staff*

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## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS

Georgia Serves is grateful for our longstanding partnerships with AmeriCorps/ Corporation for National and Community Service, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, and the Georgia Association of Broadcasters. Our federal and state partners allow Georgia Serves to administer national service programs throughout the state, fulfill our critical role before, during, and after emergencies, and promote volunteerism in Georgia. We look forward to continuing to serve Georgia with these outstanding partners in the years ahead.

