



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

GEORGIA SERVES

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ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Annual Report provides an overview of the Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism's financial and impact results for the 2020-21 program year. The information, data, and analyses in this report provides an assessment of the Commission's yearly activities and accomplishments towards its mission. To request a printed copy of this report, obtain it in a format that is accessible to individuals with disabilities, or provide any related feedback, please contact our office at AmeriCorpsGA@dca.ga.gov or at this mailing address: **Georgia Serves, 60 Executive Park South, Atlanta, GA, 30329.**

MESSAGE FROM GEORGIA SERVES

Dear Friends in Service and Volunteering,

We are proud to present Georgia Serves/Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism's 2021 annual report. Thank you for making 2021 yet another remarkable year for service and volunteerism across the state. We are honored to serve side-by-side with staff and commissioners who work daily to enable our diverse individuals, organizations, and communities to benefit from the power, service, and passion of our AmeriCorps members and volunteers.

Many Georgia residents are making a difference in the lives of those around them. This Annual Report is a small glimpse of the work Georgia Serves is doing to make a difference in our communities. The impacts of these everyday good deeds and long term, intensive service opportunities add up and make a tremendous difference here in Georgia. Since 1994, our commission has been instrumental in building a sense of community throughout the state of Georgia by promoting volunteerism and citizenship.

Thank you again for your support and service to Georgia communities! We are excited about the vast range of possibilities through service and volunteerism. We invite you to join us in making a difference in Georgia in 2022. We could not **#ServeGA** without you!

Yours in Service,



MYRA TOLBERT, PhD
Board Chair



LINDA THOMPSON
Executive Director

ABOUT US

Georgia Serves/Georgia Commission is located within the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and operates as the administrative agency for funds from the AmeriCorps/Corporation for National and Community Service, the federal agency that houses the AmeriCorps family of programs.

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. The Commission's board consists of 23 members appointed by the Governor. Commissioners serve three-year renewable terms and are responsible for helping to promote volunteerism, create impact awareness, assist in the decision-making process, and contribute to the overall success of AmeriCorps Georgia.

There are four Georgia Serves staff members located within the Community Development Division of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Their responsibilities are to provide oversight, compliance monitoring, technical assistance, and support to the portfolio of programs.

WHAT WE DO

- We create and promote opportunities for Georgians to serve.
- We support organizations that use volunteer service to solve Georgia's community problems.
- We make sure the investment in volunteer service is protected and managed well.

OUR PURPOSE

Georgia Serves grants funds to qualifying agencies for the purpose of implementing 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 areas of critical needs in their communities and neighborhoods in the areas of Education, Economic Opportunity, Disaster Services, Healthy Futures, Environmental Stewardship, and Veterans/Military Families.

BOARD AND STAFF

Commissioners

Dr. Myra Tolbert
Board Chair and Program Committee Chair

Matt Campbell Ann Rosenthal
Vice Chair Secretary

Elaine S. Hollis Jen Guynn
Legislative Education Committee Chair Service & Development Committee Chair

Semba Brittain Paul Matthews
Kathy Colbenson June O'Neal
Christy Ellerbee Rosla Plant
Cayanna Good Ethan Pender
Quintez Gurdy Lisa Perry
David Hamilton Kristie Sharp
Cynthia Jenkins Aimee Yrlas Simpson
Myra Cunningham (Ex-Officio) Michael Smith

Commission Staff

Linda Thompson
Executive Director

Kimberly Dupree
Financial Manager

Zaneta Ivery Marcia Paul
Grants Specialist Grants Specialist

FEDERAL FUNDS

GRANT	AMOUNT
Training & Technical Assistance Grant	\$166,396
Commission Support Grant	\$433,399
AmeriCorps Grants 2020-21	\$3,711,928
TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS	\$4,311,723

All awardees, including the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and Georgia Serves, are charged with leveraging either cash match for federal funds, in-kind match, or a combination of both. It is important to note the leverage for these AmeriCorps Grants. The Governor and Georgia legislature generously contributed \$218,841 in state appropriations to match the Commission Support Grant, and by partnering with the Georgia Association of Broadcasters, Georgia Serves received \$592,819 in in-kind match from public service announcements across the state.

LEVERAGE/MATCH

State Funds	\$218,841
Public Service Announcements	\$592,819
Leverage resulting from AC grants	\$2,387,133
Dollar value of volunteer time	\$319,562
TOTAL LEVERAGE	\$3,518,355

AMERICORPS GEORGIA



18 PROGRAMS
2 PLANNING GRANTEES

540 AMERICORPS MEMBERS



2,240 PEOPLE
applied to be AmeriCorps Members.

Georgia Serves will continue to put forth efforts to grow our portfolio of programs to accommodate more people wanting to get involved in AmeriCorps.



AmeriCorps Members served over

603,000 HOURS

1,132 VOLUNTEERS

11,197 HOURS



The Georgia Commission funded 18 AmeriCorps programs for the 2020-2021 program year, and they were successful in recruiting 540 AmeriCorps Members to serve at more than 50 sites. These members recruited 1,132 volunteers across the state who served 11,197 hours.

In 2021, 2,240 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. These numbers show us that people want to get involved and want to be a part of the solution.

Enrollment of members, service locations and number of volunteers were affected by COVID restrictions, and understandably so, but these simple measurements do not reflect the full impact of service and volunteerism in our state. Despite the complication of our communities continuing to deal with COVID and its variants, AmeriCorps members continued response and recovery efforts for Georgia communities.

AMERICORPS STATE PROGRAMS



EDUCATION

- Breakthrough Collaborative AmeriCorps Program
- City of Roswell AmeriCorps After-School Project
- Clayton State University AmeriCorps Program
- Communities in Schools of Georgia/CISGA AmeriCorps Foundations Tutorial Program
- Covenant House Georgia, Inc./CHGA AmeriCorps
- Extra Special People, Inc./ESP AmeriCorps Program
- Georgia State University Research Foundation Inc./T.E.E.M.S. AmeriCorps
- Hands On Atlanta, Inc./Hands On Atlanta AmeriCorps
- Jumpstart for Young Children, Inc./Jumpstart for Young Children
- Relay Graduate School of Education/Relay Georgia AmeriCorps Teaching Residency
- Teach For America/Teach For America - Metro Atlanta
- The University of Georgia/Georgia 4-H/AmeriCorps Project
- Youth Villages-Inner Harbour Campus/Youth Villages AmeriCorps Program





ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

- Goodwill Industries of the Southern Rivers, Inc./Goodwill SR AmeriCorps Program
- New American Pathways/AmeriCorps Project RISE
- One World Link/One World Link AmeriCorps Project
- The Scholarship Academy, Inc./Workforce Readiness AmeriCorps Financial Aid Awareness Program

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

- Georgia Sea Turtle Center/AmeriCorps GSTC



AMERICORPS IMPACT

Education/College Readiness

- Over 11,700 students were served by AmeriCorps members either through tutoring, mentoring or academic support.
- 291 economically disadvantaged students received college scholarships due to the assistance of The Scholarship Academy AmeriCorps members.
- Youth Villages reported that members engaged 73 youth with severe emotional and behavioral issues in service-learning activities to raise their awareness of civic engagement.
- Georgia 4H AmeriCorps members engaged 17,471 students around the state in-school educational club meetings during the full academic school year.

Creating Economic Opportunity

- Goodwill assisted 3,607 individuals with securing employment
- Covenant House served 168 economically disadvantaged individuals who received job placement services
- New American Pathways AmeriCorps members assisted 568 adult clients with educational support that includes job placement, resume writing workshops, technological training, and English classes. Also, 162 newly arrived refugee clients were able to gain safe and stable households within 90 days of arrival thanks to Project RISE program.
- Covenant House members served 74 homeless/runaway youth to help them secure employment this year.
- ESP had a total of 627 active families of an individual with a disability who participated in at least one program over the past two years. Engaging with 130 new families, serving families from 31 counties in Georgia and five states, traveling 5,400 miles to provide free program transportation to families across our community, and providing 2,489 points of engagement through family support initiatives.

Environmental Stewardship

- AmeriCorps members serving at the Georgia Sea Turtle Center provided education or training in environmental stewardship to 7,330 individuals.
- Also, the AmeriCorps GSTC Sea turtle dawn patrol and night patrol teams, documented that 128 sea turtle nests were laid on Jekyll Island last summer season with an estimated 3,209 hatchlings making their way back to the ocean.

GEORGIA SERVES INITIATIVES

GEORGIA STUDENT SERVICE AWARD

The Georgia Commission awards certificates and service honor cords at graduation ceremonies to Georgia students who meet a predetermined threshold of service hours in their communities. To qualify for the Georgia Student Service Award, a minimum of 200 hours by graduation is required. Graduating seniors who reach the milestone will receive a certificate and a red, white, and blue service cord to be worn at graduation ceremonies. During the Spring of 2021 only 113 Georgia students received awards and together, these students served a total 17,359 service hours.

Service can be performed through school sponsored activities and/or through outside organizations such as churches and other clubs. Both public and private schools are eligible to participate in the Georgia Student Service Award program. Home schooled students may also participate if hours can be certified.

- **113** graduates earned the certificate/cord
- **17,359** total hours of service
- **15** High Schools participated



GEORGIA SERVICE AWARD

Georgia Serves established awards to honor the efforts and dedication of outstanding AmeriCorps members and staff in the state. Also, this award recognizes and encourages the valuable services to their community.

The recipients of these awards serve their communities by taking unusual initiative to identify and solve a critical problem or meet a specific need. These awards highlight the spirit of service and volunteerism in others. The awards were presented at the AmeriCorps Georgia Opening and Awards Day event on October 14, 2021, to the following recipients:



Beyond the Call

Sarah Farriba, Extra Special People, Watkinsville

Presented to a Georgia **AmeriCorps member/alum** who embodies the values set forth in the AmeriCorps pledge to take action, seek common ground, and persevere in the face of adversity.



GA AmeriCorps Team of the Year

Youth Villages AmeriCorps, Douglasville

Presented to the Georgia **AmeriCorps team** that demonstrates excellence in mission achievement, operational performance, capacity building, and sustainable results.



GCSV Chairman's Award

Kristen Thomas, Program Director, Hands on Atlanta, Atlanta

Presented annually to a Georgia **AmeriCorps program director** whose actions demonstrate the spirit of AmeriCorps and a belief in the power of national service to get things done for our state and country.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS

Serve Georgia is grateful for our longstanding partnerships with AmeriCorps/Corporation for National and Community Service, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, and the Georgia's Association of Broadcasters. Our federal and state partners make it possible for 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 2022.

