



AmeriCorps
Georgia

**GEORGIA
SERVES**
**GEORGIA COMMISSION
FOR SERVICE AND
VOLUNTEERISM**

Annual Report

2022-2023

GEORGIA SERVES

Our mission is to promote service and volunteerism in Georgia through AmeriCorps national service grants, community volunteer recognition, and support of local volunteer organizations and efforts.

CONTENTS

3	LETTER FROM THE DCA COMMISSIONER
4	LETTER FROM GEORGIA SERVES
5	ABOUT US
6	INVESTMENT/LEVERAGE
7-11	AMERICORPS GEORGIA
12-17	AMERICORPS GEORGIA IMPACT
18	VOLUNTEER GENERATION FUND
14	GEORGIA STUDENT SERVICE AWARD
15	GEORGIA SERVES BOARD AND STAFF

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This annual report provides a financial overview of Georgia Serves, formerly known as the Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism, and displays its impact in Georgia for the 2022-2023 program year. The information, data, and analyses in this report provides an assessment of Georgia Serves' yearly activities and accomplishments towards its mission. If you have questions relating to this report, please contact our office at AmeriCorpsGA@dca.ga.gov or at the below mailing address:

Georgia Department of Community Affairs
Georgia Serves
60 Executive Park South, NE
Atlanta, GA, 30329-2231

LETTER FROM THE DCA COMMISSIONER

Dear Friends in Service,

It gives me great pleasure to present to you the 2022-2023 Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism (Georgia Serves) Annual Report.

The Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism has helped meet Georgia's needs since 1994. Working within the Department of Community Affairs, it has provided more than \$80 million in AmeriCorps funds to public and non-profit agencies that assist communities across the state. Over this time, tens of thousands of Georgians have served in AmeriCorps, both as AmeriCorps members or as team members of sponsoring agencies.

The Commission has made a tremendous difference throughout its 30 years of operation, but there remains much more to be done! During the last reporting period, the Commission re-branded itself under the operating name and working motto, "Georgia Serves". Shortening the name has allowed us to improve name recognition and build more brand awareness.

The collective effort of Department of Community Affairs staff and the Board of Georgia Serves makes it possible for local organizations to implement AmeriCorps programs in their communities, and provides grassroots interventions that deploy human resources to address the most pressing concerns of those most in need of assistance. Our sponsored programs and service members carry out this great work that resonates with other civically engaged citizens throughout the Peach State.

In 2022-2023, Georgia Serves sponsored 490 AmeriCorps members serving in various capacities in the following areas: education, environmental stewardship, healthy futures, veterans and military family support, disaster response/recovery, and economic opportunity. AmeriCorps members made lasting impacts in communities while gaining valuable skills and experience that will serve them in their careers.

Throughout this report, you will find great examples of what makes this program so powerful: how using a small amount of local dollars and investing the full resources of Georgia Serves can deliver big results in communities of need.



Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER NUNN, COMMISSIONER
Georgia Department of Community Affairs

LETTER FROM GEORGIA SERVES

Dear Friends of Georgia Serves,

It is our pleasure to present to you the 2022-2023 Annual Report for Georgia Serves! The mission of Georgia Serves is to promote opportunities for citizens to serve and support organizations that use volunteer service to address community problems, and to make sure that investment in service is protected and managed well.

We support the organizations within our portfolio of programs, and we are grateful to the organizations that support those programs through in-kind and cash donations. We want to send a huge “Thank You” to our many stakeholders including the Georgia Association of Broadcasters who air public service announcements encouraging people to get involved both 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 to the citizens of Georgia.

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

Yours in Service,



MATT CAMPBELL
BOARD CHAIR



LINDA THOMPSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

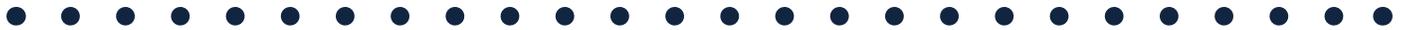
ABOUT US



Georgia Serves, formally known as The Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism (GCSV), is located within the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and operates as the administrative agency for federal funds from AmeriCorps.

The Georgia Legislature created the Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism in 1994 in response to the National and Community Service Act passed by Congress in 1993. The Commission changed its name to Georgia Serves in 2021, allowing its public identity to more easily align with its mission and activities. Georgia Serves' board currently consists of 15 voting 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 five 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 its 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 critical needs in their communities and neighborhoods in the areas of education, economic opportunity, disaster services, healthy futures, environmental stewardship, and veterans/military families.

INVESTMENTS/LEVERAGE

FEDERAL FUNDS

Training & Technical Assistance Grant	\$215,429
Commission Support Grant	\$464,033
AmeriCorps Pass-through Funds	
• Public Health AmeriCorps	\$1,342,881
• AmeriCorps Formula Funds	\$5,735,687
• Volunteer Generation Fund	\$183,943
TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS	\$7,941,973

All awardees are required to leverage these funds with either cash, in-kind contributions, or a combination of both. The Governor and the Georgia General Assembly generously contributed \$459,735 in state appropriations to match Georgia Serves' Support Grant. By partnering with the Georgia Association of Broadcasters, Georgia Serves received \$563,558 in in-kind match from public service announcements across the state.

LEVERAGE/MATCH

State Funds	\$459,735
Public Service Announcements	\$563,558
Cash Leverage (As a Result of AmeriCorps Grants)	\$2,758,529
Dollar Value of Volunteer Time	\$6,121,247
TOTAL LEVERAGE	\$9,903,069

In 2022, based on the Independent Volunteer Sector, the value of volunteer time in Georgia was \$29.67 an hour. Volunteers served a total of 206,311 hours, which equates to \$6,121,247.37. In 2022-2023, Georgia leveraged \$1.24 for every federal dollar invested.

AMERICORPS GEORGIA



Extra Special People (ESP) members' orientation and training experience - September 2022

In 2023, AmeriCorps celebrated its 30th anniversary and swore in a new wave of members in Columbus, GA. At the same time across town, current members conducted a service project to pack and donate 100 care bags to benefit the children at Girls, Inc., demonstrating AmeriCorps' service at its finest.

Tamesha Simmons (pictured) helped pack some of the care bags donated to Girls, Inc. She is an AmeriCorps member with Goodwill Industries of the Southern Rivers.



AMERICORPS GEORGIA

2022-2023 STATISTICS



Georgia Serves oversaw a portfolio of

25 PROGRAMS

(18 formula grants, 4 planning grants, 2 Public Health AmeriCorps grants, and 1 Volunteer Generation Fund grant)



1,669 PEOPLE

applied to become **AmeriCorps** members

490 AMERICORPS MEMBERS

recruited

Members served a total of

548,341 HOURS

399 AMERICORPS MEMBERS

earned Education Awards

16,759 VOLUNTEERS

recruited by AmeriCorps members

189,552 VOLUNTEERS

recruited by Hands On Atlanta as a result of the Volunteer Generation Fund

Volunteers served

206,311 HOURS

AMERICORPS GEORGIA

2022-2023 PROGRAMS

- Breakthrough Collaborative AmeriCorps Program
- CASA De Maryland, Inc. - Planning Grant
- Central Georgia Council, Boy Scouts of America
- Communities in Schools of Georgia AmeriCorps Reading Tutorial Program
- Covenant House Georgia, Inc.
- Community Action for Improvement, Inc.
- DeKalb County Board of Health - Public Health AmeriCorps
- Extra Special People AmeriCorps Program (ESP)
- Georgia State University Research Foundation, Inc. T.E.E.M.S. AmeriCorps
- Goodwill Industries of the Southern Rivers, Inc. AmeriCorps Program
- Hands On Atlanta, Inc. AmeriCorps
- Hands On Atlanta Volunteer Generation Fund
- National Wildlife Federation - Planning Grant
- New American Pathways AmeriCorps Project RISE
- One World Link AmeriCorps Project
- One World Link - Public Health AmeriCorps
- Teach For America - Metro Atlanta
- The Christian City, Inc. AmeriCorps - Planning Grant
- The Salvation Army, A Georgia Corporation - Planning Grant
- The Scholarship Academy, Inc./Workforce Readiness AmeriCorps Financial Aid Awareness Program
- The University of Georgia - Georgia 4-H AmeriCorps Project
- The University of Georgia Research Foundation - AmeriCorps Planning Grant
- Relay Graduate School of Education/Relay Georgia AmeriCorps Teaching Residency
- Sewa International Atlanta
- Youth Villages-Inner Harbour Campus/Youth Villages AmeriCorps Program

AMERICORPS GEORGIA



Georgia Serves awarded the University of Georgia (UGA) Research Foundation, Inc. a planning grant in 2022 to plan for a program to address food insecurity in Athens-Clarke County, Georgia. This program, the AmeriCorps Community Food Fellows Program, would launch in 2023. Celebrating the program's launch (pictured left to right) are Linda Thompson, Georgia Serves Director, Dr. Shannon Brooks, Director of UGA Office of Service-Learning, Paul Matthews, Ph.D, Associate Director of UGA Office of Service-Learning, Elizabeth Kay Vaughn, Financial Business Manager of UGA Office of Service Learning, Dr. Coleman Allums, AmeriCorps Community Food Fellows Program Coordinator, and Kimberly DuPree, Georgia Serves Fiscal Grant Manager.

Georgia Serves funded 25 AmeriCorps programs for the 2022-2023 program year, and they successfully recruited 490 AmeriCorps members who served at various sites. These members recruited 5,052 volunteers across the state who served 16,759 hours.

We were fortunate to receive a Volunteer Generation Fund Grant in 2022, and since Hands On Atlanta is a seasoned volunteer recruitment agency, we partnered with them to implement the grant. They successfully recruited 37,500 volunteers who served an impressive 189,552 hours. These volunteers made a remarkable impact in helping address the food insecurity areas throughout Georgia.

In 2022-2023, 1,669 people applied to be AmeriCorps members. All applicants must undergo criminal history checks and meet other requirements. As in years past, there is a significant difference in the number of AmeriCorps members recruited versus the number of applicants.

Member recruitment, finding service locations, and volunteer recruitment are still affected by COVID-19 as well as restrictions due to COVID-19. This and other reasons made recruitment in 2022-2023 difficult. Despite these complications, AmeriCorps members persevered for Georgia communities.

AMERICORPS GEORGIA

Michael Smith, CEO of AmeriCorps, visited one of Hands On Atlanta's school sites, Scott Elementary School in Atlanta. Principal Longley and Ms. Rucker provided an overview of their AmeriCorps program where children learn advanced science and math. They are also being taught responsibility, respect and what success looks like. Their principal takes the well-being of these children very seriously.



Michael (left) was accompanied by Tannika Richardson (far left), AmeriCorps Public Engagement Director, Jay Cranman (right), Hands On Atlanta CEO, and Dr. Chanika Perry (far right), Hands On Atlanta Director of Education Programs.

During Michael's Atlanta visit, he met with Youth Villages AmeriCorps members who exhibited their outdoor kitchen and allowed him to cook with some of the children taking advantage of their program. He also got a chance to experience their therapeutic drumming session, an excellent stress reliever that serves as healing therapy or therapy for special needs children. He said it is a lot of fun!



Michael (right) toured the Youth Villages Inner Harbour AmeriCorps Program with its director, Makayla Harrison (left), where she demonstrated their outdoor kitchen and therapeutic drumming session.

AMERICORPS GEORGIA IMPACT

BREAKTHROUGH ATLANTA

Disadvantaged youth who engage in summer learning retain and develop more academic skills than those who don't. Students lose three months of academic knowledge and skills during summer. In the Summer of 2023, pre/post-testing showed that:

- 132 of the 163 Breakthrough students retained or increased math skills.
- 147 Breakthrough students retained or increased reading skills.
- Breakthrough Atlanta students are 30% more likely to enroll in college than their peers who do not participate in a similar program.
- Breakthrough Atlanta students, predominantly African American, Latino, and economically disadvantaged, enroll in college at similar rates to affluent and Asian American students (the two highest enrolling demographics of American youth).
- Interest in pursuing a career in teaching among high school and college students has reached an all-time low. Two-thirds of AmeriCorps members participating in Breakthrough's teaching fellowship indicate they are more interested in pursuing teaching careers due to their experience, and three-quarters indicate a desire to pursue careers in education, including teaching, counseling, and other related roles. Two-thirds of teaching fellows who graduated college in the spring of 2023 began careers in education in the fall.
- Due to the Georgia Commission awarding Breakthrough Atlanta in 2020-2022, they were the impetus for supporting new sites to become AmeriCorps programs. The national organization Breakthrough Collaborative has applied to bring five additional affiliates into the AmeriCorps network: Greater Boston, Minneapolis, San Francisco, San Juan Capistrano, and Summerbridge (also in San Francisco) in 2024. Additionally, ten Breakthrough affiliates across the U.S. host AmeriCorps members in the same way as Breakthrough Atlanta. They are Central Texas (Austin), Cincinnati, Fort Worth, Houston, Manchester, Miami, New York, Twin Cities, and Silicon Valley.

DEKALB COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH - PUBLIC HEALTH AMERICORPS PROGRAM

- 3 of 5 DeKalb County Board of Health AmeriCorps members' service leads to employment, increasing their income from \$40,000 to \$60,000 annually.
- AmeriCorps members served as public health educators and patient navigators to educate 4,525 community members and assist them in navigating community

AMERICORPS GEORGIA IMPACT

resources. The funding provided resources to continue supporting populations that COVID-19 disproportionately impacted and continues to impact.

GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF THE SOUTHERN RIVERS

AmeriCorps members are changing lives.

- 6,137 people were placed in jobs in 2023 (1 of 3 job placements were touched by an AmeriCorps member). That is a record for this organization.
- 36,956 individuals were served. AmeriCorps members touched approximately 65% of those individuals to help them with information leading to job placement, job readiness skills, or free tax preparation.

HANDS ON ATLANTA

- 52 AmeriCorps members served in Metro Atlanta as math and ELA tutors, social-emotional learning coaches, and volunteer generators.
- AmeriCorps members provided 74,139 hours of service to their schools and local communities. As a frame of reference, a typical school employee works 1,600-2,000 hours in a typical school year.
- 462 students were served. Looking at academic performance on MAP post-assessments,
 - » 86% of the students in AmeriCorps member caseloads improved their performance in math,
 - » 81% of students improved in ELA (English Language Arts).
 - » AmeriCorps members served as Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) coaches. The number of students in danger of exhibiting SEL concerns decreased by 24% from pre- to post-assessment
- 25% of AmeriCorps members were offered positions at their respective school sites, helping them address staff shortage issues.

NEW AMERICAN PATHWAYS

- AmeriCorps members served 208 students in grades K-8 in afterschool programming.
- 300+ volunteers were recruited and engaged by AmeriCorps members. These volunteers helped set up housing for newly arrived refugees, tutored adults in English, and assisted with in-kind donation drives that provided valuable resources such as coats and hygiene kits for newly arrived refugee families.

AMERICORPS GEORGIA IMPACT

- AmeriCorps members served 1,280 individual refugee and immigrant clients. This included the large number of people who arrived from Afghanistan and Ukraine.

ONE WORLD LINK AMERICORPS PROGRAMS

One World Link (OWL) AmeriCorps Programs made significant impacts throughout Middle Georgia. Members serve daily to increase community awareness of services, increase access to care, decrease food insecurity, provide nutritional education to patients, reduce barriers to economic success, and build capacity at non-profits to further their impact.

Atrium Health (Food As Medicine Market)

- 1,496 households were served
- 18,477 people in households were served
- 116,582.67 pounds of food was distributed

North Central Health District (Hope Center)/Georgia Department of Public Health

Hope Center is an infectious disease clinic for community members living with HIV/Aids.

- One AmeriCorps member impacted 1,260 patients at the Hope Center. These efforts included running a food pantry, helping patients navigate services, client data management support, and targeted outreach.
- 119 Individuals and families received food baskets to combat food insecurity.

North Central Health District (Breast and Cervical Cancer Department)/Georgia Department of Public Health

- AmeriCorps members served 13 counties by assisting the Breast and Cervical Cancer Program with yearly rescreen letters to women previously enrolled in the program due for mammograms.
- 277 patients received mammograms due to AmeriCorps members' outreach and patient engagement initiatives.

United Way of Colquitt County

In Colquitt County, 44.1% of households have one vehicle or less. This presents a significant barrier to residents accessing services and gaining self-sufficiency. United Way Worldwide partnered with Lyft to offer Ride United Transportation Access (RUTA) to local United Ways.

- 500 individuals in Colquitt County received transportation to non-emergency medical appointments, job interviews, workforce development training, court

AMERICORPS GEORGIA IMPACT

appearances, food banks, grocery stores, and other health/human-related services because of one AmeriCorps member.

- This same AmeriCorps member created and published a Non-profit Community Resource Guide for the Colquitt County area.

Colquitt County does not have the funding to support 211 technologies. One AmeriCorps member functioned as their 211 Operator.

- One AmeriCorps member assisted 250 individuals in navigating services daily.

Resilient Middle Georgia (Family Connections)

One AmeriCorps member attended over 52 events and shared information with 5,935 community members, increasing awareness and access to care throughout the Macon-Bibb communities.

The Mosaic Project

- AmeriCorps members assisted in rehabilitating and building seven homes in Category 4 poverty-level communities as part of the organization's affordable housing campaign.
- AmeriCorps members created a summer program for 25 at-risk youth ages 12-18 that showed a direct decline in gun violence and vandalism in the area.
- AmeriCorps members received six certifications in construction safety from Central Georgia Technical College.
- Managed over 12 community-focused events that touched approximately 350 unique individuals and made the following available: mental health services, child-friendly events, community resources, and strategic planning.

RELAY GRADUATES

- 79 AmeriCorps members served in local K12 classrooms in economically disadvantaged communities via supported workforce pathways, earning requisite degrees, workforce proficiencies, and professional qualifications aligned to employers' needs. Relay is proud to have built the local pipeline, including 88% diverse teachers, helping to fill statewide teacher shortages lingering since the pandemic.
- 100% of Relay members served in areas scoring high on the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) with an inadequate supply of these professionals.

AMERICORPS GEORGIA IMPACT

- Relay AmeriCorps members served 2,480 students in high-needs schools during the 2022-23 program year.
- Relay 2022-23 members earned \$468,029.70 in Education Awards, which they can use to offset tuition, thus positively impacting local workforce retention.

THE SCHOLARSHIP ACADEMY

- The Scholarship Academy served 1,500+ students
- 875 applications for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) were submitted, helping students navigate the financial aid process. The number of applications tripled during 2022-2023.
- Students have secured \$5.7 million in federal financial aid.

THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA – AMERICORPS 4H PROGRAM

4-H In-School Educational Club Meetings

- AmeriCorp members served 17,210 students in in-school educational club meetings.
 - » AmeriCorps members administered a sampling of 2,451 surveys to students after in-school educational club meetings.
 - 93% of students (2,269) showed increased knowledge of the content presented.

4-H Project Achievement

- 10,373 youth received instruction on the 4-H Project Achievement process from AmeriCorps members.
 - » Of the students that continued to compete at district-level Project Achievement, 963 completed a survey to measure mastery of best practices in public speaking and a demonstration or increase in confidence in public speaking.
 - Of those students surveyed, 83% (804) demonstrated knowledge of best practices in public speaking or showed an increase in knowledge of best practices in public speaking.
 - 84% (813) indicated confidence in public speaking or showed increased confidence.

AMERICORPS GEORGIA IMPACT

YOUTH VILLAGES AMERICORPS PROGRAM

- Youth Villages AmeriCorps members facilitated 1,217 service-learning hours with 96 students. Of the students who met the total dosage and duration, 82% showed improvements in their service definitions and reported they would continue to volunteer after discharge from care.
- Youth Villages AmeriCorps members facilitated approximately 1,018 hours of Career, Education, and Future Life Success tutoring with 96 students. Of the students that met the total dosage and duration, 82% showed an increase in areas of life skills deficit using the Ansell Casey Life Skills assessment.
- AmeriCorps members provided direct service to over 15 non-profits, directly and indirectly supporting over 1,900 individuals.

VOLUNTEER GENERATION FUND

Georgia Serves partners with Hands on Atlanta to implement the Volunteer Generation Fund grant. These funds are used to develop and support community-based entities to recruit, manage, and support volunteers. AmeriCorps seeks to fund effective approaches that expand volunteering, strengthen the capacity of volunteer connector organizations to recruit and retain skill-based volunteers, and develop strategies to use volunteers for effective problem-solving.

Hands on Atlanta is a well known volunteer community-based entity. It made sense for Georgia Serves to partner with them.

In FY22, they grew their engagement numbers by close to 50%, engaging 37,300 Atlantans to serve close to 189,552 hours (about 50,000 hours more than FY21) through virtual and in-person projects. They supported huge community events like the Million Meal Pack at State Farm Arena and 9/11 Day. A great deal of their success was due to the Volunteer Generation Fund Grant and their partnership with Georgia Serves!

You may view the full FY22 Annual Report here: <https://www.handsonatlanta.org/2022-annual-report>

GEORGIA STUDENT SERVICE AWARD

During the Spring of 2022, 203 Georgia students received Student Service Awards and together, these students served a total 57,648 service hours. 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.

Service or community hours can be earned through school sponsored activities and/or other outside not for profit organizations like churches and civic/community clubs.

203

High school graduates
earned the certificate/
service cord

57,648

Total hours of
service

33

GA High Schools
participated

BOARD AND STAFF

COMMISSIONERS

Matt Campbell Cynthia Jenkins
Board Chair **Vice Chair**

Ann Rosenthal Dr. Myra Tolbert
Secretary **Program Committee Chair**

Michael Smith Jen Guynn
Legislative Education Committee Chair **Service & Development Committee Chair**

Aimee Yrlas Simpson June O'Neal
Cayanna Good Kathy Colbenson
Christy Ellerbee Kristie Sharp
David Hamilton Rosla Plan
Ethan Pender Semba Brittian

Myra Cunningham (Ex-Officio)



GEORGIA SERVES STAFF

Linda Thompson
Executive Director

Kimberly DuPree
Financial Grants Manager

Alexis Roberson
Grants Specialist

Zaneta Ivery
Grants Specialist

Marcia Paul
Grants Specialist

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 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 2024.



Georgia Serves
Georgia Department of Community Affairs
60 Executive Park South, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30329
www.dca.ga.gov

AmeriCorpsGA@dca.ga.gov