



AmeriCorps
Georgia

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

GEORGIA SERVES

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 2023-2024 program year. The information, data, and analyses in this report provide an assessment of the Commission's yearly activities and accomplishments toward 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:

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MESSAGE FROM GEORGIA SERVES

Dear Friends of Georgia Serves,

We are pleased to present the 2023-2024 Annual Report for Georgia Serves! Georgia Serves' mission is to promote opportunities for citizens to serve, support organizations that use volunteer service to address community problems and ensure that investment in service is protected and managed well.

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 send a huge “Thank You” to all our many stakeholders, including the Georgia Association of Broadcasters, who air public service announcements encouraging 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 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, 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, aka board members, are appointed by the Governor and serve three-year renewable terms. They are responsible for helping to promote volunteerism, create impact awareness, assist in the decision-making process, and contribute to the overall success of AmeriCorps in Georgia.

Five Georgia Serves staff members are housed in 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 ensure that the investment in volunteer service is protected and managed well.

OUR PURPOSE

Georgia Serves grant funds to qualifying agencies to implement 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.

BOARD AND STAFF

Commissioners

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

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

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

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

Linda Thompson
Executive Director

Kimberly DuPree Zaneta Ivery
Fiscal Grants Manager **Senior Grants Specialist**

Alexis Roberson Marcia Paul
Grants Specialist **Grants Specialist**

2023-2024 Portfolio of Programs

- Breakthrough Atlanta Georgia AmeriCorps Program
- Communities in Schools of Georgia AmeriCorps Reading Tutorial Program
- Georgia Southern University AmeriCorps
- DeKalb County Board of Health Public Health AmeriCorps
- Georgia Tech CEISMC
- Goodwill Industries of the Southern Rivers, Inc. AmeriCorps Program
- Hands On Atlanta AmeriCorps
- New American Pathways AmeriCorps Project RISE
- One World Link Rural
- One World Link Public Health AmeriCorps
- Sewa International AmeriCorps Atlanta
- Teach For America – Metro Atlanta
- The Christian City, Inc. AmeriCorps
- The Scholarship Academy - AmeriCorps Financial Aid Awareness Program
- Georgia 4-H AmeriCorps Project
- Relay Georgia AmeriCorps Teaching Residency
- University of Georgia Community Food Fellows
- Youth Villages Inner Harbour Campus AmeriCorps

Planning Grant

- College AIM

FEDERAL FUNDS

GRANT	AMOUNT
<i>Training & Technical Assistance Grant</i>	\$215,249
<i>Commission Support Grant</i>	\$464,033
<i>AmeriCorps Passthrough Funds</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Health AmeriCorps 	\$1,342,881
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AmeriCorps Formula Funds 	\$5,128,859
TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS	\$7,151,022

All awardees must leverage federal funds with either cash, in-kind contributions, or a combination. The Governor and Georgia legislature generously contributed \$459,735 in state appropriations to match the Commission's Support Grant, and 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	\$470,767
Public Service Announcements	\$495,770
Cash Leverage as a result of AmeriCorps grants	\$2,864,177
Dollar value of volunteer time	\$785,280
TOTAL LEVERAGE	\$4,615,994

In 2023, based on the Independent Volunteer Sector, the value of volunteer time in Georgia was \$31.24 an hour. Volunteers served a total of 25,137 hours, which equates to \$785,280. In 2023-2024, Georgia leveraged \$.59 for every federal dollar invested.

AMERICORPS GEORGIA 2023-2024 Statistics

- 18 programs were overseen by Georgia Serves staff in 2023-2024
- Grants: 16 formula +2 Public Health AmeriCorps+1 planning grant
- 2,807 people applied to become AmeriCorps members
- 543 AmeriCorps members served
- 423 AmeriCorps members earned Education Awards
- 642,385 AmeriCorps member hours were served
- 11,258 volunteers were recruited by AmeriCorps members
- 25,137 volunteer hours were served
- 2,338 individuals received job training
- 103,494 Clients were served



Keeping the Board Informed

The GCSV board is essential to the mission of Georgia Serves in that it contributes to making sound investment decisions with the federal funds granted to us in Georgia. We, GCSV staff, make concerted efforts to keep the board informed, educated, and current on the happenings of the portfolio of programs. We visit one to two programs annually, providing a tour and time for questions and answers. The board is allowed to speak with AmeriCorps members, staff, and other stakeholders involved in the programs. This year, we visited First Choice Primary Care in Macon, GA, where some of One World Link Public Health AmeriCorps' members are placed to provide services to economically challenged clients.



In the photo to the left, front to back: Matt Campbell, GCSV Board Chair; Cynthia Jenkins, GCSV Board Vice Chair; Kathy Colbenson, GCSV Board Member; Marcia Paul, GCSV Program Officer; Vicky Saget, One World Link Program Director; Kimberly DuPree, GCSV Financial Manager; Alexis Roberson, GCSV Program Officer; Maria Marsh, GCSV Board Member; Linda Thompson, GCSV Executive Director; and, Zaneta Ivery, GCSV Senior Program Officer.

AmeriCorps Members Respond After Disasters

2023-2024 experienced its share of disasters. Among these were heat waves, droughts, hurricanes Helene and Rafael, and the tragic shooting incident at Apalachee High School in Winder, GA. This disaster affected the community in many ways. AmeriCorps members stepped up to assist when needed.



AmeriCorps members with UGA Community Food Fellows in service

Coleman A. Allums, Program Coordinator with the UGA Community Food Fellows shared that “The UGA Food Fellows joined several partners to assist Apalachee staff and students with a garden refresh project; preparing the way for successful growing seasons in the Fall and Spring and reclaiming a space of tranquility for the school community.”

AmeriCorps Programs Impact Statements

Breakthrough Atlanta AmeriCorps Program: AmeriCorps members served 240 students, of which 190 were economically disadvantaged. 100% of Breakthrough students graduated high school on time, and 81% immediately enrolled in college.

Communities in Schools of Georgia: AmeriCorps Reading Tutorial Program members served 462 clients. Of those served, 323 students showed improved academic performance. 93 students were classified as chronically absent the previous school year; 67 (72.0%) improved their attendance, an average gain of 4.2 days for an entire school year. 15 students earned suspensions the previous school year; of those 16, 14 (93.3%) improved their behavior.



DeKalb County Board of Health Public Health AmeriCorps: AmeriCorps members reached 4,493 individuals and disseminated 5,667 educational documents on prevention strategies (e.g., the importance of vaccinations and diabetes and hypertension screening). 24 organizations reported that DeKalb County AmeriCorps Members' capacity-building activities helped make their organization more effective and efficient.

Georgia Tech CEISM: The program enrolled and served 242 scholars in their Horizons Summer Program.

Goodwill AmeriCorps Program: Members helped 7,713 individuals take control of their financial futures. They helped clients complete 7,532 tax returns and reported that 3,849 individuals improved their financial literacy.

Hands On Atlanta, Inc. AmeriCorps—Hands On Atlanta’s AmeriCorps members tutored 434 individuals in reading, and 135 students improved their academic performance. They tutored 146 students in math; of those students, 135 showed improvement in academic performance. They also served 290 students who faced challenges in Social-Emotional Learning, and 124 improved their educational engagement and social-emotional skills.

New American Pathways AmeriCorps Project RISE—Members served 140 students, all showing improved academic performance. Several of the students tested out of reading by completing every level.

New American Pathways AmeriCorps members also placed 192 refugees in safe and stable households within 90 days of arrival. 97 refugees have achieved economic self-sufficiency.

Teach For America—Metro Atlanta (TFA)—TFA AmeriCorps members served 9,800 students, of whom 5,613 showed improved academic performance.



One World Link Rural AmeriCorps Project (OWL): Members served eight (8) organizations by providing capacity-building services. All organizations demonstrated an increase in efficiency, effectiveness, and program reach. All

eight organizations increased their capacity to meet their communities' needs and served 500 individuals.

One World Link Public Health AmeriCorps: Public health AmeriCorps members served 1,244 individuals in the Macon-Bib areas, working diligently to improve access to care by educating individuals about new or available resources and helping 900 individuals enroll in Health Insurance to expand and improve their access to health care.

Sewa International Atlanta: Sewa's members served 90 unique students through afterschool tutoring sessions from September 2023 to May 2024. They also organized a month-long Summer camp that benefited 48 children. 88 students showed improved academic performance.



The Scholarship Academy, Inc./AmeriCorps Financial Aid Awareness Program (TSA): TSA's AmeriCorps members increased the financial aid knowledge of 2,448 students. Students submitted 1,328 financial aid applications, and 848 applications have been awarded.

Relay Georgia AmeriCorps Teaching Residency: 85 Relay Graduate AmeriCorps members served 2,583 individuals, and 1,443 students showed improved academic performance.

Georgia 4-H AmeriCorps Project: 4,147 students participated in in-school educational club meetings with AmeriCorps members. 1,869 students (92% of a sample set of 2,042) demonstrated knowledge of the content presented. 11,011 students participated in the 4-H Project Achievement process with AmeriCorps Members. 789 students showed an increased understanding of best practices in public speaking.



UGA Food Fellows: 40,766 prepared meals were provided to individuals and families, and an additional 15,997 pounds of food was provided to the communities served.

Youth Villages Inner Harbour Campus AmeriCorps: AmeriCorps members facilitated approximately 1,875 hours of Career, Education, and Future Life Success tutoring with 158 students. Of these, 80 students met the duration criteria, and 67 (83.8%) showed an increase in Life Skills deficit areas using the Ansell Casey Life Skills Assessment.



Special Events



Rapper Quavious Keyate Marshall, better known by his stage name Quavo, partnered with the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention and Vice President Kamala Harris for the inaugural Rocket Foundation Summit on June 18, 2024. The goal of the summit was to “uplift and invest in interventions that effectively reduce community violence so communities can thrive.”¹

Georgia Serves was invited to attend the special event held at the Carter Center in Atlanta. The One World Link (OWL) Public Health AmeriCorps program was also recognized for its success in reducing youth gun violence in Macon.

The OWL Public Health AmeriCorps members provide community health outreach and support as well as recruit, train, and develop additional volunteers, with a special emphasis on those who have historically not had access to public health in Central Georgia - including Bibb, Peach, Baldwin, Hancock, Jones, and Houston counties. AmeriCorps members will increase health knowledge among communities served and help public health organizations improve organizational efficiency and program reach.

¹ <https://www.rocket-foundation.org/about>

Georgia Student Service Awards

During the Spring of 2024, 323 Georgia students received Student Service awards, and together, these students served more than 65,000 service hours. The Georgia Student Service Award 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.

- ☑ **323** High school graduates earned the service cord and certificate
- ☑ **65,000** Total hours of service
- ☑ **34** Georgia High Schools participated

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 2025.



Go to the [Georgia Serves](#) website