

# ANNUAL REPORT

2017-2018

GCSV

## GEORGIA COMMISSION FOR SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERISM

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.

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## LETTER FROM THE DCA COMMISSIONER

Dear Friends in Service,

I am pleased to present to you the 2017-2018 Annual Report of the Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism (GCSV).

I'm always impressed by the generosity of Georgians who continue to serve their communities and to provide the tools and resources necessary to improve the quality of life for our citizens. AmeriCorps provides human resources to address the most pressing local needs of communities and neighborhoods throughout our great state.

In 2017-2018, the Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism made it possible for more than 400 AmeriCorps Members to serve in various capacities throughout the state. They served in areas of education, environmental stewardship, healthy futures, veterans and military families, disasters, volunteer recruitment, economic opportunity, homelessness, and people living with disabilities. AmeriCorps Members made lasting impacts in communities while gaining valuable skills and experience to advance their careers. These members were eligible to receive education awards to use toward furthering their education or repaying student loans.

AmeriCorps continues to be a means of "Getting Things Done". Throughout this report, you will read about financial leverage, collaborative efforts and sustainability resulting from the investment of AmeriCorps in Georgia.

Sincerely,

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Commissioner Christopher Nunn

Georgia Department of Community Affairs



# LETTER FROM THE GCSV

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The mission of the Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism (GCSV) is to promote service and volunteerism in Georgia through AmeriCorps National Service grants, community volunteer recognition, and support of local volunteer organizations and their efforts.

Since 1994, the GCSV has been instrumental in building a sense of community throughout the state of Georgia by promoting volunteerism and citizenship. Throughout this report, you will note that both volunteers and AmeriCorps Members are critical in building the infrastructures that support our state. Academic achievement, disaster response and relief, environmental stewardship, support for our veterans and military families, healthy futures, and economic opportunities are some areas where volunteers and AmeriCorps Members have played critical roles in the lives of individuals and families.

This GCSV annual impact report highlights the return on taxpayer dollars that organizations, AmeriCorps Members, and volunteers contributed to Georgia over the past year. In 2017-2018, the Corporation for National and Community Service awarded \$3,264,209.00 to the GCSV. These dollars were sub-granted to qualifying organizations to implement AmeriCorps programs in their communities and neighborhoods by recruiting individuals to serve as AmeriCorps Members and to "Get Things Done!" in Georgia! As a result of this federal investment, organizations leveraged an additional \$2,484,769.04. AmeriCorps Members recruited 5,058 non-AmeriCorps volunteers who served a total of 36,872 hours. The Independent Sector states the value of volunteer hours in the State of Georgia for 2017 was \$25.15 per hour. This equates to \$927,330.80. Combined, the value of volunteer time plus in-kind and cash leverage totaled \$3,412,099.84. This means that for every \$1.00 invested by the Corporation, the state of Georgia matched it with \$1.04 basically, dollar-for-dollar leverage.

As you read this report, you will discover how the impact of AmeriCorps reaches beyond dollars and cents by positively contributing to the long-term quality of life of Georgians, thus helping to make Georgia a great place to live, work, and play.



**CLAIRE BARTLETT**

CHAIR



**LINDA THOMPSON**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## ABOUT US

The Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism (GCSV) is located within the Department of Community Affairs and serves as a pass-through agency for funds from the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency. The GCSV is also a point organization for promoting and recognizing service, volunteers, and for supporting quality service projects.

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. Its board may have up to 25 Members appointed by the Governor. Currently there are four GCSV staff located within the Community Development Division of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Staff's responsibilities are to provide oversight & compliance, technical assistance, and support to its portfolio of programs.

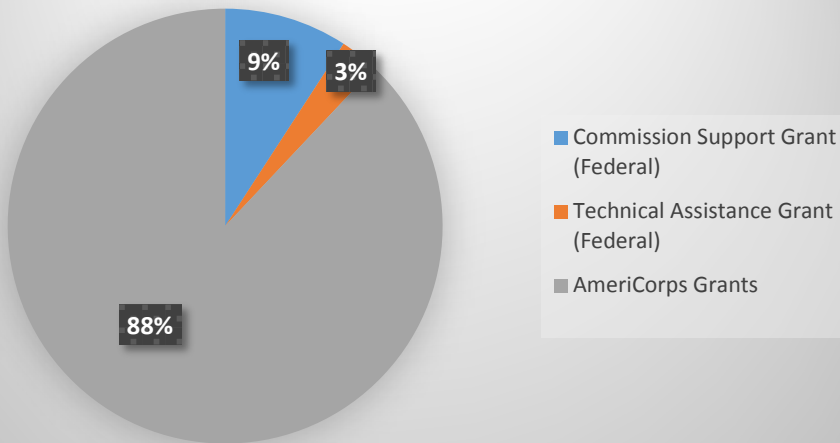
## PURPOSE

The Georgia Commission receives funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service located in Washington, DC. These funds are sub-granted to qualifying local organizations. These organizations recruit AmeriCorps Members to provide direct services in Georgia's communities and neighborhoods. Through AmeriCorps, organizations are provided the opportunity to address the most pressing local civic needs in their communities and neighborhoods in areas of Disaster Services, Economic Opportunity, Education, Environmental Stewardship, Healthy Futures and Veterans and Military Families.

# STATISTICAL DATA

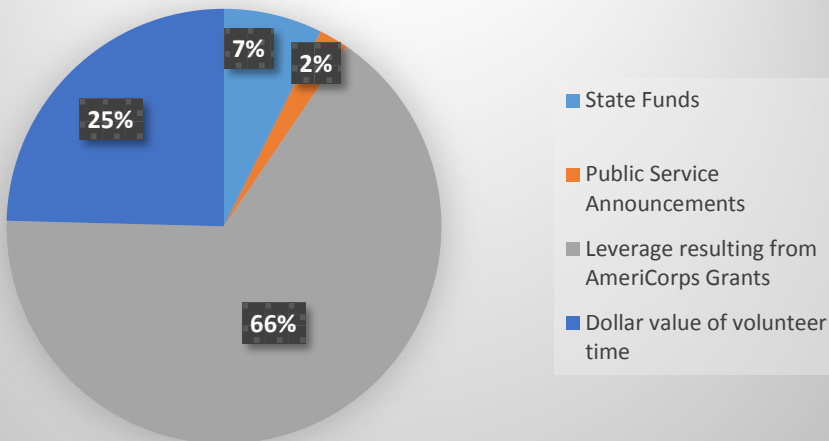
GCSV

## TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS



Commission Support Grant (Federal)	\$340,168
Technical Assistance Grant (Federal)	\$106,360
AmeriCorps Grants	\$3,264,209
<b>TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$3,710,737</b>

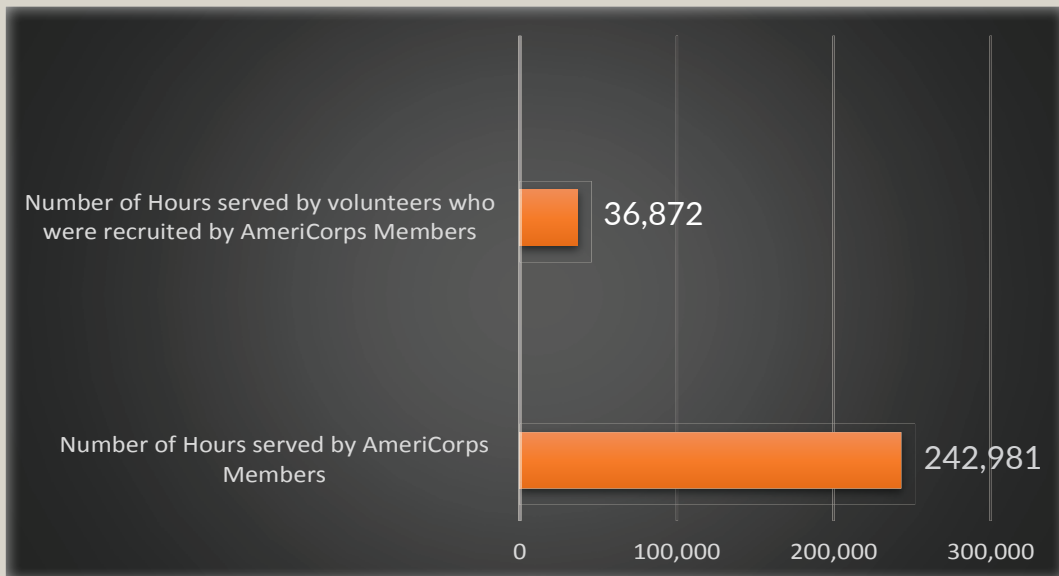
## TOTAL LEVERAGE



State Funds	\$276,829
Public Service Announcements	\$81,550
Leverage resulting from AmeriCorps Grants	\$2,484,769
Dollar value of volunteer time	\$927,331
<b>TOTAL LEVERAGE</b>	<b>\$3,770,479</b>

# STATISTICAL DATA

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# AMERICORPS STATE AND NATIONAL

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Nationally, AmeriCorps engages more than 80,000 Americans in intensive service each year at over 21,000 sites including 501(c)3 non-profit organizations, schools, and local government. Since 1994, more than 1 million AmeriCorps Members contributed more than 1.4 billion hours in service across America and have mobilized more than 2.3 million volunteers. AmeriCorps Members tackle communities' most pressing problems through direct-service.

In 2017-2018, the Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism funded 13 AmeriCorps Programs and two planning grants. Over 400 AmeriCorps Members served approximately 118,543 hours; providing services to 93,863 beneficiaries. These members recruited 5,058 volunteers who served 36,872 hours.





# OTHER INITIATIVES

## GCSV

### GEORGIA STUDENT SERVICE AWARD

In an effort to engage high school youth in service and high-quality service-learning, the Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism (GCSV) instituted the Georgia Student Service Award during the 2011-2012 school year as a pilot project to recognize teenagers who make significant contributions to their communities through volunteer service. The GCSV continues to promote this program to recognize students engaged in volunteerism. More than 65 schools have participated in the program since its inception.

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, an average of 75 service hours per year or 300 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 2016, 207 Georgia students received awards and together, these students served a total 57,746 service hours.

A Member of the school staff must act as sponsor/administrator and register their school [here](#). The sponsor/administrator must certify and submit student information and service hours. This record of service may only include direct contact hours (hours on task).

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 by an adult.

GCSV is located within the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) whose mission is the promotion and support of service and volunteerism by Georgians in communities across the state.

# AMERICORPS STATE PROGRAMS

**CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY AMERICORPS PROGRAM:** Clayton State University students serve as AmeriCorps members who provide mentoring and tutoring to local K-12 students in Clayton County. Additionally, AmeriCorps members conduct service projects to support the surrounding community.

**COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOL'S (CIS) READING TUTORIAL PROGRAM:** The CIS AmeriCorps reading tutorial program is designed to help students from kindergarten to 8th grade who are not reading at the appropriate grade level. Members serve metro Atlanta and surrounding rural counties, providing small group and individualized tutoring.

**COVENANT HOUSE OF GEORGIA:** AmeriCorps members leverage volunteers to serve homeless youth in a mentoring capacity in Atlanta, Georgia. AmeriCorps members develop mentoring relationships with the youth to move them toward their educational, vocational or employment goals.

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR) - GEORGIA STATE PARKS & HISTORIC SITES:** AmeriCorps members provide interpretive, educational, and recreational programming and enhance and maintain the state's natural resources through the removal of invasive species in 32 state parks throughout Georgia.

**EXTRA SPECIAL PEOPLE:** ESP creates opportunities for individuals with disabilities and their families to engage, connect, provide family support, and development through year-round programming. Members work to empower adults with disabilities to gain confidence, learn job applicable skills, and advance their abilities.

**GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH FOUNDATION'S TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ENVIRONMENT, MATH & SCIENCE (T.E.E.M.S.):** Georgia State University and the Alonzo A. Crim Center utilize AmeriCorps members to provide mentoring and tutoring in the areas of math and science to youth at-risk of academic failure through the TEEM (Technology, Engineering, Environment, Math & Science) program. AmeriCorps members are required to have a bachelor's degree or two years of college and mentoring/tutoring experience.

**HANDS ON ATLANTA:** Hands On Atlanta's school-based AmeriCorps members serve full-time to support students, teachers, administrators, parents and school communities in 35 partner schools in the metro Atlanta area. AmeriCorps members serve as classroom assistants, reading/math tutors, volunteer recruiters and coordinators, community and parental outreach trainers, and after-school enrichment providers.

### **JEKYLL ISLAND STATE PARK AUTHORITY GEORGIA SEA TURTLE CENTER (GSTC)**

**AMERICORPS PROGRAM:** AmeriCorps members serve in every aspect of the Center's mission. Members are dedicated to educating the center's guests and school outreach program participants, participating in sea turtle rehabilitation and diamondback terrapin monitoring, conducting night time sea turtle saturation tagging and nest management, and coordinating volunteers. Additionally, all members are trained and available to the Glynn County Emergency Management Agency for community disaster response.

### **NEW AMERICAN PATHWAY'S AMERICORPS PROJECT RISE (REFUGEE/IMMIGRANT SUCCESS THROUGH EDUCATION):**

AmeriCorps members serve the needs of refugee children and youth from Sudan, Burma, Iraq, Burundi, Liberia, Afghanistan, and Somalia through five schools in Clarkston, Georgia. AmeriCorps members provide support to war-affected children and families who have been relocated to Georgia to provide comprehensive after-school, summer and recreation programs for refugee youth grades K-12 through the pre-identified partner schools.

**TEACH FOR AMERICA (TFA) METRO ATLANTA:** This organization provides a critical source of well-trained teachers who are helping break the local cycle of education inequity. Leaders teach for two years, going above and beyond traditional expectations to help their students achieve at high levels. Armed with the experience, conviction, and insight that come from leading children to fulfill their potential, alumni are working from all sectors to shape our schools, policies, and investments in low-income communities.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA'S 4-H AMERICORPS PROJECT:** Georgia 4-H AmeriCorps State Program engages AmeriCorps members in direct service and capacity-building to address critical community needs. Through 16 counties across the state, AmeriCorps members are working to further the 4-H mission and build capacity in their community by addressing critical issues like (1) childhood obesity, (2) military family support, (3) providing youth development through in-school 4-H club meetings, and (4) supporting youth in their endeavor to build confidence and develop their public speaking skills.

**UNITED WAY'S PROJECT HEALTH ACCESS:** Project Health Access AmeriCorps members help build the capacity of community clinics to increase the health outcomes of the uninsured and underinsured in the metro area and in targeted communities and ensure access to SSDI/Medicaid for disabled, homeless individuals.

**YOUTH VILLAGES INNER HARBOUR CAMPUS AMERICORPS PROGRAM:** Youth Villages AmeriCorps is partnered with Youth Villages-Inner Harbour campus, a not-for-profit residential treatment facility serving youth with emotional and behavioral challenges, children caught in the cycle of sexual, physical, substance or emotional abuse, and youth attending Inner Harbour as an alternative to Youth Detention Centers. The Corps members are responsible for increasing academic performance and engagement, improving civic engagement, and increased acquisition of life skills in support of work, school and life success to a vulnerable population of students with severe emotional and behavioral issues.

