

ANNUAL REPORT

2018-2019

GCSV

GEORGIA COMMISSION FOR SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERISM

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LETTER FROM THE DCA COMMISSIONER

Dear Friends in Service,

I am pleased to present to you the 2018-2019 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 2018-2019, the Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism made it possible for more than 450 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,

Commissioner Christopher Nunn

Georgia Department of Community Affairs



LETTER FROM THE GCSV

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 2018-2019, the Corporation for National and Community Service awarded \$3,442,262 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 \$2,506,207. AmeriCorps Members recruited 2,661 non-AmeriCorps volunteers who served a total of 33,117 hours. The Independent Sector states the value of volunteer hours in the State of Georgia for 2018 was \$25.78 per hour. This equates to \$853,756. Combined, the value of volunteer time plus in-kind and cash leverage totaled \$3,359,963. This means that for every \$1.00 invested by the Corporation, the state of Georgia matched it with \$.97 a near, 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.



MYRA TOLBERT, PhD

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 five 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.

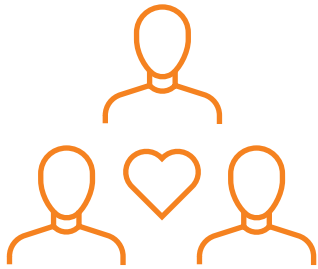
STATISTICAL DATA 2018-2019

Technical Assistance Grant	\$240,136
Commission Support Grant	\$424,060
AmeriCorps Grants 2018-19	\$3,442,262
TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS	\$4,106,458

State Funds	\$231,890
Public Service Announcements	\$220,447
Leverage resulting from AC grants	\$2,506,207
Dollar value of volunteer time	\$853,756
TOTAL LEVERAGE	\$3,812,300

STATISTICAL DATA

2018-2019



439

Total of AmeriCorps Members
in service



33,117

Number of Volunteer Hours



2,661

Number of New Volunteers
recruited by AmeriCorps



2,526

Total individuals who applied to
serve in AmeriCorps



572,926

Total AmeriCorps Member
Service Hours

AMERICORPS STATE AND NATIONAL

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.

For the 2018-19 program year, the Georgia Commission funded 17 AmeriCorps program and 2 planning grants. More than 450 AmeriCorps Members served 572,926 hours providing services to 53,806 beneficiaries. These members recruited 2,661 new volunteers who served 33,117 hours.



OTHER INITIATIVES

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, students must earn at least 300 service/volunteer hours by graduation. Graduating seniors who reach the milestone receive a certificate and a red, white and blue service cord to be worn at graduation ceremonies. During the Spring of 2018, 154 Georgia Seniors received the award and together, these students served a total of 16,121 service/volunteer hours.

A Member of the school staff must act as sponsor/administrator submit the names of students and their hours in service. 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.

AMERICORPS STATE PROGRAMS: 2018-2019 PROGRAM YEAR

CITY OF ROSWELL: AmeriCorps members provide academic curriculum through after-school programs. Members are responsible for providing literacy and other academic instruction through daily small groups that help K-5 underperforming students read on grade level.

CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY: 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 (CIS): 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. AmeriCorps members develop mentoring relationships with the youth to move them toward their educational, vocational or employment goals.

EXTRA SPECIAL PEOPLE (ESP): 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: 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 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.

LEAP YEAR, INC.: The Leap Year AmeriCorps members serve as reading coaches in Atlanta. Corps members will be responsible for improving elementary student reading outcomes on standardized exams

NEW AMERICAN PATHWAYS: AmeriCorps members serve the needs of refugee children and youth from Sudan, Burma, Iraq, Burundi, Liberia, Afghanistan, and Somalia through five schools in Clarkston. 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.

NORTHWEST GEORGIA HEALTHCARE PARTNERSHIP, INC.: At the Northwest Georgia Healthcare Partnership (NGHP), Members serve as associate promotoras, assisting NHGP's full-time promotoras with providing culturally appropriate services such as health care education, mentorship, and translation in North Georgia. The AmeriCorps members are responsible for helping low-income, medically underserved Hispanic clients.

RELAY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION: Full-time AmeriCorps Professional Corps members serve in the Atlanta Public Schools and KIPP Metro Atlanta Schools in the innovative teacher residency program. Corps members are responsible for improving outcomes for K-12 students and getting certified to serve as full-time teachers, poised for a career improving educational and life outcomes for students in low-income communities.

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 SCHOLARSHIP ACADEMY: The Scholarship Academy AmeriCorps members serve as Facilitators of a Financial Aid Prep Course, host Quarterly Financial Aid Awareness events and conduct County-Wide Financial Aid Assessments and Trainings in school system in the metro-Atlanta area. AmeriCorps members are responsible for increasing the financial aid awareness of economically disadvantaged high school students. Through this volunteer engagement pipeline, AmeriCorps members will guide community leaders in teaching families how to create four-year college funding plans and training students how to research and understand financial aid options.

THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA: 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: 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: 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.

AMERICORPS OPENING DAY 2019

AmeriCorps members from across Georgia were celebrated on Oct. 22 as part of Opening Day ceremonies. The event included award presentations, rousing speakers, a proclamation from Gov. Brian Kemp, and a service project. Linda Thompson, GSCV executive director, welcomed AmeriCorps members, saying, "You have consciously decided to give up a year of your life to make the world a better place --- and I thank you. It is so great to be a part of this awesome organization!"

Chick-fil-A generously donated space at its headquarters as well as food, beverages and other amenities for the Opening Day celebration. Rodney Bullard, executive director of the Chick-fil-A Foundation, also served as the keynote speaker and shared poignant anecdotes about his life and career.

He recalled his time as a White House Fellow. Two days into his experience, Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast and Bullard remembered AmeriCorps members being available to assist those affected by the storm. He emphasized his personal and professional



commitment to service and encouraged AmeriCorps members to keep contributing to society in positive ways. "What I saw through that experience was that people and corporations could help," he said. "You can go out and change the world."

GSCV also partnered with Veterans Empowerment Organization (VEO) to provide backpacks, toiletries, scarves and other essential items to help homeless men and women who have served the United States through military service. VEO was founded in 2008 and has assisted thousands of homeless veterans to rebuild their lives. DCA employees, GSCV board members, Chick-fil-A, and AmeriCorps members at the Jekyll Island Sea Turtle Center provided nearly 100

backpacks and supplies for this initiative.

Gov. Kemp designated October as National Service Month for Georgia. Rusty Haygood, DCA's Deputy Commissioner of Finance and Community Development, shared the proclamation with attendees. Chester Spellman, director of AmeriCorps at the Corporation for National and Community Service, also led members in the recitation of the AmeriCorps pledge. He said, "Thank you for making this decision to put service above self. You are truly making an impact and changing lives."

RECIPIENTS OF THE GEORGIA SERVICE AWARDS

The Georgia Commission for Service & Volunteerism established three new awards to honor the efforts and dedication of outstanding AmeriCorps members and staff in Georgia and also to recognize and encourage the valuable services to their community.

The recipients of these awards should serve their communities by taking unusual initiative to identify and solve a critical problem or meet a specific need. Also, the awards are to inspire the spirit of service and volunteerism in others. The awards were presented at the AmeriCorps GA Opening and Awards Day event on October 22, 2019.

Congratulations to the following awardees:

Caroline Ledlie, Youth Villages GCSV Chairman's Awards

The award is presented 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. The recipient provides a sense of purpose, vision, and mission for his/her team.

"There is no doubt that her active leadership forms the backbone of our program. Caroline is always ready to serve right alongside us, happy to have her feet on the ground while also undertaking the background actions necessary to keep our program thriving."



John Andrade, Extra Special People Beyond the Call Award

The award is presented to an AmeriCorps member who embodies the values set forth in the AmeriCorps pledge to take action, seek common ground, and persevere in the face of adversity.

John shared that Extra Special People has definitely helped him realize that serving others and volunteering is something that he is extremely passionate about, and it just reaffirmed that he is doing what he's supposed to do in life.



Clayton State University AmeriCorps GA AmeriCorps Team of the Year

The award is presented to the Georgia AmeriCorps team that demonstrates excellence in mission achievement, operational performance, capacity building, and sustainable results.

"Our members strive to reach the populations that are untouched and gaining trust in those who may at times feel abandoned, neglected or unwanted."





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Chair, Program Committee

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