



AmeriCorps
Georgia

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

Annual Report

2021-2022

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.

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ABOUT THIS REPORT

This Annual Report provides an overview of the Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism's, now known as Georgia Serves, financials and its impact in Georgia for the 2021-2022 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 2021-2022 Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism (Georgia Serves) Annual Report.

The Georgia Commission for Service and Volunteerism has helped meet Georgian'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 nearly 30 years of operation, but there remains much more to be done! During this reporting period, the Commission undertook a rebranding campaign, using the operating name and working motto "Georgia Serves". This shortened name gave us the opportunity to improve name recognition and to build 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 2021-2022, Georgia Serves sponsored 474 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 2021-2022 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 17 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 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 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	\$164,949
Commission Support Grant	\$713,947
AmeriCorps Pass-through Funds	\$4,531,101
TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS	\$5,409,997

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 \$429,939 in in-kind match from public service announcements across the state.



LEVERAGE/MATCH

State Funds	\$459,735
Public Service Announcements	\$429,939
Leverage resulting from AC grants	\$2,465,873
Dollar value of volunteer time	\$2,071,457
TOTAL LEVERAGE	\$5,427,004

In 2021, based on the Independent Volunteer Sector, the value of volunteer time in Georgia was \$27.66 an hour.

AMERICORPS GEORGIA



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

AMERICORPS GEORGIA

2021-2022 STATISTICS



Georgia Serves oversaw a portfolio of
21 PROGRAMS
(16 formula grants + 5 planning grants)



1,531 PEOPLE
applied to become **AmeriCorps** members

474 AMERICORPS MEMBERS
recruited

Members served a total of
555,963 HOURS

375 AMERICORPS MEMBERS
completed service and earned Education Awards

1,178 VOLUNTEERS
recruited by AmeriCorps members

Volunteers served
74,890 HOURS

AMERICORPS GEORGIA

2021-2022 PROGRAMS

- Breakthrough Collaborative AmeriCorps Program
- Central Georgia Council, Boy Scouts of America
- Clayton State University AmeriCorps Program
- Communities in Schools of Georgia AmeriCorps Reading Tutorial Program
- Covenant House Georgia, Inc.
- Extra Special People AmeriCorps Program
- Georgia State University Research Foundation, Inc. T.E.E.M.S. AmeriCorps
- Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia AmeriCorps Planning Grant
- Goodwill Industries of the Southern Rivers, Inc. AmeriCorps Program
- Greater Valdosta United Way AmeriCorps Planning Grant
- Hands on Atlanta, Inc. AmeriCorps
- Harmony House Shelter AmeriCorps Planning Grant
- Jekyll Island State Park Authority - Georgia Sea Turtle Center AmeriCorps
- New American Pathways AmeriCorps Project RISE
- One World Link AmeriCorps Project
- The Christian City, Inc. AmeriCorps Planning Grant
- The Scholarship Academy, Inc./Workforce Readiness AmeriCorps Financial Aid Awareness Program
- The University of Georgia - Georgia 4-H AmeriCorps Project
- Youth Villages-Inner Harbour Campus/Youth Villages AmeriCorps Program
- Relay Graduate School of Education/Relay Georgia AmeriCorps Teaching Residency
- Teach for America Metro Atlanta

AMERICORPS GEORGIA

Georgia Serves funded 16 AmeriCorps programs for the 2021-2022 program year, and they successfully recruited 474 AmeriCorps members who served at more than 50 sites. These members recruited 1,178 volunteers across the state who served 74,890 hours.

In 2021-2022, 1,531 people 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.

Member recruitment, finding service locations, and volunteer recruitment was affected by COVID as well as restrictions due to COVID. Despite these complications, AmeriCorps members persevered for Georgia communities.

ESP's annual Bulldogs and Buddies event saw participants meet and greet with the National Champions - the UGA football team - along with their coaches, cheerleaders, dance team and band. As AmeriCorps members are required to provide transformative experiences and programming to its participants living with disabilities and their families, members helped lead this event with 130 participants and volunteers.



Youth Villages AmeriCorps members serve at the Inner Harbour campus in Douglasville, Georgia.

AMERICORPS GEORGIA



AmeriCorps members from “Communities in Schools of Georgia” in Albany/Dougherty County participated in the “Repack the Backpack” community event. This was a part of their MLK Day of Service project.

Extra Special People AmeriCorps member Rhett lead a “Java Joy” event in Rome, Georgia. AmeriCorps members are responsible for leading “Java Joy,” which is an employment and engagement opportunity for adults with disabilities in the community, providing meaningful and consistent employment through a mobile coffee cart.



On Saturday, March 12, AmeriCorps volunteers from the Georgia Sea Turtle Center on Jekyll Island joined the Holy Nativity Episcopal Church for its monthly “Feed My Sheep” ministry. Nineteen AmeriCorps volunteers met at the church to package 95 bagged lunches for a nearby homeless shelter on St. Simons Island.

AMERICORPS GEORGIA IMPACT

EDUCATION/COLLEGE READINESS

- Over 11,350 students were served by AmeriCorps members through tutoring, mentoring, or academic support.
- 353 economically disadvantaged high school students received college scholarships due to the assistance from The Scholarship Academy AmeriCorps members.
- Youth Villages reported that members engaged 42 youth with severe emotional and behavioral issues in service-learning activities to raise their awareness of civic engagement.
- Georgia 4H AmeriCorps members engaged 12,541 students around the state through in-school educational club meetings during the full academic school year.



CREATING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

- Goodwill assisted 4,037 individuals secure employment.
- New American Pathways AmeriCorps members assisted 957 adult clients with educational support that includes job placement, resume writing workshops, technological training, and English classes. Also, 353 newly arrived refugee clients were able to gain safe and stable housing within 90 days of arrival, thanks to the Project RISE program.
- Extra Special People (ESP) had a total of 623 active families of an individual with a disability who participated in at least one program over the past two years. Last year, 298 individual families increased their access to knowledge of family support resources.
- As a result of their AmeriCorps service, two ESP AmeriCorps members obtained full-time employment.
- Youth Village AmeriCorps members facilitated approximately 1,300 hours of Career, Education, and Future Life Success tutoring to 102 students.

AMERICORPS GEORGIA IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

- More than 1,800 individuals received education or training in environmental stewardship.
- GoodwillSR and Youth Villages AmeriCorps programs had an Esprit de Corps collaborative service project. The members volunteered at the Urban Food Forest's Browns Mill Community Garden.



Members of the Youth Villages and Goodwill Industries of the Southern Rivers, Inc. AmeriCorps Programs collaborated for the Esprit de Corps service project.

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
Board Chair

Cynthia Jenkins Ann Rosenthal
Vice Chair **Secretary**

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

Aimee Yrlas Simpson June O'Neal
Cayanna Good Kristie Sharp
Christy Ellerbee Lisa Perry
David Hamilton Myra Tolbert
Ethan Pender Rosla Plant
Kathy Colbenson Semba Brittian

Myra Cunningham (Ex-Officio)



GEORGIA SERVES STAFF

Linda Thompson
Executive Director

Kimberly DuPree
Financial Grants Manager

Zaneta Ivery Marcia Paul
Grants Specialist **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 2023.

Georgia Serves
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