

# Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism

Annual Report

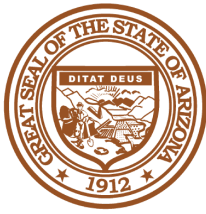


The Governor's Office  
of Youth, Faith  
and Family

Arizona  
Governor's  
Commission  
on **Service** and  
**Volunteerism**



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KATIE HOBBS  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF ARIZONA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

TONYA HAMILTON  
DIRECTOR

July 31, 2023

Governor Katie Hobbs  
1700 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Governor,

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism Chair. I would like to acknowledge the work of the Commission and its dedication to elevating the engagement of service and volunteerism in Arizona. By expanding awareness of volunteerism as a solution to Arizona's most pressing challenges, we have worked to strengthen cooperation, coordination, and collaboration between all national service programs funded through the AmeriCorps federal agency, including AmeriCorps Volunteers In Service To America (VISTA), AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), and AmeriCorps Seniors programs.

This year, through funding from the Commission, 27 AmeriCorps State programs across Arizona supported 850 AmeriCorps members and earned approximately \$2 million in Segal Education awards. AmeriCorps members also recruited and managed an additional 6,363 volunteers serving 75,404 hours to meet critical needs across the state. Federal investment distributed by the AmeriCorps federal agency directly, including VISTA, NCCC, and AmeriCorps Seniors programs, resulted in an additional 3,200 members and volunteers serving within the State of Arizona.

Arizona's AmeriCorps members and the volunteers they recruit continue to have a significant impact on our communities. Over 41,944 children and youth received educational and social support. More than 500 Arizonans received job training and placement services, and an additional 700 received independent living support. Lastly, AmeriCorps members served nearly 900 veterans, active-duty military, and their family members.

The Commission looks forward to what next year has to offer and all that AmeriCorps can do to support communities throughout Arizona.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna J. Davis".

Donna J. Davis, *Chair*

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## **COMMISSION PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE**

The Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism (Commission) is administered by the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF) and authorized under [Executive Order 2014-07](#). Established under the premise to advise and assist in developing and implementing a comprehensive, statewide plan for promoting volunteer involvement and citizen participation, the Commission works hand in hand with organizations across Arizona to create cost-effective community solutions that empower individuals with opportunities to help tackle their community's toughest challenges. The Commission also serves as Arizona's liaison for national and state organizations that support its mission, utilizing national data from federal reports to guide its work: National Service in Arizona and Volunteering and Civic Life in America.

### **National Service in Arizona**

Published by the AmeriCorps federal agency, the National Service in Arizona Annual Report outlines the federal agency's investment in the state, local match funding generated, and the number of service members and sites. At the successful conclusion of their terms of service, members receive the Segal Education Award for the repayment of student loans or to pursue new post-secondary education.

In 2022, over 4,100 individuals served at 512 service sites across Arizona; this represents \$11.5 million from federal investments and an additional \$4.1 million generated in local support to match the federal investment. Since 1994, more than 25,000 Arizona residents have served as AmeriCorps members, earning an aggregate of \$71.4 million in education awards; more than \$48 million has gone to higher education institutions within Arizona.

[Click here](#) to view the full report and to access previous years.

### **Volunteering and Civic Life in America**

Conducted biennially and collaboratively between the United States (U.S.) Census Bureau and the AmeriCorps federal agency, data from the most robust national and longitudinal survey about volunteerism and other forms of civic engagement in the U.S. is published. The latest national research examines organizational volunteering, helping others informally, and other civic behaviors from September 2020-2021 at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Click here](#) to view the full report. Arizona-specific data is available [here](#).

## COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

The Commission comprises individuals appointed by the Governor who serve at her pleasure, without compensation. The following members currently serve on the Governor’s Commission on Service and Volunteerism:

**Donna Davis, Chair**

Education Forward

**Victoria Carlson-Foscz**

Interfaith Community Services

**Wynn “Chris” Gibbs**

Retired, United States Air Force

**Michael Hammett**

City of Phoenix

**Kimberly Rice**

Arizona Department of Education

**Robert Ashcraft**

Arizona State University Lodestar Center for  
Philanthropy and Nonprofit Innovation

**Alex Gabaldon, Vice-Chair**

Grand Canyon Arizona

**Helain Day**

Teen Lifeline

**Carla Nuñez**

AmeriCorps Mountain Region Office

**Donna Martin**

Boys & Girls Club of the Valley

**Thomas Winkel**

Arizona Coalition for Military Families

**Tyler Butler**

11Eleven Consulting



## COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

### National Competitive Application Support

*November 2022*

Every fall, the AmeriCorps federal agency sponsors an annual National Competitive solicitation, in addition to the State Formula Competition, which occurs every three years. The solicitation provides opportunities for programs that operate in multiple states to apply for additional funding beyond the original state formula allocation. The Commission, local issue area experts, and GOYFF staff support programs through the grant writing process to bolster application competitiveness to a national level, drawing additional federal funds into the state.

Following reviews from the federal agency, 15 programs were awarded over \$6.5 million in funding for the next federal fiscal year and program year beginning September 2023. Funds are in addition to the annual state allocation and [American Rescue Plan Act \(ARPA\)](#) funds of approximately \$6.9, totaling \$13.4 million to support communities across Arizona.

### AmeriCorps Week

*March 12-18, 2023*

Observed annually, AmeriCorps Week provides an opportunity to recognize current/former AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers for their service, thank community partners, and raise awareness about the impact AmeriCorps has on the lives of those who serve, encouraging others to follow in their footsteps of service.

[AmeriCorps CEO Michael Smith kicked off AmeriCorps Week 2023 in Arizona](#), awarding the President's Volunteer Service Lifetime Achievement Awards to seven AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers who have served thousands of hours through programs offered through the Center for Service and Volunteerism at Northern Arizona University (NAU). In addition and in partnership with the [Arizona State University \(ASU\) Lodestar Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Innovation](#), the Commission hosted a [Town Hall](#) with approximately 80 attendees, including City of Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego, who presented the proclamation recognizing AmeriCorps Week 2023 for the city. Governor Katie Hobbs also recognized national service volunteers and their impact on strengthening local communities in Arizona by proclaiming [AmeriCorps Week 2023](#).

The Director of Public Health AmeriCorps, AJ Pearlman, accompanied the CEO to Arizona where she joined Commission members and GOYFF staff at [ASU's Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention \(CHPDP\)](#) to learn more about [Be SAGE](#), an inaugural program of the Public Health AmeriCorps initiative in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Director Pearlman met with Be SAGE members to discuss program successes and opportunities for improvement since launching six months prior. She then worked alongside members to prepare garden-based physical activity and nutrition curriculum materials for preschool-aged children.

### 20th Annual Governor's Volunteer Service Awards

*April 26, 2023*

The Governor's Volunteer Service Awards honor exemplary individual and organizational volunteer efforts that have strengthened communities and improved the quality of life for Arizonans. Awardees have dedicated their hearts, hands, and minds to their communities.

Governor Hobbs presented ten awards in the areas of Lifetime Achievement, Inspired Adult Leadership, Inspired Youth Leadership, Service to the Community, and National Service.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the 2023 awardees.

### Service Enterprise Initiative

Service Enterprise certification signifies organizational capability and management expertise to strategically use its volunteers to improve performance through more effective program delivery. Certified organizations are significantly more adaptable, sustainable, and better equipped to achieve their mission.

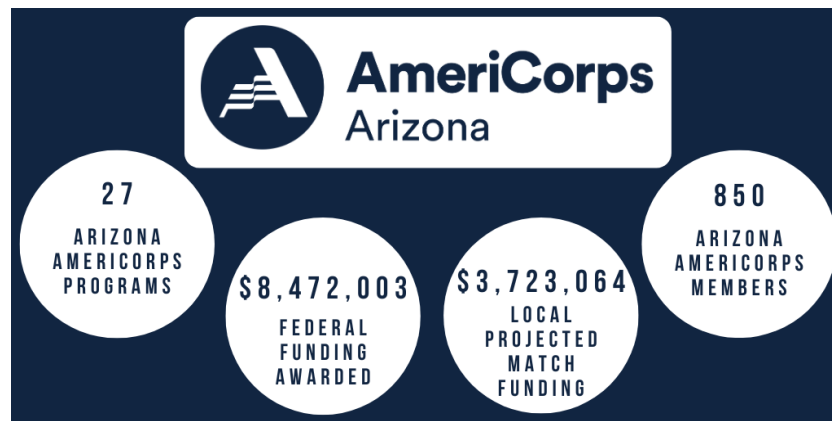
Funding that previously supported [Service Enterprise Initiative \(SEI\)](#) efforts sunset in September 2020, leading the Commission to focus on sustainability planning for this initiative. After working with a consultant to interview partners, stakeholders, and other states implementing the initiative, and through funding from [Tucson Foundations](#), the Commission partnered with the ASU Lodestar Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Innovation to relaunch SEI in March 2022.

The SEI continues to be a passion for the Commission; three commissioners became certified trainers in 2023.

## AMERICORPS STATE PROGRAMMING

### 2021-2022

Concluding August 31, 2022, the 2021-2022 AmeriCorps Program year had significant outcomes: 27 AmeriCorps State programs supported 850 AmeriCorps members in Arizona. In addition, AmeriCorps members leveraged and engaged 6,363 volunteers, serving over 75,404 hours to meet critical needs in communities across the state.



The following programs operated during the 2021-2022 program year and will continue operations in the 2022-2023 program year. Find executive summaries for each program in the Commission's 2022 Annual Report [here](#).

[ACCEL](#)

[American Conservation Experience](#)

[Area Agency on Aging, Region One](#)

[Arizona Caregiver Coalition](#)

[Arizona Conservation Corps](#)

[ASU - School of Social Work](#)

[Arizona Superior Court - Maricopa County](#)

[Arizona Supreme Court](#)

[Boys & Girls Clubs of the Valley](#)

[Education Forward](#)

[Helen's Hope Chest](#)

[Hushabye Nursery](#)

[Hustle PHX](#)

[Maggie's Place](#)

[NAU - ARCC](#)

[NAU - Environmental Learning Corps](#)

[notMYkid, Inc](#)

[Pima Prevention Partnership](#)

[Prescott College - Economic](#)

[Prescott College - Healthy Futures](#)

[Teach for America](#)

[The Be Kind People Project](#)

[UA - Math STEM](#)

[UA - Wildcat Corps](#)

### **2022-2023**

While three programs sunset at the end of the 2021-2022 program year, the Commission added five programs for the 2022-2023 year that began on September 1, 2022, and will run through August 31, 2023. With an initiative launched in partnership with the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), [Public Health AmeriCorps \(PHA\)](#) provided the opportunity to implement three PHA programs to simultaneously address public health needs in Arizona communities and create pathways to good quality public health-related careers. Two new State and National programs were also awarded under the National Competitive solicitation, increasing the number of AmeriCorps State and National programs in Arizona from 27 to 29 and increasing the overall federal investment made in the state from \$8.5 to \$10.4 million. Below are the programs added for the 2022-2023 program year.

#### ***Arizona State University, College of Health Solutions - Public Health***

ASU's College of Health Solutions will host 20 half-time AmeriCorps members supporting 40 Early Child Education sites participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program in Maricopa County to educate low-income, underserved, and underrepresented preschool children, their families, and teachers/staff on making healthy choices around eating and exercising. Utilizing COVID-19 mitigation strategies of outreach, education, and testing, members engaged youth with outdoor gardening education/activities. After their year of service, 60% of AmeriCorps members state they are pursuing future engagement in the public health sector.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the Be SAGE AmeriCorps Program.

#### ***Northern Arizona University, Center for Service and Volunteerism - Public Health***

NAU's Center for Service and Volunteerism will host 50 AmeriCorps members, placing them in public health serving organizations across the state. At the end of its first program year, AmeriCorps members will have trained approximately 5,000 Arizonans around public health topics, with half reporting an increase in health knowledge. After their year of service, 40 AmeriCorps members state they are pursuing future engagement in the public health sector.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the NAU Public Health AmeriCorps Program.



### ***Prescott College - Public Health***

Arizona Serve will host 18 AmeriCorps members, providing monthly health interventions such as eviction support in Pima County and health inequities programs/social-emotional-learning interventions in Yavapai County. At the end of the first program year, AmeriCorps members will have served approximately 1,800 individuals, 400 of whom will report a change in behavior or an intent to change behavior. In addition, the AmeriCorps members will leverage 180 volunteers to engage in community-driven health promotion. After their year of service, all 18 AmeriCorps members state they are pursuing future engagement in the public health sector.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the Prescott College Public Health AmeriCorps Program.

### ***Arizona State University, Lodestar Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Innovation-Education***

Focusing on the AmeriCorps focus areas of Economic Opportunity, Education, and Healthy Futures, the ASU Lodestar Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Innovation will host 34 AmeriCorps members in its Experience Matters AmeriCorps State/National program serving at nonprofit or public agencies located in Maricopa County. With a federal investment of \$144,658 matched with \$128,459 in private funding, six members will serve in programs designed to re-engage disconnected youth, ages 16-24, into school/work; 15 members will serve in programs focused on tutoring and mentoring K-12 students to improve academic performance; and 13 members will serve in programs that address food insecurity by reducing barriers to accessing healthy, nutritious food. Concluding its first program year, AmeriCorps members will have reconnected approximately 67 youth to school/work, 120 K-12 students will have improved academic performance, and 2,000 previously food insecure individuals/households will self-identify as food secure.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the Experience Matters AmeriCorps Program.

### ***Earn to Learn - Education***

Focusing on the AmeriCorps focus area of Education, Earn to Learn will host 50 AmeriCorps members that increase preparation for postsecondary education by removing barriers to access services and mentoring to economically disadvantaged Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) from Title 1 designated high schools in Coconino, Maricopa, Navajo, Pima, and Yuma County. With a federal investment of \$410,944 matched with \$133,500 in public funding and \$13,492 in private funding, at the end of its first program year, approximately 900 students will have enrolled in a postsecondary institution, and another 1,350 students will have received support with college applications, financial aid, and other college planning activities. In addition, AmeriCorps members will have leveraged five community-based volunteers to engage in statewide initiatives/service projects that support and improve the local Arizona community.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the Next Steps AmeriCorps Program.