

State Commissions



Each state has a governor-appointed commission to coordinate service programs, provide support to national service programs and administer AmeriCorps State grants. KCCVS assumes this responsibility in Kentucky.

The KCCVS mission is to engage Kentuckians in volunteerism and service to positively impact our communities.

Disabilities Inclusion



Kentucky is proud to provide the skills and professional service of a disabilities coordinator as part of KCCVS' commitment to the concept of inclusion and opportunity for all who seek to serve. Kentucky's Disabilities Coordinator, Lanny Taulbee, works to recruit AmeriCorps

members with disabilities and to provide assistance and referrals to services and supports that members may need to perform the duties of their service assignments.

The KCCVS disabilities coordinator also provides education and outreach to address access and accommodation policies and issues as a means to further expand service opportunities. Kentucky is working hard to find ways for the many individuals with disabilities, who otherwise may not have the opportunity, to share in the spirit of volunteerism and service.

Contact Lanny Taulbee at (800) 239-7404 or at lanny.taulbee@ky.gov.

About the KCCVS



The KCCVS actively engages citizens in community service opportunities that enable volunteers, organizations and businesses to share ideas and effectively collaborate to address Kentucky's needs.

The KCCVS hosts annual statewide activities to encourage volunteer and service program development. The KCCVS funding is provided by the Corporation for National and Community Service and the Kentucky General Assembly.

How To Learn More



For more information about AmeriCorps programs in Kentucky, visit the KCCVS website at www.volunteerKY.ky.gov.

For more about the Corporation for National and Community Service, visit its website at www.nationalservice.gov.

To find out more about AmeriCorps, visit the website at www.americorps.gov.



Cabinet for Health and Family Services Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service

275 E. Main St., 3W-E
Frankfort, KY 40621

Phone: (502) 564-7420
Toll-Free: (800) 239-7404

www.volunteerKY.ky.gov
kccvs@ky.gov

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Serve Your Community



in Kentucky AmeriCorps!



*"Everyone can be great,
because everyone can serve."*

~Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

What is AmeriCorps?

AmeriCorps is a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) that connects Americans of all ages and backgrounds with opportunities to serve their communities. CNCS



is a federal agency that engages more than five million Americans in service through Senior Corps and AmeriCorps. The Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service (KCCVS) administers AmeriCorps programs in Kentucky.

Involvement

The purpose of AmeriCorps is to address unmet community needs by engaging members in direct service. Local programs provide service activities for members serving in full- or part-time positions. Members receive guidance, training and program assignments to enhance and complement their talents, interests, abilities and availability.

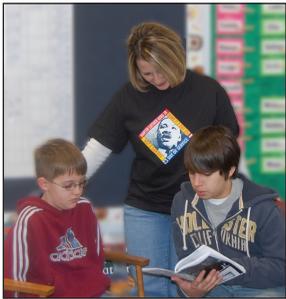


Eligibility

AmeriCorps state and national programs are open to United States citizens, nationals or lawful permanent resident aliens age 17 and older. Members serve full- or part-time over a nine- to 12-month period.



Types of Service



Most AmeriCorps members are selected by and serve with projects like Habitat for Humanity, the American Red Cross, Boys and Girls Clubs and many more local and national organizations. Others serve in AmeriCorps

VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America), AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) and AmeriCorps TCCC (Tribal Civilian Community Corps).

An AmeriCorps member may tutor students to help improve reading skills, assist with public or private charitable housing construction, help the elderly with home repairs or even help provide disaster preparedness training.

Learn about the current AmeriCorps programs in Kentucky at www.volunteerKY.ky.gov

Benefits of Service



AmeriCorps members receive a modest living allowance, student loan forbearance, health coverage and child care for those who qualify. After successfully completing their terms

of service, members receive an education award up to the equivalent of a federal Pell grant to help repay qualified student loans or finance college, graduate school or vocational training at eligible institutions.

In addition to those benefits, AmeriCorps members develop new skills and leadership qualities, and gain a sense of satisfaction from taking on responsibilities that directly affect people's lives.

The HEART Act



On June 17, 2008, President George W. Bush signed the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax (HEART) Act, making AmeriCorps more accessible

to people with disabilities. The HEART Act contains a provision that excludes AmeriCorps benefits from being counted as income for purposes of eligibility for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). An SSI recipient who enrolls in AmeriCorps no longer risks the loss of SSI benefits or eligibility as a result of participating in AmeriCorps. While the law does not extend to Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), it removes a significant barrier to participation for SSI recipients.

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

~ Mahatma Gandhi