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Volunteer Tennessee Commission Announces \$7.4 Million in AmeriCorps Grants to 18 Tennessee Organizations

Nearly 900 Tennessee AmeriCorps members will be empowered to meet local needs

NASHVILLE, TN – Volunteer Tennessee, the state’s governor-appointed commission on volunteerism and service, today announced that Tennessee received nearly \$7.4 million in AmeriCorps grant funding from AmeriCorps, the federal agency responsible for national service and volunteer programs.

These grants will support nearly 900 AmeriCorps members across the state as they serve with 18 organizations. The AmeriCorps members will tackle critical challenges in Tennessee, including supporting students with tutoring and mentoring, providing health services, restoring the environment, increasing economic opportunities, and recruiting and managing volunteers.

“National service is an essential part of the solution to many of the toughest problems facing our state,” said Donovan Robertson, Chair of the Volunteer Tennessee commission. “These AmeriCorps members will meet pressing local needs and strengthen communities as they develop civic and leadership skills to last a lifetime. I congratulate these outstanding organizations and thank all those who serve their communities through AmeriCorps.”

Of the \$800 million awarded nationally, \$7.4 million will be granted to Volunteer Tennessee, which in turn will award grants to nonprofit organizations and public agencies across the state. The law creating AmeriCorps gave a key role to states in determining how national service resources are used and in promoting service and volunteering to meet community needs.

Every year, 250,000 AmeriCorps members serve through over 2,000 schools, nonprofits, and community and faith-based organizations across the country. These citizens have played a critical role in the recovery of communities affected by COVID and natural disasters and helped thousands of first-generation college students access higher education.

AmeriCorps’ unique model means that the grants announced today will leverage an additional \$15 million from the private sector, foundations, and other sources – further increasing the return on the federal investment.

AmeriCorps will also provide nearly \$6 million in Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards for the AmeriCorps members funded by these grants in Tennessee. After completing a full term of service, AmeriCorps members receive an award of approximately \$6,500 that they can use to pay for college or to pay off student loans.



The grants awarded will support AmeriCorps members in all three regions of Tennessee, including Teach for America, Hands On Nashville, Emerald Youth Foundation, and Bridges USA. A complete list of awards, including organizations and funding totals can be found [online](#) and below.

CHATTANOOGA

- [Public Education Foundation](#) – Funding Awarded: \$410,400/ 19 AmeriCorps members will participate in a teacher residency program.

CHATTANOOGA/NASHVILLE

- [Teach For America: Nashville-Chattanooga](#) – Funding Awarded: \$130,000/ 130 AmeriCorps members will teach in schools in low-income areas.

JOHNSON CITY

- [Appalachian Regional Coalition on Homelessness](#) – Funding Awarded: \$345,182/ 16 AmeriCorps members will work on housing and social services in East Tennessee.

KNOXVILLE

- [Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee](#) - Funding Awarded: \$793,000/ 40 AmeriCorps members will help improve the environment.
- [Emerald Youth Foundation](#) - Funding Awarded: \$236,363/ 58 AmeriCorps members will serve urban youth in afterschool and summer day camp activities.

MEMPHIS

- [BRIDGES USA, Inc.](#) – Funding Awarded: \$214,981/ 38 AmeriCorps members will work with youth on life and academic skills.
- [City Year Memphis](#) - Funding Awarded: \$1,123,200/ 52 AmeriCorps members will serve as coaches and mentors in schools.
- [Porter-Leath](#) - Funding Awarded: \$388,800/ 18 AmeriCorps members will increase school readiness.
- [Impact America - Tennessee](#) – Funding Awarded: \$103,680/ 6 AmeriCorps members will implement projects related to health and economic opportunity.
- [Literacy Mid-South](#) – Funding Awarded: \$187,226/ 33 AmeriCorps members will support K-5 students enrolled in afterschool activities and English Language Learners.
- [Memphis Teacher Residency](#) – Funding Awarded: \$648,000/ 30 AmeriCorps members will serve as co-teachers for Memphis' most academically-challenged public schools.
- [Teach for America: Memphis](#) – Funding Awarded: \$120,000/ 120 AmeriCorps members will teach low-income children in the Shelby County School District.

MEMPHIS/NASHVILLE

- [Relay Graduate School of Education](#) – Funding Awarded: \$140,000/ 140 AmeriCorps members participate in a teacher preparation program in Nashville and Memphis leading to certification to teach K-12 students.



MORRISTOWN/VARIOUS SITES ACROSS TENNESSEE

- [Tennessee's Community Assistance Corporation](#) – Funding Awarded: \$506,480/ 40 AmeriCorps member will address poverty related issues.

NASHVILLE

- [Hands On Nashville](#) – Funding Awarded: \$648,000/ 33 AmeriCorps members will build the capacity of local programs while receiving professional development training.
- [Martha O'Bryan Center](#) – Funding Awarded: \$298,826/ 21 AmeriCorps members will serve children, youth, and adults to transform their lives through education.

RUTLEDGE/GREENVILLE AREA

- [Clinch-Powell Resource Conservation & Development Council](#) – Funding Awarded: \$790,734/ 74 AmeriCorps members will support nonprofit capacity-building needs.

SEWANEE

- [University of the South](#) – Funding Awarded: \$345,480/ 16 AmeriCorps members will address food insecurity and develop economic opportunity programs.

Additional info: AmeriCorps service and benefits.

AmeriCorps members typically receive a modest living stipend and a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award, or scholarship, upon completion of their service. Since the agency's inception in 1994, nearly 1.2 million AmeriCorps members have served the nation. In Tennessee, more than 16,000 Tennessee residents have served approximately 30 million hours through AmeriCorps, earning Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards totaling more than \$60.6 million.

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Volunteer Tennessee, the Governor's commission on volunteerism and service builds capacity and sustainability in Tennessee's volunteer sector. Annually, Volunteer Tennessee provides more than \$6 million in AmeriCorps grants and volunteer center grants to local agencies throughout the state so they can engage volunteers to meet local needs in education, social services, health and wellness, public safety and the environment. The commission consists of a 25-member, bi-partisan volunteer citizen board appointed by the Governor and eleven State Government ex-officio positions. For more information, visit www.volunteertennessee.net or visit us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#).

AmeriCorps, the federal agency for volunteering and national service, provides opportunities for Americans to serve their country domestically, and strengthen civic engagement. Each year, the agency invests more than \$800 million in grants for local nonprofit, community, tribal, and state organizations; places more than 250,000 AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers in intensive service roles; and empowers millions more as volunteers. Learn more at AmeriCorps.gov.