



# AmeriCorps

*AmeriCorps engages 50,000 Americans age 17 and older each year in intensive service to meet community needs in education, the environment, public safety, homeland security, and other areas. Members serve with national nonprofit organizations like Habitat for Humanity, the American Red Cross, and Teach for America, as well as with hundreds of smaller community organizations, both secular and faith-based. Other members serve with AmeriCorps\*NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps), a team-based residential program for adults ages 18 to 24, or in low-income communities with AmeriCorps\*VISTA. In exchange for a year of service, AmeriCorps members earn an education award that can be used to pay for college or to pay back qualified student loans.*

## OVERVIEW

Since 1994, more than 250,000 men and women have served in AmeriCorps, providing needed assistance to millions of Americans. AmeriCorps provides trained, dedicated people to help nonprofit groups, both secular and faith-based. Members tutor and mentor youth, build affordable housing, teach computer skills, clean parks and streams, run after-school programs, help communities respond to disasters, and recruit and manage traditional volunteers. At the request of President Bush, AmeriCorps has expanded its work to include projects directly related to homeland security.

## AMERICORPS\*STATE AND NATIONAL

More than three-quarters of AmeriCorps grant funding goes to Governor-appointed state service commissions, which in turn award and monitor grants to hundreds of nonprofit groups and agencies. The other quarter goes to national nonprofits that operate in more than one state.

The organizations that receive grants are responsible for recruiting, selecting, and supervising AmeriCorps members. AmeriCorps grantees include national groups such as the U.S. Veterans Initiative, National Council of La Raza, Catholic Network of Volunteer Service, and Boys and Girls Clubs of America, as well as hundreds of smaller faith-based and local community organizations.

## AMERICORPS\*VISTA

For more than 35 years, AmeriCorps\*VISTA members have helped impoverished individuals and communities attain self-sufficiency. Members serve full time for a year with nonprofit groups, public agencies, and faith-based organizations throughout the country, working to fight illiteracy, improve health services, create and expand businesses, increase housing opportunities, and bridge the digital divide.

Approximately 6,000 AmeriCorps\*VISTA members serve in more than 1,100 local programs; nearly 15 percent of

*(Continued)*

AmeriCorps\*VISTA members are assigned to projects that support the work of faith-based organizations.

## **AMERICORPS\*NCCC**

AmeriCorps\*NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) is a 10-month, team-based, full-time residential program for men and women between the ages of 18 and 24. It combines the best practices of civilian service with the best aspects of military service, including leadership training and team building. Members serve in diverse teams of 10 to 14 individuals. Priority is given to projects in homeland security and disaster relief. Teams are based at five campuses across the country and are assigned to projects in their respective regions. Approximately 1,200 members serve in AmeriCorps\*NCCC.

## **ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFITS**

AmeriCorps is open to U.S. citizens, nationals, or lawful permanent resident aliens age 17 and older. Members serve full or part time over a 10- to 12-month period. Upon successful completion of their service, members receive an education award of \$4,725 to pay for college, graduate school, or to pay back qualified student loans. During their service, members receive health insurance, training, and student loan deferment. About half of the members also receive a modest annual living allowance of about \$9,300. Members who serve part time receive a partial education award.

## **CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**

AmeriCorps is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, which also oversees Senior Corps and Learn and Serve America. Together, the programs of the Corporation provide opportunities for Americans of all ages and backgrounds to serve their communities and country.

## **USA FREEDOM CORPS**

The Corporation and its programs are part of USA Freedom Corps, a White House initiative to foster a culture of citizenship, service, and responsibility, and help all Americans answer the President's Call to Service.

## **MORE INFORMATION**

To learn more about AmeriCorps, visit [www.americorps.org](http://www.americorps.org) or call 800-942-2677 or TTY 800-833-3722.

January 2003