



General Talking Points about FY24 Funding for AmeriCorps
(Updated 1/12/2024)

- In fiscal year 2023, the AmeriCorps agency awarded funds to place more than 209,000 AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors with nonprofit, faith-based, and community organizations. But AmeriCorps is in jeopardy of shrinking in 2024.
- Right now, Congress is debating the fiscal year 2024 budget, and both the House and Senate have drafted spending bills that would cut funding for AmeriCorps.
- The House of Representatives has proposed eliminating all funding for AmeriCorps education awards and slashing the agency’s total budget by 50% to the lowest levels in nearly three decades. This would result in the loss of over 61,000 AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors positions across the country.
- While the Senate is seeking substantially more than the House, their bill still falls short of what is needed to maintain AmeriCorps’ footprint across the country. The Senate has proposed level funding for AmeriCorps operations, which could eliminate 26,020 service positions and the services those members would have provided their communities.
- Our organization, and many others like us, rely on AmeriCorps members to serve our community every day. AmeriCorps members respond to immediate and critical needs around the country – from natural disaster response to providing services to veterans and military families. With the explosion of needs in our community, now is the time to invest in AmeriCorps.
- *[Explain how AmeriCorps funding and AmeriCorps members help your organization deliver tangible impact in the state or congressional district.]*
 - Because of AmeriCorps, we are able to ...
 - Without AmeriCorps, we would be unable to ...
- AmeriCorps is critical to our operations, but the spending bills moving through Congress would cut funding for AmeriCorps. Our organization stands to lose grant funding and AmeriCorps service positions. This puts the future of our program at risk and would create significant loss in our community. We know the process is not over, but neither the House nor the Senate bill funds AmeriCorps at needed levels.

If you would like additional talking points and messaging support, please contact Shanelle Oliver, Director of Advocacy & Outreach, at soliver2@cityyear.org.

- To sustain gains made with American Rescue Plan funds and protect AmeriCorps member positions and the services they provide, AmeriCorps needs an increase of \$335.5 million in FY24, above the FY23 enacted levels.
- AmeriCorps is one of the best investments the federal government can make. Unlike most grant programs, we match AmeriCorps grants with funds from philanthropic and local sources, and this public-private partnership yields more than \$17 in community benefits for every \$1 Congress invests.
- The proposed cuts to AmeriCorps' funding would jeopardize critical – and effective – investments in local community impact. We hope that you and your colleagues in Congress will ensure a robust appropriation in fiscal year 2024 so our community and others can continue to count on AmeriCorps for help where it's needed most.
- The spending bills also cut funding for the National Service Trust, threatening the fundamental commitment that if you serve your community through AmeriCorps, you will earn money to pay for college or pay back student loans. Inadequate funding for education awards would also limit AmeriCorps' recruitment efforts.
- President Biden requested \$1.5 billion for the AmeriCorps agency and in the spring of 2023, a bipartisan group of senators called for a \$300 million increase. While we understand Congress is facing challenging budget decisions, now is the time to invest in AmeriCorps. Increased funding in FY24 is needed to make important, targeted investments in the program and to maintain our current corps size and service footprint.