



## Template – Op-ed

(Updated April 7, 2025)

*Below is a template for an op-ed using [City or State Name] as a placeholder for the local community. The listed author of an op-ed should ideally be one (or two, in co-authorship) recognizable names in the community, such as the head of a community-based organization, a businessperson, or a religious leader. You may also want to consider asking a local elected official to author an op-ed – such as your mayor, a city councilor, county executive, school board member, etc.*

Sample Headline: [City or State Name] is Stronger Because of AmeriCorps

1. Open with one to three paragraphs that emphasize the tangible impact of AmeriCorps in the region; this could include:
  - Anecdotes about one or two people whose lives were made better because of your local AmeriCorps program.
    - Ideally the piece should include their name(s) and a personal story(ies) of these individual(s). For example: If discussing the impact of an after-school program on a student, you could include a vignette from the student, their parent, the student’s teacher, or the AmeriCorps member whose service resulted in the positive change.
  - Data: Wherever possible, cite specific impact data that backs up the anecdotal evidence or personal story. For example: a school may be able to affirm improved attendance records, test scores, etc.
2. Next, connect these stories to the broader narrative from the region/program and, wherever possible, connect back to [national data](#) on AmeriCorps' impact on the same issues. If you need help finding national data, [contact Voices](#).
  - Connect to your state: Consider citing other AmeriCorps programs across the state that are fulfilling similar local needs. [Access state-specific data on National Service](#) in your state, including details on the full scope of AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors presence in your state from February 2024 to February 2025.
  - Connect nationally: Use national statistics that relate to the op-ed topic. For example, if you are writing an op-ed related to education, you could note that, “Nearly 36,000 AmeriCorps members serve annually at more than 9,500 K-12 schools. Additionally, AmeriCorps Seniors tutor and mentor over 90,000 children each year.”
3. The concluding paragraph should re-emphasize the call to action and work in AmeriCorps’ messages.
  - For example, "AmeriCorps is built on the notion that the best solutions come from states and communities, not Washington. Through partnerships with faith-based

organizations, nonprofits, and local businesses, AmeriCorps ensures that service efforts are uniquely tailored to the specific needs of each community. AmeriCorps also stands as a model for tax dollar return on investment. For every federal dollar invested, AmeriCorps generates an impressive \$17 in economic value - demonstrating how a well-structured public-private partnership can multiply the impact of taxpayer dollars.

- “Congress is facing challenging funding decisions, but AmeriCorps is not the place to cut. By fostering workforce development, facilitating community-oriented solutions through public-private partnerships, and strengthening national resilience to natural disasters, AmeriCorps delivers tangible, cost-effective results for taxpayers. With the support of [Congressman Smith], AmeriCorps can continue to be a vital resource for [city or state name] and America for decades to come.”