



City Year and AmeriCorps Fact Sheet

Background on City Year

In more than 300 schools across 28 U.S. cities, City Year supports students, teachers and schools by providing additional “people power” to effectively meet each student’s academic and social-emotional needs, helping students stay in school and on track to high school graduation and college and career success. Diverse teams of City Year AmeriCorps members serve full-time in schools alongside teachers, establishing positive relationships with students and providing research-based interventions designed to help students achieve at high levels and enhance overall school climate and culture.

Investments in AmeriCorps programs like City Year provide a cost-effective way to drive school-wide gains; increase the number of students who will graduate from high school prepared for success in college and career; and develop the next generation of educators and civic-minded leaders.

Basic Facts on City Year AmeriCorps Members

- 3,100+ AmeriCorps members serving in more than 300 schools across 28 U.S. cities
- 56% young adults of color
- 80% are college graduates
- 48% are eligible for Pell grants
- 25% are first generation college graduates

City Year is a public-private partnership.

- For every \$1 the federal government invests, City Year delivers an additional \$3 from other sources (corporate & private philanthropy, local public school and district partners) which magnifies the results and unlocks valuable resources at a reduced cost to the federal government.
- City Year has been designated a 4-star charity for more than a decade by Charity Navigator, placing City Year in the top 1% of nonprofit organizations nationwide for financial health, organizational efficiency, and organizational capacity.

Possible Loss of AmeriCorps Funding & Impact on City Year

- City Year receives \$35 million from AmeriCorps, which funds 28 local programs. In addition, AmeriCorps provides corps members with education awards of nearly \$6,000 upon completion of a year of service, which aggregates to \$15 million per year for City Year alumni. These funds enable our 3,100 AmeriCorps members to serve in more than 300 schools, partnering with educators to provide supports to improve outcomes for 200,000 students across the country.
- Elimination of AmeriCorps would be devastating for City Year and other national service programs, and for the communities those programs serve.
- Funds from AmeriCorps serve as a foundation for all of the other private and corporate philanthropy that make it possible for City Year to recruit and deploy young people into service in our nation’s schools.

City Year has a track record of impact supporting school-wide gains.

- A 2015 third-party study found that schools that partner with City Year were up to 2-3 times more likely to improve on math and English assessments.¹
- A recent study found that Diplomas Now, a collaboration of organizations including City Year, significantly reduced the number of students at risk of dropping out of school.²
- National results for the 2015-2016 school year include the following among students who were identified as off-track to graduation and then were served by City Year AmeriCorps members:³
 - 47% improved in math from a D or F to an A, B, or C
 - 51% improved in English from a D or F to an A, B, or C
 - 68% moved on-track in critical social emotional skills

City Year produces a pipeline of leaders.

- City Year invests in a year-long leadership development experience for its AmeriCorps members so that today, 25,000+ City Year alumni have the skills and mindset to drive transformative change in schools and communities after their City Year service.
- A longitudinal study comparing City Year alumni to other service-minded peers demonstrated that City Year alumni are 65% more likely to volunteer and 45% more likely to belong to a community group or civic organization.⁴
- City Year is building a pipeline of future educators, with 50% of City Year AmeriCorps members expressing interest in pursuing a teaching career.⁵
- City Year has become a leading source of talent for teacher residency and alternative certification programs.

Background on AmeriCorps and CNCS

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) is an independent federal agency and its largest programs are AmeriCorps and Senior Corps. CNCS is the nation's largest grantmaker investing in locally driven service and volunteering efforts focused on several high-priority areas including education, disaster relief, veterans and military families, and housing. CNCS investments lead to more engaged citizens, greater economic opportunity, less dependence on government, safer neighborhoods, stronger communities, and a more unified nation. Half of the funds invested in national service through CNCS are focused on education.

National service programs drive positive outcomes for students, schools, and communities across the country.

- Nationally, nearly 12,000 public schools—traditional and charter—and parochial schools receive support from AmeriCorps or Senior Corps members.
- AmeriCorps members directly serve in high-need schools as student coaches, tutors, and instructional support.
- One in ten public schools, and one in four high-need public schools, is served by AmeriCorps.

¹ Analysis of the Impacts of City Year's Whole School Whole Child Model on Partner Schools' Performance, Policy Studies Associates, Inc. (March 2015)

² <https://www.cityyear.org/diplomas-now-investing-innovation-i3-study>

³ ELA= 1,748; Math n=1,994; attendance n=2,361; SED n=5,094 (SED as measured by Devereux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA), a validated observational assessment that measures social-emotional competencies in children and youth in kindergarten through the eighth grade.

⁴ The Effect of the City Year Experience Over Time: Findings from the Longitudinal Study of Alumni", Policy Studies Associates, 2007

⁵ FY17 Start of year City Year AmeriCorps member survey

National service is a model for public-private partnerships.

- Congress created CNCS to be a public-private partnership designed to lessen the burden on government, particularly in rural and urban areas where the social safety net is strained.
- CNCS strengthens civil society by deploying national and community service members through its nonprofit affiliates.
- For every \$10 in federal money appropriated to the agency, another \$15 is separately raised from private sources to fund the agency's programs. Investments from companies like Walmart, Home Depot, Target, Cisco, CSX and Citigroup increase the return on the taxpayer dollar.

National service has a strong, bipartisan history.

- Over the past eight decades, presidents from both political parties have proposed, and created with Congress, programs that have enabled Americans to serve local communities for a significant period of time.

Voters overwhelmingly support national service.

- A poll conducted by TargetPoint Consulting found that 83 percent of voters across nine presidential battleground states want Congress to maintain or increase the federal investment in national service. This includes 78 percent of Republicans, 84 percent of Independents, and 90 percent of Democrats surveyed.

National service is a model for decentralized control and community problem-solving.

- Two thirds of AmeriCorps funding is directly controlled by governor-appointed state service commissions that determine which organizations receive investment based on the needs of their communities.

Employers value and hire people who participate in national service.

- National service is backed by over 450 "Employers of National Service" who highly value the skills individuals gain during their service and bring to the workplace after their term of service.

National service has a positive impact on higher education and civic engagement.

- AmeriCorps helps pay for higher education by providing access to education awards that can be used to pay for college tuition or to pay down student loan debt. To date, AmeriCorps alums have earned more than \$3.3 billion to help with college costs.⁶ More than \$1 billion of scholarship funds have gone to repay students loans.⁷
- Individuals who served in AmeriCorps reported high levels of civic engagement and civic self-efficacy, and indicated that their AmeriCorps experience influenced their civic engagement.⁸

⁶ https://www.nationalservice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/CNCS_Solving_Problems_and_Expanding_Opportunity_0.pdf

⁷ https://www.nationalservice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/CNCS_Solving_Problems_and_Expanding_Opportunity_0.pdf

⁸ http://www.nationalservice.gov/sites/default/files/evidenceexchange/FR_CNCS_Alumni%20Outcomes%20Survey%20Report.pdf