



Lead For America

Lead For America is an AmeriCorps program building the next generation of leaders for our country and communities across all 50 states.

Through the Hometown Fellowship, Fellows serve in a paid, full-time capacity alongside a local leader in their hometown or home state for one year, before advancing into positions of community, state, and national leadership for decades to come.



Lead For America Fellows are dedicated to tackling the critical challenges facing the places they call home through paid, full-time service.

Our Fellowship provides the training, resources, and mentorship needed to make a difference, and serves as a launching pad for a lifetime of civic leadership to community and country.



Born into every American community are the talents and skills it needs to address its most critical challenges. But for far too many young people across the country, success has been defined as leaving home and never coming back.

We believe that building stronger communities, and a stronger America, starts by serving and leading, where you live.



Our Progress

215 Paid, Full-time Fellowships Created in 150 different communities in 42 states.

93% of LFA Alumni committed to serving their communities for the long-term

Over \$100 Million raised or secured by Fellows for their communities and efforts they are leading

6 Affiliates Created in Kansas, Hawai'i, Nebraska, Minnesota, North Carolina, and Poughkeepsie (NY)



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The American Connection Corps is an initiative within Lead for America where members across the country are creating a national impact in broadband development and access by addressing the local connectivity needs in their ***communities***.

The American Connection Corps (ACC) is the nation's largest fellowship program focused on bridging the digital divide. This initiative addresses broadband development and digital inclusion while equipping, empowering, and connecting a national cohort of civic leaders.



Areas of Focus

Digital Access: Fellows help make internet and tech devices more affordable and help others fully participate in digital society.

Digital Adoption: Fellows help youth, elders, and working adults have the digital knowledge to access key services (like telehealth), participate in a 21st century workforce, and advance STEM education and digital economic development.

Broadband Infrastructure and Development: Fellows help get broadband infrastructure to their communities, and work with private and public officials to complete broadband projects.



Training & Support

ACC Fellows attend extensive trainings tailored specifically for their interests, communities, and personal career paths. The proposed training schedule includes

Summer ACC Orientation in Washington D.C.. The training curriculum is being designed in collaboration with the Land O'Lakes government relations team, and will include site visits to organizations deploying innovative broadband access, infrastructure, and inclusion/adoption programs locally and nationally.

Fall Retreat: LFA will plan a 3-day retreat, hosted tentatively at the Land O'Lakes headquarters, in Minneapolis, MN for all ACC Fellows to talk through and address any barriers to their work plans. Fellows will participate in an innovative digital workforce site visit, as well as workshops on best practices for digital adoption with statewide and national training partners.

Mid-March: National Digital Inclusion Conference - San Antonio, TX. LFA will cover the registration, travel, and accommodation for ACC members to attend the NDIA's Net Inclusion Summit

End of July, 2023: Lead For America Graduation in Washington D.C. All graduating ACC and National Hometown Fellows will return to Washington D.C. for their graduation, including meeting and presenting their service impact stories before key members of congress and federal agencies



AmeriCorps



The Lead For America Fellowship is a one-year AmeriCorps national service program, meaning our Fellows become AmeriCorps members and enjoy the benefits of this incredible opportunity.

As an AmeriCorps member, Fellows receive:
AmeriCorps Segal Education Award worth \$6,495 and available upon successful completion of your first (or second) year of the fellowship. Can be used for future schooling or to repay qualified student loans.

Student loan forbearance for qualified student loans.

Health insurance reimbursement for qualifying coverage: basic health, vision and dental coverage.

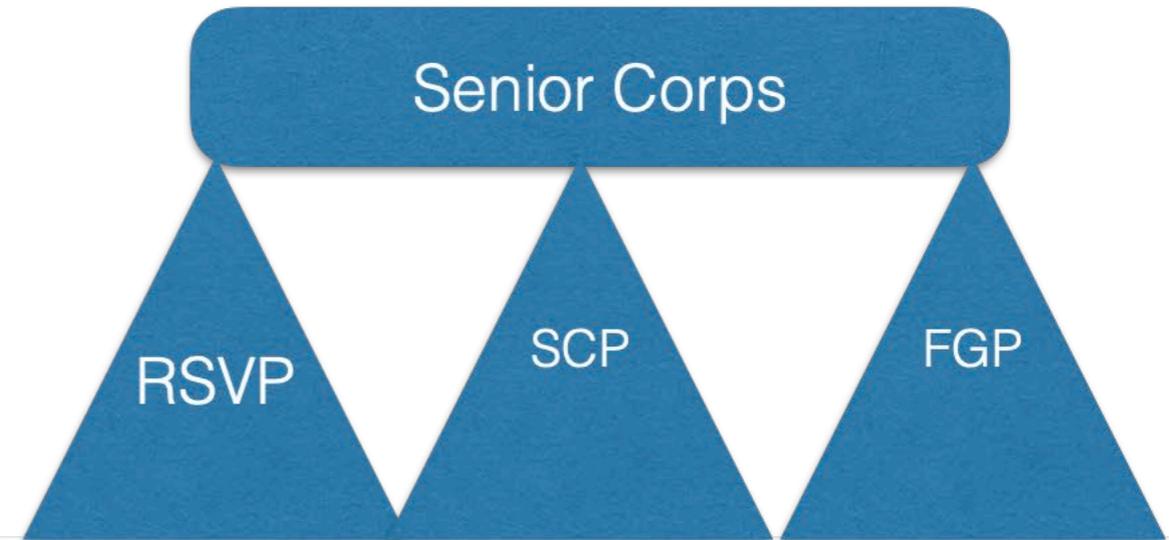
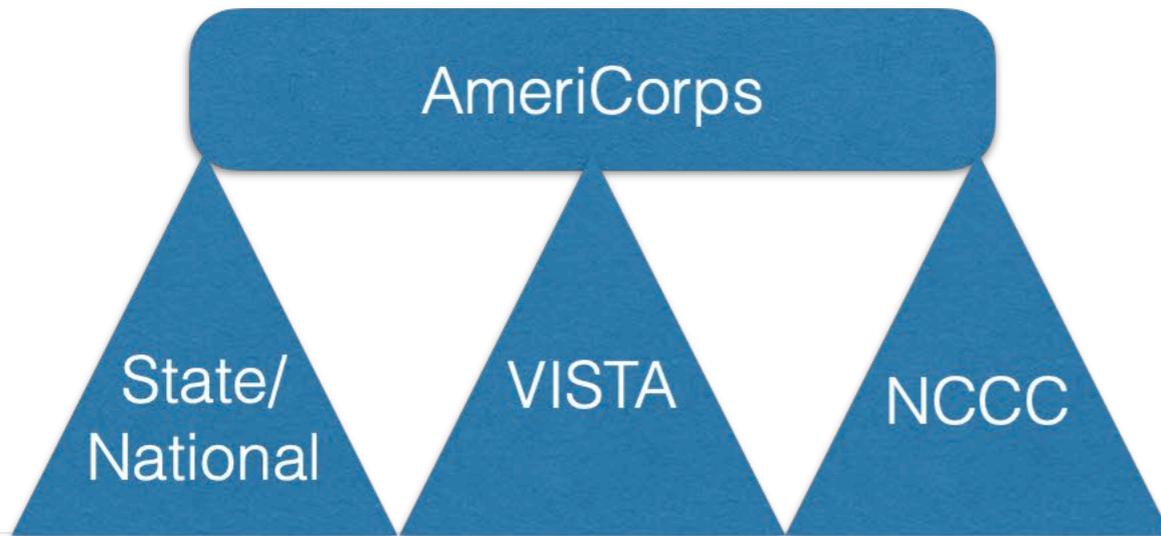
Partial childcare reimbursements.



AmeriCorps is a national service program that brings together people of all ages and backgrounds to serve their communities.

AmeriCorps helps activate more than 80,000 Americans in intensive service each year at nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups across the country. Since the program's founding in 1994, over 1 million AmeriCorps members have contributed more than 1.4 billion hours in service across America while tackling pressing issues and mobilizing more than 2.3 million volunteers for the organizations they serve.

AmeriCorps Agency Programs



Volunteer Generation Fund



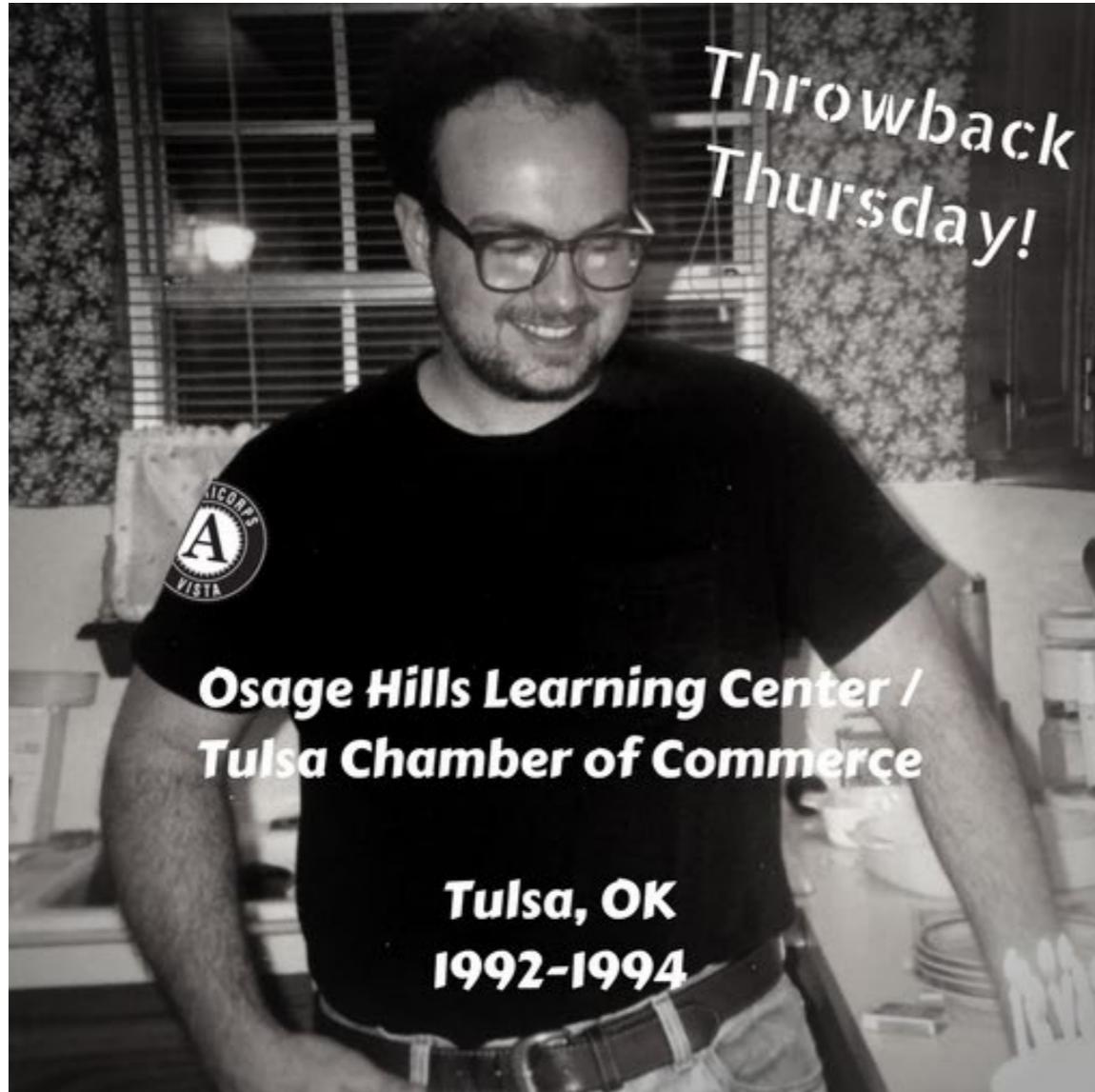
AmeriCorps VISTA

Since 1965, over 220,000 AmeriCorps members in the VISTA program have joined the fight against poverty by helping local organizations expand their capacity to make change. The VISTA program serves in each of the 50 U.S. states and in all U.S. territories.

Through capacity building activities such as fundraising, grant writing, research, and volunteer recruitment AmeriCorps members in the VISTA program serve in an office setting and gain experience and leadership skills. This opportunity prepares members for a life of service in the public, private, or nonprofit sector.



AmeriCorps VISTA



VISTA

Volunteers In Service To America



AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps

Corps Members are assigned to a regional campus to complete initial training and to receive team assignments. Diverse teams of 18-26 year-olds work under the direction of one Team Leader and complete the service term living and serving together. Corps Members are responsible for completing Corps Training Institute (CTI), earning 1700 service hours, participating in physical training and contributing to various team activities.



Pending Legislation



AmeriCorps in Budget Reconciliation Legislation

Provides \$3.2 billion to AmeriCorps State and National and \$600 million to VISTA to increase living allowances for all participants including those working in education, public health and other critical areas.

Raises the minimum AmeriCorps and VISTA living allowances to 200% of the poverty line.

Using 2021 numbers, the poverty line for a single individual is \$12,880, so the minimum living allowance will be around \$25,760.

Provides \$80 million for NCCC operations and to increase living allowances for AmeriCorps NCCC members

Raises the maximum federal limit on AmeriCorps grants from \$18,000/FTE to 125% of the minimum living allowance for a full-time equivalent position.

Using the 2021 numbers, this could raise the max cost/MSY to \$32,200. If CNCS funds programs at the proposed max cost/MSY - the delta between the mandatory minimum living allowance and the maximum funds/member is \$6,440 for other eligible programs expenses.

The agency can waive AmeriCorps State and National match requirements in whole and in part, if the grantee can demonstrate that it serves an underserved or low-income community, a significant percentage of its participants are low-income individuals, and the program cannot meet the match requirements.



AmeriCorps in Budget Reconciliation Legislation

Provides \$400 million for State Commission Admin Grants and gives the CEO the ability to waive match if a State Commissions can demonstrate a need for a waiver.

Includes \$6.9 billion for AmeriCorps State and National, VISTA and NCCC to establishes a Civilian Climate Corps with up to 300,000 new member positions over the 8-year BBB Act investment period. CNCS must ensure awards are made to entities that serve, and have representation from, low-income communities or communities experiencing adverse health and environmental conditions; programs utilize culturally competent and multilingual strategies; projects planned with community input, and implemented by diverse participants who are from communities being served by such programs; and programs that provide participants with workforce development opportunities.

Provides \$1 billion and \$79.8 million to CNCS to carry out these activities. The agency must use these funds to address audit findings and IG recommendations and to coordinate efforts and activities with the Departments of Labor and Education to help prepare AmeriCorps members to transition to high-quality jobs or further education. Provides CNCS with \$300,000 to develop, publish, and implement a plan for the CCC within 180 days of the bill's enactment. CNCS must consult with the Secretary of Labor and the IG as they develop the plan.

Provides \$49.5 million for outreach and member recruitment from communities traditionally underrepresented in national service programs and from communities experiencing a significant dislocation of workers.

Provides \$75 million to the Inspector General's office.

Includes \$1.15 billion to the National Service Trust Fund to fund education awards for the new members.

Includes \$1.66 billion to the National Service Trust Fund to provide a supplemental education award to all members serving during the BBB Act investment period. The value of the supplemental ed award is equal to 50% of a maximum Federal Pell Grant.



FY 2023 Appropriations Update

Last night, the House Appropriations Committee posted the FY23 Labor-HHS Appropriations bill last online in advance of this evening's subcommittee markup. Overall, the Labor-HHS bill includes \$241 billion in total discretionary spending, an increase of \$28.5 billion or 13% above FY22 enacted.

The bill recommends \$1.3 billion for the AmeriCorps agency, \$150 million or 13% more than FY22. The House mark is \$39 million below President Biden's FY23 request.

While we have not seen a budget chart to help confirm all the details, it appears the committee increased funding for nearly all the AmeriCorps accounts.

We believe the committee may have matched the President's requested levels for all accounts, except for:

AmeriCorps State and National (\$56M or 12% increase over FY22, \$34M less than President's request)

Volunteer Generation Fund (level funding, \$140,000 less than President's request), and

Salaries and Expenses (\$21M or 25% increase over FY22, \$5M less than President's request)

The House bill also recommends increasing the maximum Pell Grant to \$7,395, a \$500 increase from FY22. If this were to pass - the maximum value of the AmeriCorps education award would be indexed to this new level in FY24 (for positions approved between October 2023-September 2024).



LFA Government Relations Priorities

Expand AmeriCorps to 250,000 participants annually while making AmeriCorps more accessible so that underserved communities can more easily attain and effectively utilize national service resources and create additional opportunities for a more diverse and equitable AmeriCorps for individuals to serve in:

Increase the AmeriCorps living allowance to at least 200% of federal poverty level and double Education Award to twice the maximum Federal Pell Grant , while making both benefits nontaxable, to ensure that individuals' financial resources do not limit participation.

Mitigate the Education Award Tax Burden

Eliminate significant administrative burdens that currently hinder the ability to effectively deploy resources.

Allow DACA recipients and all legally qualified US residents to serve in AmeriCorps State and National.

Seek to include community-center service opportunities and fostering of homegrown leadership as a dedicated priority for AmeriCorps funding in annual appropriations legislation language.

Establish and fund an AmeriCorps Alum National Service Reserve Corps.

Reestablish a Service-Learning Fund



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