

# State Recovery Now



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a project of America Achieves

## WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Service year programming improves long-term employment outcomes for participants while simultaneously meeting urgent community needs.

## WHY USE ARP FUNDS?

ARP includes a \$1 billion investment in national service programming. Supplementing this with state and local recovery funds will allow program expansion, raises in members' living stipends, and more widespread programming to meet urgent pandemic-recovery needs.

## WHY DO THIS NOW?

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing societal problems, from food insecurity, homelessness, learning loss, unemployment, and wage stagnation to eroding public trust and civic engagement.

## National Service



**What are we trying to accomplish?** Allowing young people opportunities to serve their communities in a full-time, paid capacity, while addressing urgent community needs, fostering a sense of civic renewal, and putting members on pathways to higher education or jobs.



**Problem we're addressing:** Lack of long-term employment opportunities, particularly in underserved populations; lack of support and resources for community-based organizations performing services to meet urgent needs, which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.



**Why does this matter?** Service year programming improves long-term employment outcomes for participants while simultaneously meeting urgent community needs.



**What is the policy intervention?** Through a one-time investment of American Rescue Plan funds, state and local governments can expand national service programming, increase historically low living stipends, and increase diversity of corps members and participating organizations.



**Cost:** Roughly \$25,000 per member service year. Federal funds contribute roughly \$16,000 for a living stipend and a roughly \$6,000 education award. Local matching funds are required to supplement these stipends, typically in the range of \$3,000 to \$7,000, and for program administration costs.

**ROI:** For every federal and matching dollar invested, the **ROI to the government, corps members, and society is \$11.80**. The total benefit to society per year is over \$17.5 billion.



**Why now?** The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing societal problems, from food insecurity, homelessness, learning loss, unemployment, and wage stagnation to eroding public trust and civic engagement.



### What does success look like?

- Meeting the needs identified in a community by filling service delivery gaps. These will differ by issue area, whether in terms of improving kindergarten readiness skills, increasing public health outreach to underserved communities, restoring ecosystems, or responding to natural or humanitarian disasters.
- Meeting community needs more equitably, by prioritizing communities that have historically been underserved.
- Employing service corps alumni in well-paying fields at higher rates.
- Improving employment outcomes for young people in underserved communities.
- Build capacity within nonprofits, expanding their reach, resources, and building a talent pipeline for the next generation of nonprofit leaders.



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### Additional benefits

- Addressing long-unmet community needs, worsened by the pandemic.
- Fostering a sense of civic engagement among corps members and the communities they serve.
- Rebuilding public trust.
- Advancing members' workforce development skills.



## About the Authors

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## TAKEAWAYS

Outcomes	Equity	Substantial ROI
Improves long-term employment outcomes for participants while simultaneously meeting urgent community needs in underserved communities.	By centering equity in the program design — both in terms of the corps members themselves and the organizations hosting programs — impacts should be more equitably distributed to prioritize underserved communities, helping to advance equity in outcomes.	For every federal and matching dollar invested, the ROI to the government, corps members, and society is \$11.80.