









AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps NCCC 2024 Annual Report

Thanks to the work and commitment of AmeriCorps NCCC members, in collaboration with our outstanding partners, 2024 was a highly successful year in delivering on AmeriCorps NCCC's mission to, "strengthen communities and develop leaders through team-based service." During 2024, members in the NCCC Traditional Corps, FEMA Corps, Forest Corps, and our Summer of Service programs combined to perform over 717,611 hours of service to our nation, 48 states and 368 communities benefitted from NCCC engagement.

During the spring of 2024, AmeriCorps NCCC members nationwide combined to generate over \$22 million in returns for 23,923 low-income Americans through no-cost tax filing services. This number represented the equivalent of 62% of NCCC's total appropriation for fiscal year 2024, underscoring the high return on investment AmeriCorps NCCC provides to the American taxpayer. All 132 AmeriCorps NCCC members who engaged in this work received an Advanced Tax Certification from the Internal Revenue Service, a valuable professional credential supporting leadership development and post-service employment for members.

The work of AmeriCorps NCCC happens in partnership with community, state, regional, and national organizations. In 2024 AmeriCorps NCCC launched the Forest Corps program, a five-year interagency agreement with the USDA U.S. Forest Service (USFS). To deliver on our statutory commitment to meet "national and community need", we signed agreements with State Service Commissions in Arkansas, Illinois, North Carolina, Virginia, Kentucky, Colorado,

and Oregon.

To bolster recruitment and provide post-service benefits to AmeriCorps NCCC alums, we **launched a partnership with Western Governor's University**, one of the nation's largest online universities. At the agency level, NCCC created an <u>interagency agreement between AmeriCorps and the Veterans Administration</u> to support programming <u>benefitting Veterans</u>. We closed out 2024 by **formally reestablishing AmeriCorps NCCC's relationship with the Department of Defense** for the first time since 2013 to <u>support the recruitment and logistical operation of the NCCC</u>.

AmeriCorps NCCC staff around the nation generated celebration-worthy accomplishments for the program's administration:

- **Increased applications** to serve in NCCC for 2024 by 69%, marking the highest growth in over a decade.
- Reduced barriers to service through increased allowances, benefits, and simplifying the application process.
- Eliminated open recommendations or findings from the Office of Inspector General for the first time since 2015.
- Maintained an audit-free status with no deficiencies or recommendations as of December 2024.
- Strengthened policies and procedures to mitigate sexual assault and harassment and to ensure members who are victims of such crimes receive consistent and high-quality support.

We thank you for your support and partnership during 2024 and look forward to deepening our collaboration with you in the year to come.



\$22,787,406

Returned to communities in free tax return preparation



4,007

Post-disaster needs assessments processed



46,456

Acres treated to prevent wild-fires



388,464

reated to People assisted nt wild- in res disaster areas



5,887

Feet of erosion controlling walls built or repaired



62,408

Acres of wildlife habitats restored or protected



8,707

K-12 students supported in out of school programs



227,656

School rooms or hallways painted or renovated

MILESTONES

– JANUARY

Southwest Region held first in-person National Service Executive convening with State Commissions and AmeriCorps Regional Offices to discuss trends, collaboration opportunities, and solutions to common barriers.

- MARCH

Pacific Region graduated its 12th and final class of FEMA Corps, as the program shifted to be run exclusively out of the Southern Region.

- JUNE

Southern Region welcomed the largest summer intake in a decade, with two classes of over 300 members from both Traditional and FEMA Corps arriving simultaneously.

— JULY

Pacific Region inducted the inaugural class of the AmeriCorps NCCC Forest Corps program, in partnership with the US Forest Service.

North Central Region supported over 1000 veterans at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games and the Golden Age Games, managed the ongoing VA relationship and helped to facilitate the signing of an MOU between the NCCC and the VA.

AUGUST

Southwest and North Central Regions graduated NCCC's 4th cohort of Summer of Service members, providing 221 members the opportunity to contribute over 50,080 hours of service spanning 19 states.

- DECEMBER

NCCC and Department of Defense signed a 5-year MOU to enhance both agencies' ability to recruit members and build upon national service activities.

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NCCC Launches Forest Corps – Summer 2024

The AmeriCorps NCCC Forest Corps program is a five-year, interagency agreement between NCCC and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). Forest Corps mobilizes AmeriCorps NCCC members to serve across the country to conserve national forests and grasslands, mitigate risks of wildfires in high-risk regions, and support reforestation efforts and wildfire crisis response. NCCC Forest Corps members undergo intensive training with the USFS to prepare them for service and take on leadership roles during their term, expanding post-service career opportunities in conservation and land management.

"Our partnership is an exemplary model of inter-agency collaboration and cooperation that is doing critical work together." Merlene Mayzck, USFS

NCCC Disaster Response

In the fall of 2024, AmeriCorps NCCC led national service response to Hurricanes Helene and Milton, mobilizing teams to be on the ground within three days of Helene's landfall and quickly growing our footprint to 245 NCCC service members. As 2024 concludes, the NCCC presence from our Traditional and FEMA Corps programs continue to comprise the majority of the national service footprint on the ground responding in disaster-impacted states. The agency's Disaster Services Unit, housed in AmeriCorps NCCC, has mobilized AmeriCorps' grantee programs to supplement these critical recovery efforts, conducted critical coordination with FEMA and state emergency response agencies, and provided valuable leadership on the ground in North Carolina and Florida.

"This group was simply incredible. Their desire to help, learn, and give back was evident everyday. Having them for 8 weeks everyday is more productive than any group we have ever had. To the point that my supervisors were immediately asking when can we get another round of NCCC, and also realizing that we may not have a group with the same dynamics this group had. We truly will miss each and every one of them because of how great they were as workers and as people."

- D.J. Manou Habitat for Humanity Buffalo

Disaster Services Unit – 2024 Highlights

- Managed four disaster response operations: Iowa Flooding, Iowa Tornadoes, Hurricane Milton in Florida and Hurricane Helene in both Florida and North Carolina.
- ◆ Planned and facilitated an AmeriCorps Disaster Response Team (A-DRT) convening with 33 attendees from 12 A-DRT participating programs, including both AmeriCorps State and National and NCCC. Trainings included Just-In-Time and Incident Command training as developed by the A-DRT training group.
- ◆ Developed partnerships with key disaster organizations to further agency's response capabilities in disaster.
- ◆ Facilitated a disaster convening with eight AmeriCorps State Commissions alongside FEMA and America's Service Commission partners.



"AmeriCorps have been awesome to work with. The teams are hardworking, passionate, and creative. The skills and effort they bring allow us to accomplish so much more than we could on our own."

- Julia Cassill American River Parkway Foundation