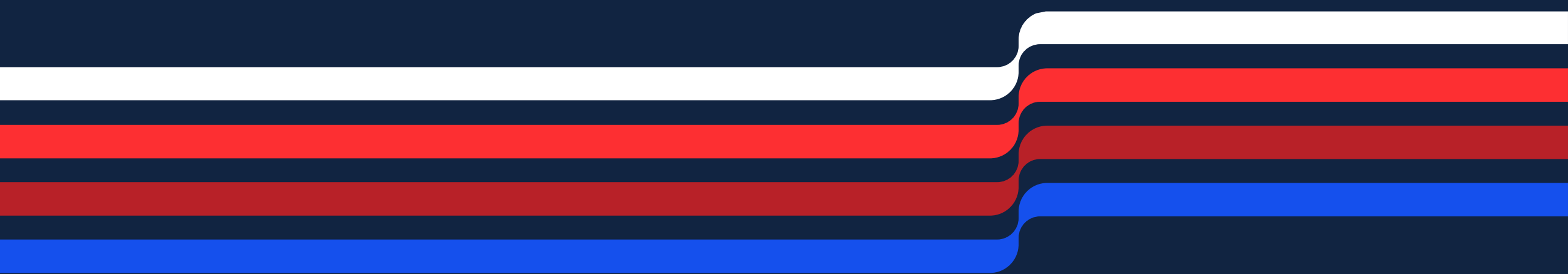


# Addressing Homelessness and Housing Insecurity in Kentucky Through National Service

February 27, 2025



# Virtual Meeting Tips & Best Practices

## Rules of Engagement



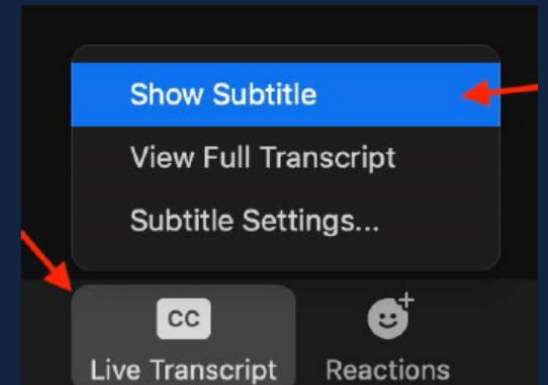
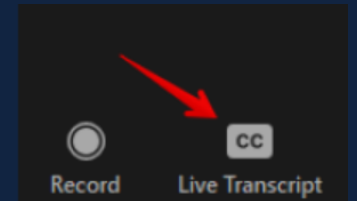
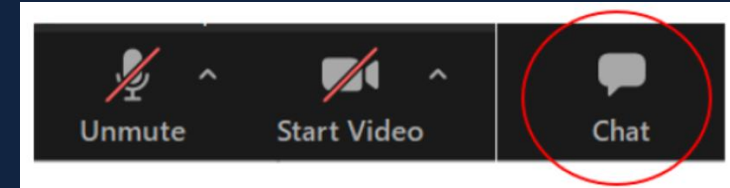
Participant microphones are automatically muted, and cameras disabled upon entry to limit background noise, unintentional feedback, or interference with the Webinar.

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# Addressing Homelessness and Housing Insecurity in Kentucky Through National Service

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# Webinar Learning Objectives

- Learn about national service in Kentucky.
- Understand how the Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky leverages national service across the commonwealth to address homelessness, housing insecurity, and affordable housing.
- Discover a newly released Return on Investment study that demonstrates Homes for All AmeriCorps' cost savings and benefits to communities across Kentucky and the federal government.
- Discuss metrics and measures that can be used for showing the value of service and housing supports to elected officials and decision-makers

# Today's Speakers



- **Caitlin Bottoms**, Program Officer, Serve Kentucky
- **Adrienne Bush**, MPA, Executive Director, Homeless & Housing Coalition of Kentucky
- **Holly Dennis**, AmeriCorps Program Director, Homeless & Housing Coalition of Kentucky
- **Carie Kizziar**, Director of Program Development, Serve Kentucky
- **Emily McDonald**, PhD, Research Analyst, AmeriCorps Office of Research and Evaluation
- **Benjamin Miller**, Senior Director, Community Development, ICF
- **Dominic Modicamore**, Lead Labor Economist, ICF
- **Emily Patrick**, AmeriCorps Member, Homeless & Housing Coalition of Kentucky
- **Lily Zandniapour**, PhD, Research and Evaluation Manager, AmeriCorps

# Opening Remarks

Lily Zandniapour, PhD

Research and Evaluation Manager,  
AmeriCorps Office of Research and Evaluation



# About AmeriCorps



- A U.S. federal agency that is the nation's largest grant maker for national service and volunteering
- Through national service programs such as AmeriCorps State & National, VISTA, AmeriCorps Seniors, and NCCC it provides opportunities to thousands of Americans to effect change in their communities
- AmeriCorps supports initiatives in education, economic opportunity, healthy futures, disaster services, environmental stewardship and programs for veterans and military families
- AmeriCorps partners work in urban, rural, and frontier communities
- AmeriCorps supported programs are designed to deliver direct and/or capacity building service
- National service participants (members and senior volunteers) work with agency partners on projects designed to solve local challenges and meet critical community needs.

# AmeriCorps Office of Research and Evaluation (ORE)



- ORE conducts research, builds scientific evidence, and promotes the use of data and evidence for decision-making so that the agency can execute its mission successfully and be a learning organization.
- We use a systematic approach to capture, inform, improve, and demonstrate the agency's programmatic and operational efficiency, effectiveness, and impact .
- We measure and track trends in civic engagement & volunteering nationally through our partnership with the U.S. Census and promote scholarship in this area through our research grants.
- ORE documents AmeriCorps' impact across the FIVE domains of our Impact Ecosystem

## AmeriCorps Ecosystem of Impact





# Why AmeriCorps/ORE is interested in ROI



**Goal:** Building and advancing the evidence base of national service (Agency Multi-Year Learning Agenda/Strategic Evidence Plan).

**Activity:** conducting targeted Return on Investment (ROI) studies of national service programs

**Examples of Questions:**

- Are there short-term or intermediate term outcomes from the programs or program models that can be measured and attributed to the program?
- Can the outcomes be monetized to calculate a financial return?
- Can the costs of the program per participant or otherwise be estimated?
- Can we estimate the ROI for programs we implement or support?
- How do national service programs compare with similar or other programs that don't use national service?
- Are the investments we are making in service and communities sound and worthwhile? Are they generating good value for the country, the government, and the public?

# Setting the Stage

Emily McDonald, PhD

Sociologist and Research Analyst,  
AmeriCorps Office of Research and Evaluation



# About Return on Investment



$$\frac{\text{Total Benefits}}{\text{Total Costs}} = \text{ROI}$$

# About the ROI Studies Project



ICF supporting a multi-year effort to:

- Review AmeriCorps's national service portfolio for ROI-ready programs
- Select programs for a deeper look at ROI feasibility
- Develop four to six ROI studies per year
- <https://americorps.gov/evidence-exchange/return-investment-roi-studies>



# Programs Studied



**AmeriCorps**

**NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAMS PROVIDE A POWERFUL RETURN ON INVESTMENT**

### Improving Lives, Strengthening Communities, and Fostering Civic Engagement Through Service

AmeriCorps offers transformative resources including funding and personnel to address pressing social challenges, strengthen communities, and generate potential benefits beyond the invested dollars. Select ROI studies below, organized by AmeriCorps's key focus areas, demonstrate the value of national service investments.

#### RETURN ON INVESTMENT (ROI)

ROI analyses compare a program's benefits to its costs to help assess program performance, demonstrate value to stakeholders, and build the evidence base to support decision making.

**ROI analyses conducted consist of three calculations:**

1. Total benefits per federal dollar
2. Total benefits per funder dollar
3. Federal government benefits per federal dollar

#### ROI Among AmeriCorps Programs

PROGRAM	ASSESSED ROI PER FUNDER DOLLAR	INSIGHTS AND TAKEAWAYS
<b>Disaster Services</b>		
SBP AmeriCorps	<b>-\$1.27-\$4.14</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AmeriCorps members benefit from living allowances during service and experience increased wages, reduced unemployment, and increased educational attainment after service.</li> <li>Government experiences reductions in housing construction time, which decreases costs associated with housing displaced families, and benefits from lower construction costs when rebuilding homes.</li> <li>Government realizes increased tax revenue from the improved employment and earnings of AmeriCorps members and program participants, savings on other expenditures for corrections, public assistance, and social insurance.</li> </ul>
<b>Economic Opportunity</b>		
Community Empowerment Technology Project (CTEP)	<b>\$2.95-\$34.26</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employment and earnings increased for 10.3% of previously unemployed participants who credit the program with their employment success.</li> <li>AmeriCorps members enjoy increased wages, reduced unemployment, and increased educational attainment after serving.</li> <li>Government realizes increased tax revenue from the improved employment and earnings of AmeriCorps members and program participants, savings on other expenditures for corrections, public assistance, and social insurance.</li> </ul>

AmeriCorps Return on Investment Studies (2020-2021). ICF International. AmeriCorps Evidence Exchange. 2022. <https://americorps.gov/evidence-exchange/return-investment-studies>

[Improving Lives, Strengthening Communities, and Fostering Civic Engagement Through Service](#)

# ROI Studies on Housing Programs



## Housing Construction and Rehabilitation: Habitat for Humanity (HFH) AmeriCorps



- Leverages national services to provide affordable housing
- Estimated ROI between \$0.62 (short-term) to \$2.61 (long-term) per funder dollar

## Weatherization: AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC)



- Weatherizes homes, increasing energy efficiency and producing environmental, economic, and health benefits.
- Estimated ROI between -\$2.96 (short-term) and \$7.60 (long-term) per funder dollar

**The ROI study of the Homes for All program is the first in this series to look at national service work that directly addresses homelessness.**

# Serve Kentucky

Carie Kizziar

Director of Program Development  
Serve Kentucky



# Addressing Homelessness and Housing Insecurity in Kentucky Through National Service





# Kentucky At-A-Glance

- FY 24
  - 19 operating programs
  - 2 public health programs
  - 6 planning grants

# National Service in Kentucky

- AmeriCorps Programs
  - National – 13
  - NCCC – 7
  - State – 23
  - VISTA – 20
  - Seniors - 21
- 4,662 members and volunteers
- 752 service locations
- \$27.7 million in total investment

# AmeriCorps State Service in Kentucky

- Numbers of impact
  - 74,000 children and youth served
  - 2,200 individuals receiving housing services
  - 2,800 veterans or active military families served
  - 12,000 students served
  - 122,000 pounds of food distributed

# Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky Homes for All AmeriCorps

Adrienne Bush, MPA

Executive Director, HHCK



Holly Dennis

AmeriCorps Program Director,  
HHCK



Emily Patrick

AmeriCorps Member, HHCK



# BUILDING HOMES, BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES

our little catchphrase



**AmeriCorps**



# HOMELESS & HOUSING COALITION OF KENTUCKY

The Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky (HHCK) is a statewide nonpartisan policy organization with a unique perspective on administering housing assistance to people experiencing homelessness. Our mission is to eliminate the threat of homelessness and fulfill the promise of affordable housing. Additionally, we convene and staff the Kentucky Interagency Council on Homelessness, the statewide homeless policy and planning body authorized by Kentucky statute.

We abide by the principles that (a) housing is a human right, and (b) housing solves homelessness.



**AmeriCorps**



# HOMELESS & HOUSING COALITION OF KENTUCKY

AmeriCorps State

AmeriCorps VISTA

Supportive Housing Programs

Housing and Homeless Policy

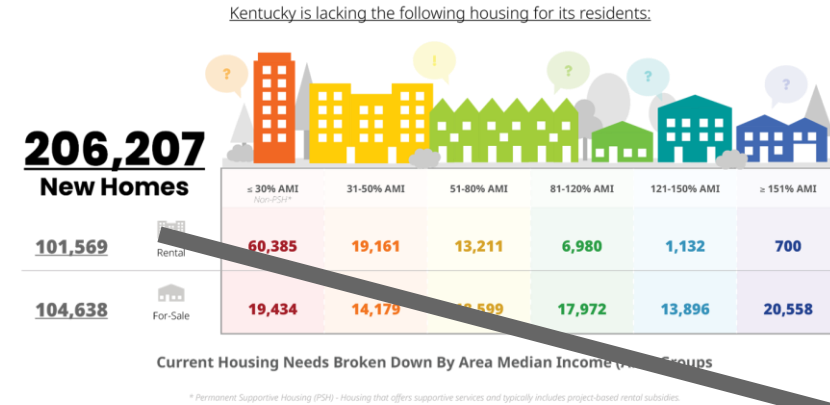
Components of All HHCK Programs

- Evidence-based practice
- Return on Investment

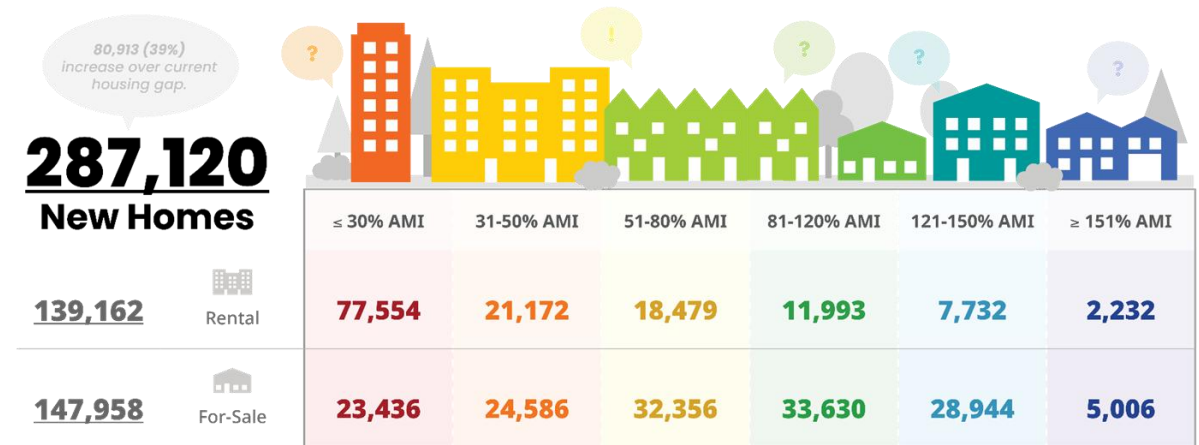


**AmeriCorps**

# Overview of Housing in Kentucky



## Kentucky Housing Supply Gap Analysis



[Housing Gap Analysis](#), Kentucky Housing Corporation

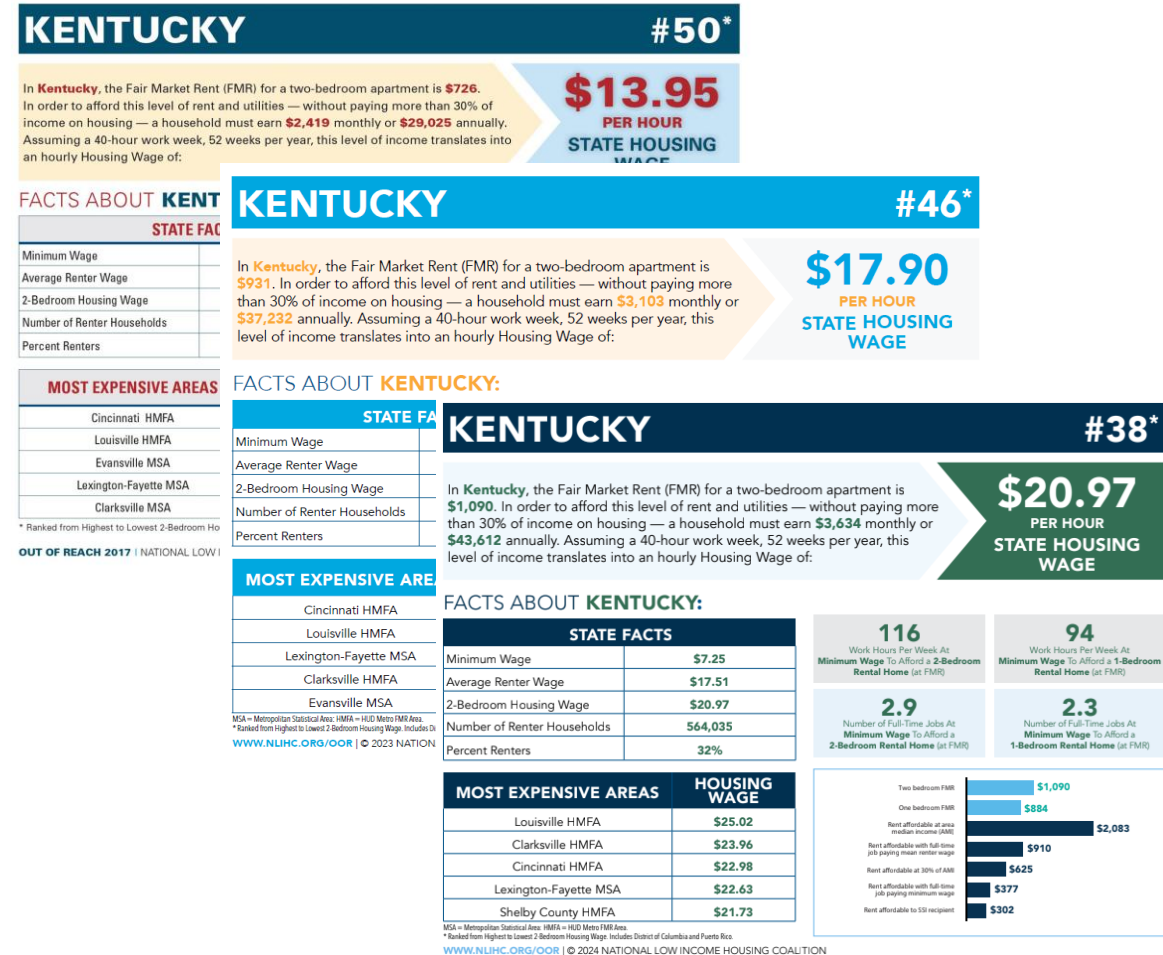


# Rising Housing Costs

## The shortage drives up rent across the board.

And results in...

- 1 in 4 Kentuckians paying more than 30% of their income toward housing, including those who have a mortgage, and 6 out of 10 extremely low-income renters are paying more than 50%
- 5231 Kentuckians experiencing homelessness during the Point in Time Count in 2024



Out of Reach: Kentucky | National Low Income Housing Coalition



# HOMES FOR ALL

Our primary focus is to address the affordable housing crisis through housing development, repair, and provision of housing and homeless services



**AmeriCorps**

# Program Accomplishments 2022 - 2023



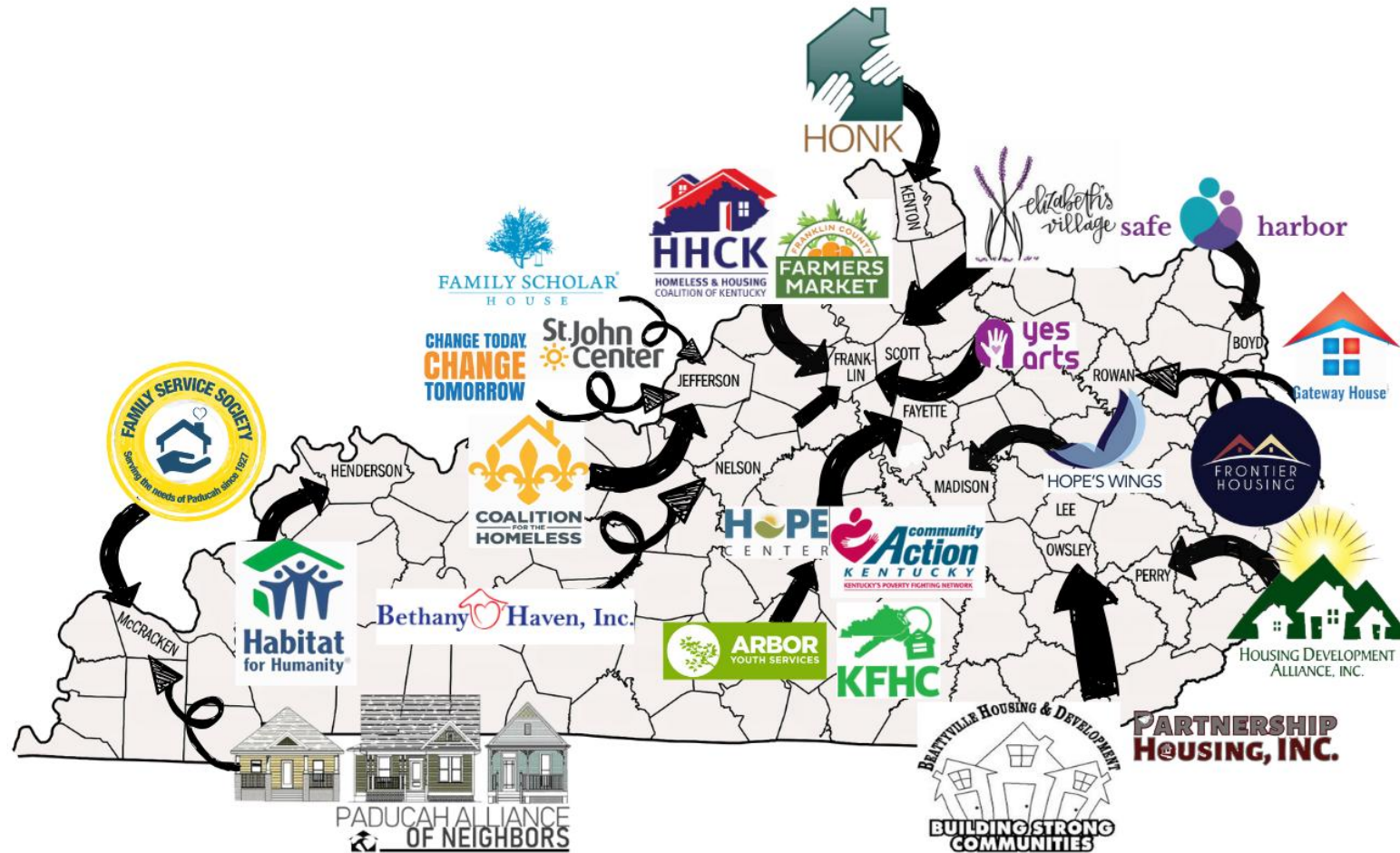
**AmeriCorps**

- 32 members served with Homes for All State/National
- 20 Partner Organizations
- 9 members hired by service site
- 12 members returned to serve in 23-24 program year
- 1509 individuals received case management services
- 18 households repaired
- 171 households received eviction prevention services
- 354 households maintained or transitioned into permanent housing.

# Homes for All in Kentucky



AmeriCorps







AmeriCorps



# Emily's Story



**AmeriCorps**

- How did a Homes for All member support you?
- What led you to complete one year of AmeriCorps service and return for a second term?
- How has AmeriCorps impacted you and your plans for the future?



**AmeriCorps**



**FACEBOOK**

Homes for All AmeriCorps



**YOUTUBE**

@homeforallamericorps



**INSTAGRAM**

@homesforallac

# CONTACT US

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[hdennis@hhck.org](mailto:hdennis@hhck.org)

Adrienne Bush, Executive Director: [abush@hhck.org](mailto:abush@hhck.org)

Website: [www.hhck.org](http://www.hhck.org)



**AmeriCorps**



# Return-on-Investment Study AmeriCorps Homes for All

Benjamin Miller

Senior Director, Community Development  
ICF



Dominic Modicamore

Lead Labor Economist  
ICF



# About the Homes for All program



- Provides housing-related services to individuals and families across Kentucky who are experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity or are in search of affordable homeownership opportunities
- With Homeless & Housing Coalition of Kentucky (HHCK) partner organizations, AmeriCorps members support:
  - New home construction
  - Home repairs
  - Housing-focused case management
  - Homelessness prevention
  - Eviction prevention
  - Rapid re-housing
  - Homeownership counseling
  - Housing navigation

# AmeriCorps Member Service in Homes for All



- AmeriCorps State and National Members work in collaboration with HHCK partner organizations to:
  - Connect individuals experiencing homelessness to permanent, affordable housing
  - Prevent evictions
- AmeriCorps VISTA members serve partner organizations to build their capacity.

# Data Sources and Research Results Used



- Programmatic data
- Data on homelessness, participation in homelessness programs, and homelessness program success rates
- Studies that quantified:
  - Increased earnings due to eviction prevention
  - Increased earnings due to connecting individuals and families experiencing homelessness to housing
  - Reduced government spending on public assistance, corrections, and health care programs due to reduced homelessness

# Homes for All Program Benefits



## Benefits to individuals served by Homes for All

- Increased earnings due to eviction prevention
- Increased earnings due to connecting individuals and families experiencing homelessness to housing

## Homes for All AmeriCorps members

- Additional lifetime earnings from increased educational attainment as a result of education awards
- Additional earnings from reduced unemployment
- Post-tax living allowances and education awards

## Federal, state, and local governments

- Reduced government spending on public assistance, corrections, and health care programs due to reduced homelessness
- Reduced lifetime spending on corrections, public assistance, and social insurance from increased educational attainment by Homes for All AmeriCorps members as a result of education awards
- Tax revenue from benefits to Homes for All AmeriCorps members
- Tax revenue from benefits to individuals served by Homes for All

# Homes for All Program ROI Results



ROI Calculation	ROI Scenario		
	Short-Term	Medium-Term	Long-Term
Total Benefits per Federal Dollar	\$3.85	\$9.93	\$10.65
Total Benefits per Funder Dollar	\$3.14	\$8.10	\$8.68
Federal Government Benefits per Federal Dollar	\$1.31	\$2.66	\$2.78

# Reflection

Carie Kizziar

Director of Program Development  
Serve Kentucky



*serve*  
KENTUCKY  
STATE SERVICE COMMISSION

## Continuing the Conversation Question & Answer Session

Please place your questions in the CHAT for one of the following participants

### Panel:

- **Caitlin Bottoms**, Program Officer, Serve Kentucky
- **Adrienne Bush**, MPA, Executive Director, Homeless & Housing Coalition of Kentucky
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Thank  
you  
for  
attending  
today's  
webinar

Welcome to the new AmeriCorps Evidence & Impact webinar season.

**Join us March 27, 2025 for our Webinar  
focused on the Public Health AmeriCorps  
National Assessment.**

<https://www.americorps.gov/about/our-impact/webinars>

The recording and support materials for this webinar will be provided in the next two weeks on the [AmeriCorps Our Impact Webinar page](#) and [AmeriCorps R&E YouTube Playlist](#)