WHY Bridging and Belonging Matters

Collaboration Over Polarization
AmeriCorps members and volunteers’ commitment to community engagement and capacity building demonstrate the power of bringing people together to solve local challenges.

Wellbeing
Members deliver resources, strengthen social networks, and build social capital with historically underrepresented communities that fosters resilience and deeper capacity to thrive.

Democracy
Members are stewards of a responsive democracy and national service is the symbol of a thriving society where engaged citizens contribute to the common good.

Belonging
Members come together, build trust and safety, celebrate their diversity and forge deeper levels of connection and purpose for themselves and the communities in which they serve.

Workforce Development
Members with training and practical experience build the muscle memory needed by every employer in every sector to connect across lines of difference.

Future Visioning
Members, reflecting the diversity of America, inspire others by their leadership and perseverance; they balance existing traditions with co-creating new experiences around community and civic engagement to build stronger futures.
Levels of Engagement and Activation

Agency
Activities, policies, and decision-making that AmeriCorps employs, demonstrating the value this work brings to our dynamic field.

Grantees and Sponsors
Activities in collaboration with grantees to support their adoption of bridge-building and belonging practices to benefit community partners and the members.

Members and Volunteers
Activities made available from AmeriCorps, grantees and sponsors to the member or volunteer, helping them develop bridge-building skills, growing their confidence and capacity during service and as alumni.

Resources / Tools

Bridging Differences Playbook
Greater Good Science Center

Belonging Culture Curriculum
Service Year Alliance

Belonging Design Principles
Othering and Belonging Institute

The Belonging Barometer
Project Over Zero / American Immigration Council

Supplemental Guidance, Bridging Measures
AmeriCorps State and National

No Greater Means, No Greater Mission
Convergence / David Eisner and John Gomperts

Ask and All: A Plan to Expand National Service & Volunteering
More Perfect and Partner Collective

Business Bridging Divides
Business for America

US Surgeon General’s Advisory on the Healing Effects of Social Connection and Community
May 2023

Strategic / Activities
In collaboration with Service Year Alliance

AmeriCorps shares language and purposeful “why” between bridging, belonging, and national service.

AmeriCorps facilitates partnerships that advances a comprehensive research learning agenda.

AmeriCorps co-creates / supports a clearinghouse of content that builds capacity for all users.

As a grant maker, AmeriCorps funding supports bridge-building and belonging programs.

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