

## Spotlight On: Civic Engagement

### What is the

#### Member Exit Survey (MES)?

At the end of service, AmeriCorps members are invited to take a survey to capture insights about their experience and attitudes.

Over 350,000 AmeriCorps State and National, AmeriCorps VISTA, and AmeriCorps NCCC members have completed the AmeriCorps MES since April 2015.

### What do we mean by “Civic Engagement?”

The AmeriCorps MES includes questions that align to four pathways of the AmeriCorps member experience: Bridging Differences, Civic Engagement, Life and Career Skills, and Getting Things Done. Civic Engagement is the constellation of activities individuals engage in to make a difference in their communities. It includes participation within and beyond electoral politics at all geographic levels. Volunteerism is a prominent example of civic engagement, but also includes activities like attending public meetings, belonging to organizations, and neighbors doing favors for each other.

Eight survey questions provide information about the Civic Engagement pathway of the AmeriCorps members experience. This fact sheet provides an overview of the findings on this pathway; for more details, read the [full report](#).

## How do AmeriCorps members demonstrate civic engagement?

From 2017-2021, the majority of departing members demonstrated civic engagement by

### Prioritizing community needs.

Members feel ready to address community concerns and have a sense of duty toward their communities. For example:

**86%** feel prepared to create a plan to address a problem in their community.

**86%** feel a personal obligation to contribute in some way to the community.



### Taking political and social engagement seriously.

Members engage with sociopolitical issues that impact their local area by voting and staying informed. For example:

**73%** voted in the last presidential election.

**72%** often discuss and think about how political, social, local, or national issues affect the community.



### Helping to create stronger, more vibrant communities.

Members believe that giving time can transform communities and want to continue staying involved in their communities. For example:

**82%** are or plan to become involved in issues that positively affect their community.

**82%** feel their AmeriCorps service made them more likely to volunteer for a cause or issue they care about.



### About the Office of Research and Evaluation

The [AmeriCorps Office of Research and Evaluation](#) assists AmeriCorps and its partners in collecting, analyzing, and disseminating data and insights about AmeriCorps programs and civic life in America.

### About AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps, the federal agency for national service and volunteerism, provides opportunities for Americans to serve their country domestically, address the nation's most pressing challenges, improve lives and communities, and strengthen civic engagement. Each year, the agency places more than 200,000 AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers in intensive service roles; and empowers millions more to serve as long-term, short-term, or one-time volunteers. [Learn more at AmeriCorps.gov](#).