



National Service in North Dakota



MEETING COMMUNITY NEEDS IN NORTH DAKOTA

More than 3,300 people of all ages and backgrounds are helping to meet local needs, strengthen communities, and increase civic engagement through national service in North Dakota. Serving at more than 260 locations throughout the state, these citizens tutor and mentor children, support veterans and military families, provide health services, restore the environment, respond to disasters, increase economic opportunity, and recruit and manage volunteers.

This year, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) will commit more than \$2,780,000 to support North Dakota communities through national service initiatives. CNCS invests in cost-effective community solutions—working hand in hand with local partners to improve lives, expand economic opportunity, and engage citizens in solving problems in their communities. Serving in many of the state's most impoverished communities, CNCS provides vital support to schools, food banks, homeless shelters, community health clinics, youth centers, veterans service facilities, and other nonprofit and faith-based organizations at a time of growing demand for services. Through a unique public-private partnership, this federal investment will leverage an additional \$1,830,000 in other resources to strengthen community impact, build local support, and increase return on taxpayer dollars. Nationwide, CNCS, its grantees, and project sponsors generated more than \$1.25 billion in outside resources from businesses, foundations, public agencies, and other sources in FY 2015.

AmeriCorps: This year AmeriCorps will provide more than 180 individuals the opportunity to provide intensive, results-driven service to meet education, environmental, health, economic, and other pressing needs in communities across North Dakota. Most AmeriCorps grant funding goes to the North Dakota State Commission on National and Community Service, which in turn awards grants to nonprofit groups to respond to local needs. Most of the remainder of the grant funding is distributed by CNCS directly to multi-state and national organizations through a competitive grants process. Other individuals serve through AmeriCorps VISTA, whose members help bring individuals and communities out of poverty by serving full-time to fight illiteracy, improve health services, create businesses, and increase housing opportunities, and AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps), a 10-month, full time residential program for men and women between the ages of 18 and 24. In exchange for their service, AmeriCorps members earn an education award that can be used to pay for college or to pay back qualified student loans. Since 1994, more than 1,800 North Dakota residents have served more than 2 million hours and have qualified for Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards totaling more than \$4,510,000.

Senior Corps: More than 3,100 seniors in North Dakota contribute their time and talents in one of three Senior Corps programs. Foster Grandparents serve one-on-one as tutors and mentors to more than 2,900 young people who have special needs. Senior Companions help more than 640 homebound seniors and other adults maintain independence in their own homes. RSVP volunteers conduct safety patrols, renovate homes, protect the environment, tutor and mentor youth, respond to natural disasters, and provide other services through more than 350 groups across North Dakota.

The Corporation for National and Community Service is a federal agency that improves lives, strengthens communities, and fosters civic engagement through service and volunteering. CNCS annually engages more than five million Americans in service to meet local needs through Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and national days of service; improves communities through the Social Innovation Fund, and leads President Obama's national call to service initiative, United We Serve. To learn more visit NationalService.gov or Serve.gov or call 202-606-5000 or TTY 1-800-833-3722.

North Dakota At a Glance



AmeriCorps	Projects	Service Locations	Participants ¹	Education Scholarships ²	Program Funding
AmeriCorps National	2	2	2	\$11,657	\$198 ³
AmeriCorps State Competitive	1	8	41	\$84,150	\$189,149
AmeriCorps State Formula	6	23	128	\$284,121	\$599,065
AmeriCorps Tribes/Territories	1	1	9	\$34,650	\$117,000
AmeriCorps VISTA	1	5	3	\$17,190	\$48,993
AMERICORPS TOTAL (Current Projects Only)	11	39	183	\$431,768	\$954,405
Senior Corps	Projects	Service Locations	Participants	Education Scholarships	Program Funding
Foster Grandparent Program	2	49	175	-	\$602,565
RSVP	2	354	2,862	-	\$361,677
Senior Companion Program	1	37	110	-	\$317,349
SENIOR CORPS TOTAL (Current Projects Only)	5	440	3,147	-	\$1,281,591
Other Funding	Projects	Service Locations	Participants	Education Scholarships	Program Funding
State Commission Operations Support	1	-	-	-	\$113,300
OTHER FUNDING TOTAL (Current Projects Only)	1	-	-	-	\$113,300
PROGRAM TOTALS	17	479 ⁴	3,330	\$431,768	\$2,349,296
TOTAL CNCS FUNDING (Including Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards)					\$2,781,064
TOTAL LOCAL PROGRAM SUPPORT (Non-CNCS Resources)					\$1,839,224 ⁵
TOTAL CNCS FUNDING + TOTAL LOCAL PROGRAM SUPPORT					\$4,620,288

Notes: The data shown represents a snapshot in time. CNCS project sites, participants, and funding change throughout the year, so the data may not reflect current conditions.

- ¹ This figure represents the number of awarded positions available to be filled in the 2015 - 2016 program year. For AmeriCorps VISTA, this represents the actual number of VISTA members in active service.
- ² This figure represents the maximum potential value of Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards that can be earned by AmeriCorps members serving in North Dakota. The award can be used in any state to pay for college, graduate school, vocational training, or to pay back student loans. The education award total is included in total CNCS funding.
- ³ AmeriCorps National figures may include national programs headquartered in the state and/or operating sites of national programs that are headquartered in other states. Funding reflects the estimated proportionate share of the national grant associated with operating sites in this report. Some national organizations do not report operating site data, or it was not available at time of publishing, so figures may not reflect current conditions.
- ⁴ The service location total may contain multiple counts of unique locations where multiple CNCS programs are operating.
- ⁵ As part of its public-private partnership approach, CNCS requires grantees to leverage additional resources to strengthen community impact and increase the return on the federal investment. This figure reflects non-CNCS cash and in-kind resources that CNCS grantees and project sponsors have committed to raise or other revenue used to support their programming activities across the state. Last year, CNCS, its grantees, and project sponsors generated more than \$1.25 billion in outside resources from businesses, foundations, public agencies, and other sources.

Since 1994, more than 1,800 North Dakota residents have served more than 2 million hours and have qualified for Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards totaling more than \$4,510,000.

State Commission

The North Dakota State Commission on National & Community Service, located in the Department of Commerce Workforce Development Division, provides opportunities for North Dakotans to engage in service that addresses the state and nation's educational, public safety, environmental, and other human needs. The Commission seeks to foster civic responsibility, strengthen the ties that bind us together as a people, and provide educational opportunity for those who make a substantial commitment to service. Aligned with the Corporation for National and Community Service's many initiatives, the North Dakota State Commission has also strategically combined faith-Based and community efforts in its commission membership and focus. The Commission manages a portfolio of six AmeriCorps State programs with more than 150 AmeriCorps members, addressing critical needs in the areas of education, health, and economic opportunity.

AmeriCorps State

West Fargo Public Schools Reading Corps has 41 AmeriCorps members. The program focuses on education with a concentration on literacy performance in Pre-K to 3rd grade. In the 2014-2015 program year, literacy interventions for students between the age of four and five increased between 28 and 37 percentage points from the fall to the spring. The AmeriCorps members increased the standard assessments of 484 students.

The Youthworks AmeriCorps program has 27 AmeriCorps members that provide mentoring, homework assistance, and outreach services to at-risk youth and young adults in Bismarck and Fargo. AmeriCorps members help improve the client's grades, social behavior, and access to community resources. A total of 326 at-risk youth were provided services and 37 at-risk youth received one-on-one mentoring, helping to improve their areas of need. Additionally, 29 at-risk youth participated in the program and were provided assistance with returning to school. Members made 3,646 street and school contacts with at-risk youth and young adults, providing them with materials regarding available services.

AmeriCorps VISTA

The Dakota Medical Foundation's mission is to measurably improve health and access to healthcare services, with a special emphasis on children in Cass County. The AmeriCorps VISTA project increases access to healthy food and physical activity among families experiencing poverty, increases school readiness among Head Start children, and builds capacity for nonprofits that improve access to healthcare, provide health-related services and improve the health conditions of low-income and underserved populations. VISTA activities include developing and implementing a physical activity curriculum for Head Start centers, partnering with food pantries to introduce healthy eating options to food baskets, writing grants, and building a fundraising system for organizations that seek to improve health conditions.

AmeriCorps NCCC

United Tribes Technical College (UTTC) is a family-focused, tribal community with 280 children living on campus. In 2002, the UTTC community envisioned a walking trail that would provide a safe environment for physical fitness and where traditional plants could be grown. In the summer of 2015, there was a large amount of overgrown plant material in the area, and an accumulation of debris that surrounded the trail, reducing visibility and allowing for an increased amount of illicit activity on the trail, such as fights, squatting, and substance abuse. An AmeriCorps NCCC team removed overgrowth and trash from one-third of a mile of the walking trail, removed approximately 85 yards of barbed wire fencing behind student housing, and beautified two gardens and the sweat lodge area. Much of the work involved pulling dead, downed limbs out of the woods to thin the brush and removing dead trees and bushes. In all, this project helped to create greater accessibility for recreational activities, increased options for healthy lifestyles for students, families, staff, visitors, and children, and provided a safe environment for the community.

In North Dakota, approximately 80 percent of the native prairie is gone. The Souris River Basin Complex represents a comprehensive collection of Drift and Coteau prairie, which can be considered an endangered resource and has potential for restoration of reasonably intact communities of native plants and animals. During the summer of 2015, an AmeriCorps NCCC team assisted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at J. Clark Salyer National Wildlife Refuge in North Dakota. The team removed old, dilapidated barbed wire fencing from the park and installed a new fence with gates for cattle to roam. Additionally, the team participated in three prescribed burns used to maintain, improve, and preserve habitat for wildlife, restore native prairie, and reduce hazardous fuels. Finally, the team scraped, sanded, and repainted a large observation deck. During the six week project, the team worked alongside park staff in an effort to help keep both the wildlife and the visitors to the park safe.

Senior Corps Foster Grandparent Program

The Black Hills Special Services Coop Foster Grandparent Program supported 69 Foster Grandparent volunteers who provided tutoring and assistance to 2,209 elementary and preschool students across 15 counties in western South Dakota. According to surveys completed by elementary classroom teachers, 90 percent of students who worked with Foster Grandparents showed improved literacy. Foster Grandparents focused on reading and literacy and helped beginning readers with basic skills such as the alphabet and phonics. Additionally, they served as an attentive, helpful audience to assist older readers with gaining more experience and understanding. Eighty-one percent of preschool students served by Foster Grandparents demonstrated gains in social and/or emotional development.

Senior Corps RSVP

National statistics indicate the homeless population has doubled over the past year in Rapid City. In response, the City of Rapid City RSVP program has provided food, shelter, and clothing to the homeless population through 45 volunteers serving 8,324 hours. RSVP volunteers helped provide more 58,000 meals, tutored or helped students with homework more than 13,000 times, and mentored children ages 6-18 years old on a daily basis. More than 630 individuals received independent living services, including 202 that received transportation services. In addition, 67 economically disadvantaged individuals received housing placement services; 314 people received free tax preparation and filing assistance; 1,841 veterans' family members received assistance including meals, companionship, and the distribution of information; and 201 RSVP volunteers leveraged \$232,700 dollars in cash resources for organizations or participants.

Senior Corps Senior Companion Program

Lutheran Social Services Senior Companion program serves 29 counties in North and South Dakota. During the past year, 117 volunteers served 83,042 hours. In 2015, 619 older adult clients remained living independently and 24 family caregivers received respite services. Included in these numbers are 111 Bhutanese and Somalian clients served by 11 New American volunteers and 75 Native American Indian clients served by 15 Native American Indian volunteers serving on five North Dakota Indian Reservations and Indian Service Areas. Volunteers help with light housekeeping, preparing light meals, and escorting clients to critical medical and other appointments. They also integrate clients into community services and encourage participation in social and recreational activities. Caregivers are provided weekly temporary breaks from their responsibilities while volunteers read, visit, or engage in familiar activities with the clients.

AmeriCorps in North Dakota



AMERICORPS TOTALS	PARTICIPANTS	PROGRAMS/PROJECTS
CURRENT (as of February 22, 2016)	183	11
COMPLETED (within last 12 months)	113	6

Primary City	Program/Project Name Sponsor Organization	Number of Participants	Program Type
Bismarck	Crisis Intervention (Completed) Bismarck Law Enforcement Chaplaincy	5	AmeriCorps State Formula
Bismarck	Mountain Plains Youth Services AmeriCorps Program (Current) YouthWorks	27	AmeriCorps State Formula
Bismarck	United Tribes Technical College (July 21 - August 6, 2015) Conservation Legacy VISTA Program	9	AmeriCorps NCCC In-State Projects
Bismarck	Youthworks At-Risk Youth Workers (Completed) YouthWorks	27	AmeriCorps State Formula
Bottineau	SCA North Dakota (Current) Student Conservation Association, Inc.	1	AmeriCorps National
Cooperstown	Kidz Count AmeriCorps Program (Current) Cooperstown Community Activities	12	AmeriCorps State Formula
Fargo	DMF Improving Health & Building Capacity (Current) Dakota Medical Foundation	3	AmeriCorps VISTA
Fargo	Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota (Current) Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service	1	AmeriCorps National
Fargo	North Dakota Reading Corps (Current) West Fargo Public School District	41	AmeriCorps State Competitive
Fargo	North Dakota State University-Distance& Continuing Education (Completed) North Dakota State University	-	AmeriCorps VISTA
Fargo	RSVP+ North Dakota (Current) North Dakota State University	12	AmeriCorps State Formula
Fargo	Western North Dakota Reading Corps (Current) West Fargo Public School District	12	AmeriCorps State Formula
Fargo	YMCA of Cass and Clay Counties AmeriCorps (Completed) YMCA of Cass and Clay County	63	AmeriCorps State Formula
Fargo	YMCA of Cass and Clay Counties AmeriCorps (Current) YMCA of Cass and Clay County	57	AmeriCorps State Formula
Fort Yates	GED Project (Current) Sitting Bull College	9	AmeriCorps Indian Tribes
Grand Forks	CSI: Grand Forks (Current) Housing Authority of the City of Grand Forks	8	AmeriCorps State Formula
Upham	Souris River Basin Complex (May 1 - June 11, 2015) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Western North Dakota / Souris River Basin	9	AmeriCorps NCCC In-State Projects

Notes: If there are programs with identical names in separate entries, they are different grants to the same organization. If no members are shown, either the grant is for planning or technical assistance, or enrollment data was not available at the time of printing.

The city column refers to the location of the sponsor organization. AmeriCorps members may be serving in other locations than the city listed.

Senior Corps in North Dakota



SENIOR CORPS TOTALS	PARTICIPANTS	PROGRAMS
CURRENT (as of February 22, 2016)	3,147	5
COMPLETED (within last 12 months)	2,612	1

Primary City	Program Name Sponsor Organization	Number of Participants	Program Type
Devils Lake	RSVP Lake Region (Current) North Dakota State University	250	RSVP
Fargo	NDSU FGP (Current) North Dakota State University	92	Foster Grandparent Program
Fargo	NDSU RSVP (Completed) North Dakota State University	2,612	RSVP
Fargo	NDSU RSVP2 (Current) North Dakota State University	2,612	RSVP
Grand Forks	Red River Valley FGP (Current) Northeast Human Service Center	83	Foster Grandparent Program
Minot	LSS Senior Companions (Current) Lutheran Social Services ND	110	Senior Companion Program

Note: The city column refers to the location of sponsor organization. Volunteers may be serving in other locations than the city listed.

Other Programs in North Dakota



Primary City	Program/Project Name Sponsor Organization	Program Type
Bismarck	North Dakota State Commission on National and Community Serv (Current) North Dakota State Commission on National and Community Service	State Commission Operations Support