



## National Service in Puerto Rico



### MEETING COMMUNITY NEEDS IN PUERTO RICO

More than 1,600 people of all ages and backgrounds are helping to meet local needs, strengthen communities, and increase civic engagement through national service in Puerto Rico. Serving at more than 160 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 \$8,520,000 to support Puerto Rico 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 \$3,130,000 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 300 individuals the opportunity to provide intensive, results-driven service to meet education, environmental, health, economic, and other pressing needs in communities across Puerto Rico. Most AmeriCorps grant funding goes to the Puerto Rico's Commission for Volunteerism 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 5,700 Puerto Rico residents have served more than 12 million hours and have qualified for Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards totaling more than \$17,110,000.

**Senior Corps:** More than 1,300 seniors in Puerto Rico 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 3,900 young people who have special needs. Senior Companions help more than 1,200 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 11 groups across Puerto Rico.

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](http://NationalService.gov) or [Serve.gov](http://Serve.gov) or call 202-606-5000 or TTY 1-800-833-3722.

# Puerto Rico At a Glance

<b>AmeriCorps</b>	Projects	Service Locations	Participants <sup>1</sup>	Education Scholarships <sup>2</sup>	Program Funding
AmeriCorps National	2	1	3	\$5,897	\$783 <sup>3</sup>
AmeriCorps State Formula	15	15	170	\$629,475	\$1,514,434
AmeriCorps VISTA	12	42	131	\$750,675	\$2,139,361
<b>AMERICORPS TOTAL (Current Projects Only)</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>\$1,386,047</b>	<b>\$3,654,578</b>
<b>Senior Corps</b>	Projects	Service Locations	Participants	Education Scholarships	Program Funding
Foster Grandparent Program	4	64	609	-	\$1,659,632
RSVP	2	11	320	-	\$126,490
Senior Companion Program	5	28	441	-	\$1,339,818
<b>SENIOR CORPS TOTAL (Current Projects Only)</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>1,370</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$3,125,940</b>
<b>Other Funding</b>	Projects	Service Locations	Participants	Education Scholarships	Program Funding
September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance	1	-	-	-	\$162,000
State Commission Operations Support	1	-	-	-	\$200,000
<b>OTHER FUNDING TOTAL (Current Projects Only)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$362,000</b>
<b>PROGRAM TOTALS</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>161 <sup>4</sup></b>	<b>1,674</b>	<b>\$1,386,047</b>	<b>\$7,142,518</b>
<b>TOTAL CNCS FUNDING (Including Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards)</b>					<b>\$8,528,565</b>
<b>TOTAL LOCAL PROGRAM SUPPORT (Non-CNCS Resources)</b>					<b>\$3,139,871 <sup>5</sup></b>
<b>TOTAL CNCS FUNDING + TOTAL LOCAL PROGRAM SUPPORT</b>					<b>\$11,668,435</b>

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.

- <sup>1</sup> 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.
- <sup>2</sup> This figure represents the maximum potential value of Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards that can be earned by AmeriCorps members serving in Puerto Rico. 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.
- <sup>3</sup> 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.
- <sup>4</sup> The service location total may contain multiple counts of unique locations where multiple CNCS programs are operating.
- <sup>5</sup> 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 5,700 Puerto Rico residents have served more than 12 million hours and have qualified for Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards totaling more than \$17,110,000.

## State Commission

The Puerto Rico Commission for Volunteerism and Community Service administer 15 AmeriCorps programs and one AmeriCorps planning grant. The AmeriCorps programs address education, health futures, safeguarding the environment, providing disaster relief, and promoting civic engagement. During 2015, Puerto Rico suffered a severe drought, especially in the Northeast of the island. The drop in water levels at the island's two main reservoirs, Lake La Plata and Lake Carraizo, required the implementation of a rationing plan for municipalities that get their water from these reservoirs. In response to this emergency, First Lady Wilma Pastrana Jimenez led an effort with the Puerto Rico State Commission for Volunteerism and Community Service, more than 100 AmeriCorps members serving with the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, and 50 community volunteers to begin implementing a plan for reforestation of watersheds in the country. This plan included dredging Lake La Plata to reduce sediment buildup and reforestation of watersheds to prevent sedimentation of waterways. More than 200 trees of native species and fruit trees were planted in the Wildlife Refuge Reservoir at Lake La Plata. This reforestation effort is expected to decrease erosion and sediment build-up in the lake.

## AmeriCorps State

The Sila M. Calderón Foundation and its Center for Puerto Rico programs offer individuals, women and community leaders the necessary training for the development and strengthening of entrepreneurial initiatives, contributing to the economic development of Puerto Rico. A total of 11 AmeriCorps members serve within the entrepreneurial training programs. Members collaborate with economically disadvantaged individuals and provide training, technical assistance, and other support for the development or strengthening of their business initiatives. The assistance offered to participants is essential for the application of the concepts discussed during workshops. With the assistance of the Center for Puerto Rico, program participant Victor Santanahe has forged links with local farmers to provide hives to aid in pollination, thus expanding the services he provides. Furthermore, he made a complete makeover of his brand, which after undergoing a marketing focus group was changed from Bee Buster Honey to the eco-friendly name of Bee Keeper Honey.

After graduating from the Capacity Building Program for the Development of Entrepreneurial/Community Initiatives in August 2015, participant Maggy Castro has slowly progressed in her desire to reinvent and promote her business idea directed towards the sales of baked goods. Ms. Castro also participated in the Entrepreneurial Impulse Program, geared towards improving and further developing graduates' business initiatives. As a result of her participation in the workshops and the support of AmeriCorps members, she developed ideas to improve her product. Through her interaction with AmeriCorps members and the technical support sessions, she realized there was a more marketable and cost-effective product she could develop.

## AmeriCorps VISTA

The Chana and Samuel Levis Foundation has successfully implemented an AmeriCorps VISTA program that has led to multiple outcomes including a new volunteer program with the University of Puerto Rico, increased volunteer engagement in schools; revamping of its webpage, more exposure and visibility in social media, and new and improved curricula better aligned with the Puerto Rico Department of Education's strategy. The AmeriCorps VISTAs have also developed more comprehensive community assessment tools based on social cartography methods in at least three target schools. The work of VISTA helped create a new school-based measurement and needs assessment strategies for teacher, students, and parents at the first after-school program. The new training offerings for parents within the target schools will strengthen school ecosystem involvement.

AmeriCorps VISTA members at the San Juan Bay Estuary Program helped design several projects around the San Juan Bay area, including new strategies to overcome poverty in the communities between the San Juan Bay and the Cucharillas Wetland. The program is used by more than 1,000 fishermen and produces close to 350,000 pounds of fish annually. Members served as leaders and helped design a community and multi-sector activity to plant red mangroves in La Esperanza Peninsula, located in a beautiful area of the San Juan Bay. The community is hoping to increase fish population and diversity in order to increase work. This is one of the many strategies being designed to help improve the ecosystems of the zone and strengthen eco-tourism and fishing activities in hopes of creating more job opportunities for the communities surrounding the San Juan Bay.

## Senior Corps Foster Grandparent Program

Esperanza para la Vejez Inc. currently engages 179 Foster Grandparent volunteers at 22 schools in the towns of Bayamon and Carolina. Foster Grandparents serve five hours daily. Last year, 223 Foster Grandparents were assigned to 19 elementary schools, supporting more than 281 students with tutoring, especially with reading skills. Twenty-two Foster Grandparents are serving in middle schools helping 32 students in different content areas.

## Senior Corps RSVP

The Gericola Corporation RSVP program engages 145 RSVP volunteers whose services benefit many citizens, including veterans. Volunteers serve in homeless shelters and support the elderly among other duties. These services are offered at eight different stations through the municipalities of Las Piedras, Humacao, and Yabucoa, an area of more than 135,000 inhabitants.

## Senior Corps Senior Companion Program

The Ombudsman Office for the Elderly is the government office responsible for serving and protecting people over sixty years old. It has sponsored the Senior Companion Program for more than twenty-five years. The organization has given a sense of purpose to active elderly population interested in serving their peers in need. Nearly 100 Senior Companion volunteers provide supportive services and companionship in the region of Arecibo, Bayamón, Carolina, Cayey, Isabela, Mayagüez, Ponce, Rio Grande, and San Juan, an area with more than 1.2 million inhabitants. As of October 2015, Senior Companions served more than 89,282 volunteer hours, impacting more than 200 clients and their families.

# AmeriCorps in Puerto Rico



## AMERICORPS TOTALS

## PARTICIPANTS

## PROGRAMS/PROJECTS

CURRENT (as of February 22, 2016)

304

29

COMPLETED (within last 12 months)

16

3

Primary City	Program/Project Name Sponsor Organization	Number of Participants	Program Type
Aguada	Aguada's AmeriCorps in Action (Current) Municipio de Aguada	30	AmeriCorps State Formula
Aguada	VISTA- PAEC (Current) Programa De Apoyo y Enlace Comunitario, Inc.	10	AmeriCorps VISTA
Arecibo	CSJ AmeriCorps Program (Current) Centro de Servicios a la Juventud, Inc	6	AmeriCorps State Formula
Arecibo	Oficina Promocion y Desarrollo Humano (Current) Oficina para la Promocion y el Desarrollo Humano	4	AmeriCorps State Formula
Bayamon	Universidad Central de Bayamon (Current) Universidad Central de Bayamon	20	AmeriCorps State Formula
Caguas	Alianza Municipal de Servicios Integrados, Inc. (Current) Alianza Municipal de Servicios Integrados, Inc.	8	AmeriCorps State Formula
Caguas	Caguas Disaster Services AmeriCorps Project (Current) Municipality of Caguas-Self Help & Community Development	6	AmeriCorps State Formula
Caguas	Caguas Sustainable Food Initiative (Current) Municipality of Caguas - Economic Development Department	3	AmeriCorps VISTA
Carolina	Respiro Comunitario (Current) Municipality of Carolina	18	AmeriCorps State Formula
Catano	Asociacion Pro Juventud y Com Bo Palmas (Current) Asociacion Pro Juventud y Comunidad del Barrio Palmas	12	AmeriCorps State Formula
Gurabo	SUAGM: UT Job Development and UNE CTC Initiatives (Current) Sistema Universitario Ana G. Mendez, Inc.	20	AmeriCorps VISTA
Mayaguez	CHIPE -Community in Harmony Integrating People & Environment (Current) Municipio de Mayaguez	15	AmeriCorps State Formula
Ponce	VISTA Health Service Campaign (Completed) Consejo de Salud de Puerto Rico	-	AmeriCorps VISTA
Rio Grande	SCA AmeriCorps National Direct Puerto Rico (Current) Student Conservation Association, Inc.	-	AmeriCorps National
Rio Piedras	Asociacion Puertoquena de Ciegos, Inc(Planning Grant) (Current) Asociacion Puertoquena de Ciegos, Inc	-	AmeriCorps State Formula
San Juan	AmeriCorps VISTA Pathways Out of Poverty Program (Current) Fundacion Sila M. Calderon	12	AmeriCorps VISTA
San Juan	Cantera Capitals (Current) Cantera Peninsula Project	16	AmeriCorps State Formula
San Juan	Centro para Puerto Rico (Current) Fundacion Sila M. Calderon	11	AmeriCorps State Formula
San Juan	Department of Community Social Development (Completed) Department of Community Social Development	6	AmeriCorps State Formula
San Juan	Environmental Stewardship as a Tool for Social Change (Current) Corporacion del Proyecto ENLACE del Cano Martin Pena	6	AmeriCorps State Formula
San Juan	Fundacion Chana Goldstein y Samuel Levis (Current) Fundacion Chana Goldstein y Samuel Levis	8	AmeriCorps VISTA
San Juan	Fundacion Chana Goldstein y Samuel Levis III (Current) Fundacion Chana Goldstein y Samuel Levis	4	AmeriCorps State Formula
San Juan	Productive and Social Engagement Project (Current) Instituto Psicopedagogico de PR	14	AmeriCorps State Formula
San Juan	Programa de Voluntarios (Current) The Salvation Army	9	AmeriCorps VISTA
San Juan	Puerto Rico Youth At Risk, Inc. (Current) Puerto Rico Youth At Risk, Inc.	12	AmeriCorps VISTA
San Juan	Re-ACE (Current) Red de Ayuda Comunal de Emergencias, Inc.	17	AmeriCorps VISTA

# AmeriCorps in Puerto Rico



AMERICORPS TOTALS	PARTICIPANTS	PROGRAMS/PROJECTS
CURRENT (as of February 22, 2016)	304	29
COMPLETED (within last 12 months)	16	3

Primary City	Program/Project Name Sponsor Organization	Number of Participants	Program Type
San Juan	Restoring the Caño (Current) Corporacion del Proyecto ENLACE del Cano Martin Pena	16	AmeriCorps VISTA
San Juan	SCA Puerto Rico (Current) Student Conservation Association, Inc.	3	AmeriCorps National
San Juan	SMCF AMERICORPS CAPACITY BLDG. PROGRAM (Completed) Fundacion Sila M. Calderon	10	AmeriCorps State Formula
San Juan	The Corporation for the Conservation of the San Juan Bay II (Current) The Corporation for the Conservation of the San Juan Bay	10	AmeriCorps VISTA
San Juan	University of the Sacred Heart VISTA Project (Current) University of the Sacred Heart	8	AmeriCorps VISTA
Yabucoa	Coalition Pro-Homeless of the Eastern Area of Puerto Rico (Current) Coalition Pro-Homeless of the Eastern Area	6	AmeriCorps VISTA

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 Puerto Rico



## SENIOR CORPS TOTALS

## PARTICIPANTS

## PROGRAMS

CURRENT (as of February 22, 2016)

1,370

11

COMPLETED (within last 12 months)

0

0

Primary City	Program Name Sponsor Organization	Number of Participants	Program Type
Bayamon	Hope for the Aged FGP (Current) Hope for the Aged Inc.	246	Foster Grandparent Program
Caguas	Senior Companion Program / Programa Amigos Acompañantes (Current) Central Region Board on Elderly Affairs	63	Senior Companion Program
Cayey	Cayey FGP (Current) Corp Reg De Guayama De Srvs Comunidad	104	Foster Grandparent Program
Juncos	Senior Companion Program -Juncos (Current) Hope for the Aged Inc.	84	Senior Companion Program
Mercedita	Consejo de Salud de Puerto Rico, Inc. (Current) Consejo de Salud de Puerto Rico	53	Senior Companion Program
San Juan	Alzheimer's SCP (Current) Puerto Rico Office of the Ombudsman for the Elderly	130	Senior Companion Program
San Juan	Municipality of San Juan FGP (Current) Municipality of San Juan	148	Foster Grandparent Program
San Juan	OPPEA-Ponce's FGP (Current) PR Office of the Ombudsman for the Elderly (OPPEA)	111	Foster Grandparent Program
San Juan	RSVP Municipality of San Juan (Current) Municipality of San Juan	175	RSVP
San Juan	SCP San Juan (Current) Board of Community Service-Hope for the Aged Inc.	111	Senior Companion Program
Yabucoa	Corporacion Gericola RSVP (Current) Gericulture Corp. Humacao Region	145	RSVP

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 Puerto Rico



Primary City	Program/Project Name Sponsor Organization	Program Type
Bayamon	NonProfit Fundraisers US Inc (Current) Points of Light Foundation	September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance
San Juan	Puerto Rico CNCS (Current) Puerto Commission for Volunteerism & Community Service	State Commission Operations Support