

# AmeriCorps Community Engagement Survey

## Instructions

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) is a federal agency that provides funding for national service programs including AmeriCorps.

To better understand how AmeriCorps members and their host organizations work in their communities, CNCS is conducting a **Community Engagement** research study. As an AmeriCorps member host, your responses are crucial to understanding the engagement process and the development of community partnerships. **For the purposes of this survey, “community” is defined as the local geographic area targeted by your AmeriCorps programs and activities.**

Your responses will be used exclusively by CNCS Office of Research & Evaluation and AFYA, Inc. (our consultant for this project). Your individual responses will not be shared with the AmeriCorps program office or management. They will also not be shared with the organization that directly receives AmeriCorps funds and provides you with your AmeriCorps members, if you are not that organization.

**Results from this study will be reported only in the aggregates such that you or your organization will not be identifiable, and your responses will have no impact on your future receipt of AmeriCorps members or funding from CNCS\*.**

**At the end of this survey, you will be asked to provide the contact information of up to 5 partner organizations.** These should be organizations that you have maintained a partnership with for one year or longer, related to your AmeriCorps program but are not the actual service location of the member. These may include organizations where members have provided service or organizations that have contributed to the AmeriCorps program in some manner. Partner organizations could be non-profit, religious, public, or a private business.

**Upon receipt of the contact information, we will send the identified partner organizations a brief survey, asking them about their relationship to your AmeriCorps program and the benefits they may see in it.**

**Use the NEXT button at the end of each page to advance to the next page of the survey. Use PREV to go back to the previous page of questions.**

\*PRIVACY ACT NOTICE: The Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C § 552a) requires that the following notice be provided to you: The information requested in the AmeriCorps Community Engagement Survey Form is collected pursuant to 42 U.S.C 12592 and 12615 of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 as amended, and 42 U.S.C. 4953 of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 as amended, and 42 U.S.C. 12639. Purposes and Uses - The information requested is collected for the purposes of assessing the degree to which grantees engage the communities they serve, as part of a longer term research agenda to evaluate AmeriCorps' impact on the communities it serves. CNCS also will collect information from grantee partners, which are integral in engaging and serving client communities. Routine Uses - Routine uses may include disclosure of the information to federal, state, or local agencies pursuant to lawfully authorized requests. The information may also be provided to appropriate federal agencies and Department contractors that have a need to know the information for the purpose of assisting the Department's efforts to respond to a suspected or confirmed breach of the security or confidentiality or information maintained in this system of records, and the information disclosed is relevant and unnecessary for the assistance. The information will not otherwise be disclosed to entities outside of the Corporation for National and Community Service without prior written permission. Effects of Nondisclosure - The information requested is not mandatory.

# AmeriCorpsCommunityEngagementSurvey

## Part I. AmeriCorps Members

### 1. Approximately what portion of your AmeriCorps members are from:

	Don't know	None	About 1/4	About 1/2	About 3/4	All of them
The community where you provided direct services	nm1kj	n	n	n	n	n
Communities outside of where you provided direct services	m1j	m	m	m	m	m

### 2. Does your program actively recruit AmeriCorps members from the community where you provided direct services?

m1j Yes

m1j No

# AmeriCorpsCommunityEngagementSurvey

## Part I. AmeriCorps Members

### 3. When you first began your AmeriCorps program, how important were each of the following goals?

	Not at all important	Somewhat important	Important	Very Important	Extremely important
Increase organizational capacity of your organization (planning, research, fundraising)	n	n	n	n	n
Provide more direct services	m	m	m	m	m
Increase involvement of community residents in your program	n	n	n	n	n
Enhance volunteer recruitment, management and training	m	m	m	m	m
Develop or strengthen partnerships with other organizations in the community	n	n	n	n	n
Identify and raise awareness of community issues or concerns	m	m	m	m	m

### 4. On average what portion of your AmeriCorps members' time directly involves:

	None	Less than half	About half	More than half	Almost all or all
Direct service provision	n	n	n	n	n
Planning, assessing needs, and fundraising	m	m	m	m	m
Increase involvement of community members in your program	n	n	n	n	n
Volunteer recruitment, management and training	m	m	m	m	m
Developing or strengthening partnerships with other organizations in the community	n	n	n	n	n
Identifying and raising awareness of community issues or concerns	m	m	m	m	m
Organizing community wide activities or events (e.g. health or cultural fairs, community forums)	n	n	n	n	n

## Part I. AmeriCorps Members

### 5. Which of the following types of skills does your program develop in AmeriCorps members, through training or direct experience? (Select all that apply)

- fec** Technical and/or career skills in specific field
- fec** Communication and dissemination of information to community members and stakeholders
- fec** Conducting community needs assessment
- fec** Networking and partnership building
- fec** Resource development (e.g. fundraising, in-kind donations)
- fec** Volunteer recruitment, management, and training
- fec** Program development and management

### 6. Following participation as AmeriCorps members, approximately what percentage of your former members have continued to be engaged in your community?

Some examples of engagement include volunteering, providing financial support (e.g. donations) to community organizations, or working with non-profits or public agencies in the community.

- mLj** My program is new and we have no former members
- mLj** Don't know
- mLj** None
- mLj** Less than half
- mLj** About half
- mLj** More than half
- mLj** Almost all or all

## AmeriCorpsProgramPlanning

### 7. In planning for your AmeriCorps program, were any of the following done? (Select all that apply)

	Yes	No
Identified community members most affected by the issues you target	nm1kj	nm1kj
Identified potential partner organizations in the community	m1j	m1j
Identified other stakeholders and interest groups, apart from the target population and potential partners	nm1kj	nm1kj
Identified the community's strengths		
m1j m1j Identified barrier to community engagement		
m1j m1j Identified the community's needs and challenges	m1j m1j	

### 8. Considering your answer to the previous question, which of the following approaches did you use? (Select all that apply)

- fec Reviewed documents such as research reports
- fec Had discussions with community members or leaders
- fec Surveyed community leaders or members
- fec Relied on personal experience of program leaders and staff
- fec Relied on community observation or local news reports
- fec Analyzed publicly available data (such as Census data or school test scores)

Other (please describe)

5

6

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## 9. When have you assessed the needs of the community, in order to design and provide services? (Select all that apply)

**fec** We assessed community need before starting the program

**fec** We assess community need yearly

**fec** We continuously assess community need

Other (please describe)

5  
 6

## 10. When designing your AmeriCorps program, how much input was received from the following groups?

	No input	A little input	Moderate input	A great deal of input
Organization staff and leadership	nm1kj	n	n	n
Board of directors or advisory council	m1j	m	m	m
Community members	nm1kj	n	n	n
Local government leaders/officials	m1j	m	m	m
Local businesses	nm1kj	n	n	n
Local nonprofits or religious organizations	m1j	m	m	m
Current community partners	nm1kj	n	n	n
Partner organizations	m1j	m	m	m
Beneficiaries of your services	nm1kj	n	n	n
Potential AmeriCorps members	m1j	m	m	m

## PartII.Volunteers

Inthissection,wewillaskabouthowyourAmeriCorpsfundedprogrammayutilizevolunteers.

**11.InadditiontopaidstaffandAmeriCorpsmembers,doyourelyonvolunteerstoprovideservicesforanycomponentof yourAmeriCorpsprogram'sservicesoractivities?**

Yes

No





## Part II. Volunteers

### 15. Thinking about how volunteers contribute to your AmeriCorps program, approximately what portion of your volunteer positions require the following types of skills?

	Don't know	None	Less than half	About half	More than half	Almost all or all
Nontechnical and nonspecialized skills (neighborhood cleanup, food service/distribution)	n	n	n	n	n	n
Specialized, nontechnical skills (mentoring, tutoring, intake, screening)	m	m	m	m	m	m
Technical skills (IT, graphic design, spreadsheets)	n	n	n	n	n	n
Managerial skills (supervision, project management)	m	m	m	m	m	m
Administrative support (office management)	n	n	n	n	n	n
Strategic planning or fiscal (Board of directors/Committee Chair/Fund Development)	m	m	m	m	m	m

### 16. On average, how frequently do you provide formal training to volunteers for activities related to your AmeriCorps program (in addition to on-the-job training)?

- No formal training
- Once
- Twice per year
- Quarterly
- Monthly

## Part II. Volunteers

### 17. Of the following, in which areas do you provide formal training to your volunteers for activities related to your AmeriCorps program? (Select all that apply)

**fec** Program orientation, including description of mission, activities, policies and regulations

**fec** Engaging other community members on a specific topic or issue

**fec** Communication and messaging

**fec** Fundraising

**fec** Management and coordination of programs, activities, or other volunteers

**fec** Direct service provision

Other (please specify)

## PartII.Volunteers

### 18.ThinkingaboutyourAmeriCorpsprogramoperationsandservices,howimportantarevolunteerstoyoursuccess?

Notimportant

Somewhatimportant

Important

Veryimportant

Extremelyimportant

**Part II. Volunteers**

**19. Please give an example of how volunteers are important to your AmeriCorps program's success.**

## PartII.Volunteers

### 20.To what degree do your volunteers connect your AmeriCorps program to the community?

Don't know

Not at all

A little

To a moderate degree

To a large degree

## PartIII.Partnerships

In carrying out their tasks, AmeriCorps members may collaborate with other organizations in the community where they serve.

This section asks you questions about how your members may collaborate with these organizations.

### **Partnership is defined in this survey as:**

A formal or informal collaborative relationship between your AmeriCorps program and another organization in the community. This relationship enhances your ability to identify a need in the community, or your ability to respond to needs. This does not include organizations that you only have a fiscal or funding relationship with. "Organization" could be nonprofit, religious, public, or private.

## Part III. Partnerships

**21. What types of organizations does your AmeriCorps program currently collaborate with in the community you serve?  
(Select all that apply)**

**fec** Government offices or elected officials

**fec** Nonprofits

**fec** Faith-based organizations

**fec** Schools or school district

**fec** Colleges or universities

**fec** Private businesses

**fec** None

Other (please specify)

## Part III. Partnerships

**22. Which of the following types of local government organizations or elected officials does your AmeriCorps program have partnerships with or support from? (Select all that apply)**

**fec** State governor's office

**fec** State department (such as Education, Health, or Environment)

**fec** Local elected officials (such as mayor, city council member, town board)

**fec** Local department (such as Board of Education or Department of Health)

**fec** Local school district or schools

Other (please specify)

6



## Part III. Partnerships

### Partnership is defined as:

A formal or informal collaborative relationship between your AmeriCorps program and another organization in the community. This relationship enhances your ability to identify a need in the community, or your ability to respond to needs. This does not include organizations that you only have a fiscal or funding relationship with. "Organization" could be non-profit, religious, public, or private.

### 23. Approximately how many partner organizations do you collaborate with in your AmeriCorps program?

mLj 13

mLj 46

mLj 710

mLj 1120

mLj 20+

### 24. As a result of these partnerships and collaborations, has your organization experienced a growth in:

	Yes	No	Don't know
Number of clients?	mLj	mLj	mLj
Type or amount of services it offers?	mLj	mLj	mLj
Financial or in-kind resources it receives?	nmLkj	nmLkj	nmLkj

### 25. How important are your community partners in implementing your AmeriCorps program?

mLj Not at all important

mLj Somewhat important

mLj Moderately important

mLj Very Important

mLj Critically Important



PartIII.Partnerships

28.DoyourAmeriCorpsmemberscollaboratewithanyofyourpartnerorganizationsinthecommunityyouserve?

mLj Yes

mLj No

## Part III. Partnerships

### 29. How do your AmeriCorps members collaborate with other organizations? (Select all that apply)

**fec** Collaborate to assess community needs

**fec** Participate in our short and long range planning

**fec** Coordinate our programs' services

**fec** Provide existing services together

**fec** Help us develop and implement new services

**fec** Serve together in professional associations, ad hoc committees or work groups

**fec** Work together in fundraising, program promotion, or public relations campaigns

**fec** Share technical skills or resources and administrative tasks

**fec** Organize community projects (e.g. community gardens, block watches etc.)

Other collaborative activity (please describe):

5  
6

### 30. As a result of your AmeriCorps members, to what degree has your organization experienced an increase in partnerships with organizations in your community?

**mLj** No increase

**mLj** Small increase

**mLj** Moderate increase

**mLj** Large increase

## 31. How important are your AmeriCorps members in fostering community partnerships?

Not at all important

Somewhat important

Moderately important

Very Important

Critically Important

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## PartnerContacts

Aspartofthissurvey,wewillbecontactingpartnerorganizationsofAmeriCorpsgrantees.Wewillsendthema**briefsurvey**,askingthemabouttheirrelationship toyourAmeriCorpsprogramandthebenefitstheymayseeinit.

Please list upto **five organizations** that you have maintained a partnership with for one year or longer related to your AmeriCorps program.

Choose organizations that you have a **strong** partnership with. The organization could be nonprofit, religious, public, or a private business. Examples of a partner organization could be a local church that provides volunteers, a local business that donates significant resources, a nonprofit that provides services together with you, or a local mayor's office that may coordinate a special event with you.

### 32. Organization 1:

Organization:

Name of Contact:

Title:

Email Address:

### 33. Organization 2:

Organization:

Name of Contact:

Title:

Email Address:

### 34. Organization 3:

Organization:

Name of Contact:

Title:

Email Address:

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## 35.Organization4:

Organization:	<input type="text"/>
NameofContact:	<input type="text"/>
Title	<input type="text"/>
Email Address:	<input type="text"/>

## 36.Organization5:

Organization:	<input type="text"/>
NameofContact:	<input type="text"/>
Title:	<input type="text"/>
Email Address:	<input type="text"/>

### 37. What is your role in your organization's AmeriCorps program? (Select all that apply)

I am the director of the AmeriCorps program

I am a supervisor of AmeriCorps members

I work alongside AmeriCorps members

I handle administrative tasks related to the AmeriCorps grant or members

Other role (please describe)

### 38. How long have you been at your organization?

Less than 1 year

1-2 years

3-5 years

More than 5 years

### 39. How many years has your organization been in operation in this community?

Less than 1 year

1 year

2 years

3 years

4 years

5 years

6 to 10 years





## 40. Approximately how many paid fulltime equivalent staff members are in your organization?

mLj Less than 5

mLj 6-10

mLj 11-20

mLj Over 20

## 41. Approximately how many paid fulltime equivalent staff members are involved in the regular operations of AmeriCorps program's activities?

mLj Less than 5

mLj 6-10

mLj 11-20

mLj Over 20