
Impact Of AmeriCorps In Pittsburgh

A Report On The Collective Impact Of Eight
AmeriCorps Programs In 2014



Summary Statistics for 2014

231 AmeriCorps Members

\$3,256,882

AmeriCorps members' direct economic impact in Pittsburgh

12,803 Volunteers

Volunteers recruited by AmeriCorps members

107,356 Hours

Hours of service by volunteers recruited by AmeriCorps members

9,613 Low-Income Residents

Low-income residents received assistance from AmeriCorps members

14,371 Youth

Youth tutored or mentored by AmeriCorps members or by recruited volunteers

119 Organizations

Local Organizations served by AmeriCorps members

Introduction

AmeriCorps is a program through the Corporation for National and Community Service that engages more than 75,000 Americans in intensive service each year at nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups across the country. AmeriCorps members serve those that are most vulnerable and work to make a change that has long-term effects.

AmeriCorps programs create a mutually beneficial relationship for communities and the members that serve them. By joining AmeriCorps, young people can support communities and be set on a pathway toward entering the workforce.

In Pittsburgh, AmeriCorps members have served communities and residents in many different ways. This report reflects the collective impact of eight AmeriCorps programs in Pittsburgh in 2014, including:

- City of Pittsburgh (Bureau of Neighborhood Empowerment and servePGH)
- Compass AmeriCorps
- Habitat AmeriCorps
- KEYS Service Corps
- Pittsburgh Health Corps
- Public Allies Pittsburgh
- PULSE (Pittsburgh Urban Leadership Service Experience)
- SCA Green Cities Sustainability Fellows

Together these programs engaged 231 AmeriCorps members in intensive service in 2014. Through these programs, AmeriCorps members have had a significant impact on Pittsburgh economically and socially.

AmeriCorps Impact in Pittsburgh

Investing in Pittsburgh

- In 2014, **\$901,497** was raised by AmeriCorps programs, including **\$884,000** of monetary donations and **\$17,497** of in-kind donations.
- Volunteers recruited by AmeriCorps members devoted nearly **107,355** hours of service, valued at **\$2,355,385¹**, to underserved communities and understaffed nonprofits citywide.
- AmeriCorps members' direct economic impact in Pittsburgh is **\$3,256,882²**.

Assisting Economically Disadvantaged Residents

- **9,613** low-income residents received assistance from AmeriCorps members including job training services, case management, and home repairs.
- **1,917** refugees, immigrants and internationals were assisted in resettlement by Compass AmeriCorps members leading to **119** refugees finding jobs after working with a Compass member.
- **90** low-income seniors and disabled residents were assisted in clearing snow from sidewalks during the winter months through servePGH's Snow Angels program.

Educating Youth and Adult Learners

- **28,742** youth were tutored or mentored by AmeriCorps members or volunteers they recruited.
- **483** refugees, immigrants and internationals were taught English as a Second Language (ESL) through Compass AmeriCorps.

¹ Based on Independent's Sector's estimated value of volunteer time for 2013 of \$21.94
<https://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time>

² Combined value of donations to AmeriCorps programs and value of volunteer hours

Greening and Cleaning our Neighborhoods

- Nearly **11,801** lbs. of litter were collected by both AmeriCorps members and recruited volunteers, creating cleaner and safer spaces for residents and local businesses.
- Through the SCA Green Cities Sustainability Fellows there has been a reduction of **10,895,909 lbs. of CO₂**, also:
 - **5,421,000 gallons** of water have been conserved.
 - **26,630,000 kWh** reduction in electricity usage.
- Green Cities Sustainability Fellows also educated **1988** people on sustainability and engaged to **322** households through the Black and Gold City Goes Green campaign.

Improving Access to Healthcare

- **1,623** people were assisted in applying for health insurance directly or indirectly by AmeriCorps members.
- Pittsburgh's Health Corps members aided **826** residents to enroll in health insurance, complete applications for Medicaid, Medicare, and the Prescription Assistance Program, participate in chronic disease management programs, and attend primary and secondary care appointments. Also, Health Corps members:
 - Engaged **3,613** residents in nutrition and fitness education classes.
 - Enabled **350** residents to received life-saving screenings, tests, and immunizations.
 - Taught **1,129** residents on health education and managing chronic disease.
- **662** refugees, immigrants, and internationals were enrolled in healthcare through Compass AmeriCorps.

Building Volunteerism and the Nonprofit Community

- **18,885** people recruited by AmeriCorps members served in **107,356** hours of volunteering.
- **119** nonprofit organizations supported by AmeriCorps members.

Featured AmeriCorps Programs



CITY OF
PITTSBURGH

The **City of Pittsburgh** houses six AmeriCorps VISTAs through the Bureau of Neighborhood Empowerment and servePGH initiative.

The Bureau is a new division of the City of Pittsburgh designed to serve those most in need and leverage the work being done by the nonprofit and foundation community in order to make our city truly the most livable for all of our residents. The three AmeriCorps VISTA members that serve in the Bureau manage special initiatives focused on: increasing access to healthcare, creating a welcoming city for all residents, and serving veterans.

ServePGH seeks to engage citizens in impacting our City's greatest challenges through seven high-impact service initiatives. These initiatives have been supported by 3 AmeriCorps VISTA members who have organized volunteers to beautify nearly 1,000 city blocks, remove over 76,000 pounds of litter from streets and weatherize and restore 156 homes of veterans, seniors, and disabled residents.



Compass AmeriCorps is a program managed by Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council and funded through a grant from PennSERVE, the Governor's Office of Citizen Service, which encourages and supports civic engagement in the Commonwealth.

Compass AmeriCorps places full-time AmeriCorps members in organizations where they have the opportunity to provide wrap-around social services support and English language instruction to refugees, immigrants and internationals in the Pittsburgh region. Members serve full-time for 11 months. The mission of Compass AmeriCorps is to help connect refugees, immigrants and internationals to available social services, to work with refugees, immigrants and internationals to help reduce barriers to service acquisition, and to serve as a connecting force for agencies that provide these services.



Habitat AmeriCorps members serve locally with Habitat for Humanity affiliates across the country. In 2014, Habitat for Humanity has 500 AmeriCorps members serving in 35 states encompassing 140 communities. Habitat AmeriCorps members increase our local capacity to serve families through assisting in volunteer coordination, community outreach, family services, and construction crew leadership.



KEYS (Knowledge to Empower Youths to Success) Service Corps serves at-risk youth by providing safe places with structured activities, assisting with schoolwork, implementing community service projects, and involving volunteers. The organization's mission is to improve youth academic success, lead youth in making lasting community change, and enhance AmeriCorps members' careers.



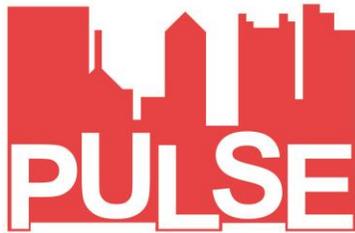
The **Pittsburgh Health Corps** is a program of the National Health Corps AmeriCorps program. Since 1994, the Pittsburgh Health Corps (PHC) has been based at the Allegheny County Health Department, which fosters collaboration between members and agencies throughout the Pittsburgh area.

The goal of PHC is to increase healthy behavior and access to health services by enhancing the capacity of community organizations. PHC is committed to decreasing disparities in local healthcare delivery systems and promoting health. PHC collaborates with a broad range of sites to ensure members are exposed to diverse opportunities in public health. Sites typically include homeless clinics, schools, health centers, and inter-generational community programs.



At **Public Allies Pittsburgh**, we believe changing times call for a new kind of leadership. Since 2006, we've worked with hundreds of emerging leaders to impact the Pittsburgh region. Allies are diverse and passionate social changemakers who've worked to build the capacity of hundreds of local nonprofit organizations, demonstrating our conviction that everyone can lead, and that lasting social change results when citizens of all backgrounds step up, take responsibility, and work together.

Our Allies change their lives and our community through a rigorous program that combines full-time apprenticeships in nonprofit organizations with intensive skills training, active community-building projects, personalized coaching, and critical reflection. We provide all of this through a nationally-recognized approach that's rooted in a practice of values.



PULSE (Pittsburgh Urban Leadership Service Experience) cultivates a community of young servant leaders to transform Pittsburgh. PULSE invites talented, university graduates to partner with Pittsburgh nonprofits for a year of service and leadership. Members are trained and equipped through regular personal and professional development opportunities to become the next generation of civic and community leaders in Pittsburgh.

PULSE has developed young adults into local leaders since 1994, promoting continued service and investment in Pittsburgh long after a participant's year of service ends. 90% of the program's participants come from out-of-town, but at the end of the transformative year, 70% stay in Pittsburgh, continuing to invest in and serve the City.



The **Student Conservation Association (SCA)** is the only national organization that develops tomorrow's conservation leaders by providing high school and college students with conservation service opportunities in all 50 states, from urban communities to national parks and forests. Since 1957, SCA's hands-on practice of conservation service has helped to develop new generations of conservation leaders, inspire lifelong stewardship, and save the planet. SCA is a non-profit headquartered in Charlestown, NH and maintains regional offices in Boise, ID, Oakland, CA, Pittsburgh, PA, Seattle, WA, and Washington, D.C. For more information, visit www.thesca.org

SCA's Green Cities Sustainability Fellowship places young professionals with hands-on projects that forward environmental health, human health, and economic health in the Pittsburgh region. Our Fellows serve with local governments, businesses, non-profits, and educational institutions; 2014 marks the seventh year of our team's service in Pittsburgh.

AmeriCorps Program Testimonials

After receiving new roofing through servePGH's SHIP program:

"So many ways that they have helped me be able to stay in my home. I want to take this opportunity to thank you."

-Lena Redmon
Resident

"One of my students in my intermediate class was initially very nervous about not understanding, and felt that she wasn't smart enough to be in class. In November, she broke down in tears and told me she didn't think she could do it. I sat with her after class and told her that I thought this was just a matter of confidence: she's just as capable as the other students, and I knew she could do it: she just needed to know that herself. I told her to try the class for two more weeks and if at the end of that, she really wanted to move down a level, she could. Now, this student is one of my most vocal in class and she radiates confidence - she knows she belongs there and that's an amazing growth to see!"

-Compass AmeriCorps member

"My experiences serving with PHC were invaluable to my current work as a medical student. Not only did I find a passion for working with people with behavioral health issues, but I also learned about barriers to healthcare that I am now working to change."

-Alexander Rowan
Pittsburgh Health Corps AmeriCorps member

"PULSE fellows have a reputation for being well-prepared, amiable, and ready to take on multiple projects simultaneously. They are motivated, flexible, and willing to serve others. Working with PULSE is a smart way to bring value, build capacity, and draw on youthful energy as you grow your programs."

-Bryan Perry
OPDC Joblinks

"Programs like Public Allies have the power to make dreams come true for people who have never had the capacity to envision a future for themselves. These service programs offer a chance for people like me to reaffirm and redirect to our life's purpose."

-Public Allies AmeriCorps member

On Amizade receiving a grant through servePGH's Love Your Block program:

"Helping out with the Global Switchboard (Amizade) Love Your Block project was a really nice way for us, as new members of the community, to immediately feel connected to the great people who already live there."

-Thomas Buell, Jr.
Director of Marketing, GlobalPittsburgh

"PHC has REALLY strengthened my desire to go into the medical field, and I've had an interest in working with people living with HIV/AIDS who are a lost to care (an interest that stemmed from my AmeriCorps position). I'm hoping to continue HIV prevention education in the community through the Infectious Disease club at school, and am really thankful for my experiences in the Pittsburgh Health Corps."

-Jessica Chase
Pittsburgh Health Corps AmeriCorps member