



FACT SHEET

The Washington Service Corps was created by the state legislature in 1983 to provide citizens with opportunities to serve their communities and to build a talent pipeline from service to work in the nonprofit and public sectors. It's one of the oldest publicly funded service programs of its type in the nation. Administered by the Employment Security Department, the Service Corps partners with private, nonprofit organizations and local governments to address critical community needs and provide citizens with meaningful service experiences.

Service Corps programs address compelling needs for education, public safety, health and human services, environmental stewardship and services to veterans and their families. Participants tutor children, build and rehabilitate housing for low-income families, immunize children, respond to natural disasters, mentor young people, manage after-school programs, and help people with disabilities and the elderly maintain their independence.

Members receive a monthly stipend and health insurance. They also get an education award when their service assignment is satisfactorily completed.

The Washington Service Corps meets crucial community needs

Washington Service Corps programs and projects

Washington Reading Corps

Reading Corps members help to improve the literacy of students in kindergarten through fourth grade. They also work with pre-school-age children in early-learning centers to help prepare them for kindergarten. The goal is to improve the reading abilities of struggling readers through research-based tutoring and effective collaborations among schools, families, community members, business and state partners, and the federal AmeriCorps program. For the 2018-19 service year, the



program placed 127 Reading Corps members in 95 different schools and early-learning centers.

Washington Service Corps

The Washington Service Corps has improved environmental awareness and commitment among thousands of children and has directly impacted nutritional awareness among youth in high-need areas of the state.

In addition, the Service Corps has established special projects with the WorkSource employment system to help job seekers with computer e-learning and other computer-based employment resources.

Facts about Service Corps members

For the 2017-18 service year

Service Corps members:

- Responded to 33 natural disasters and trained 25,207 economically disadvantaged people in disaster preparedness.
- Engaged 581 veterans in community volunteer activities, about 425 of whom said they would volunteer in their communities again.
- Provided job training and tutoring to 2,002 economically disadvantaged youth.
- Supported 6,403 students identified as needing extra help.
- Supplied nutrition education to 11,729 students.
- Planted native species, removed invasive species and restored 4,046 acres of park or public lands, improving 3,260 of those acres according to an established restoration plan.

Reading Corps members:

- Tutored 4,154 K-4 students in need of extra literacy support, and helped 711 pre-k students prepare for kindergarten.

Service Corps/Reading Corps members:

- Recruited and supported a combined total of 63,807 community volunteers, who contributed over 482,000 hours of service.

Service year 2018-19 member demographics

- 68 percent have associate, college or graduate degrees.
- 40 percent are of diverse racial or ethnic backgrounds.
- Members are based in 31 counties, but serve all 39 Washington counties –16 percent of members serve in Eastern Washington.
- 88 percent were Washington residents at the time they applied.
- 74 percent are female, 22 percent are male, and 3 percent are non-binary
- 61 percent are age 25 years or under; and the average age is 28.

