AmeriCorps in Florida

March 2026

Overview

For more than 30 years, AmeriCorps has engaged Americans in service to address critical community needs. In Florida, tens of thousands of residents have served through AmeriCorps programs, generating millions of hours of service and more than $147 million in education awards. Some of that work connects directly to college access — and more could.

This resource provides an overview of AmeriCorps programs, how they are funded in Florida, and how organizations are already leveraging AmeriCorps to support students on their path to and through college.

What is AmeriCorps?

AmeriCorps is an independent federal agency that engages Americans in service through a variety of programs. More than 200,000 AmeriCorps members and volunteers serve each year, working with organizations to address community needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment.

AmeriCorps was established by the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993, which merged several existing federal volunteer programs under a single agency. Today, AmeriCorps administers multiple programs, each with a distinct structure and focus.

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AmeriCorps Programs

AmeriCorps State and National is the largest AmeriCorps program, with grants awarded to organizations to recruit, train, and place members to meet community needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment.

This is the program most directly relevant to college access work. Members serve approximately 1,700 hours over 11 months and receive a living allowance, health insurance, childcare assistance, and an education award of up to the maximum Pell Grant amount per year of service, applicable to tuition or existing student loans.

AmeriCorps VISTA, founded in 1965, places full-time volunteers with community organizations and public agencies to address the impacts of poverty through fundraising, volunteer recruitment, and program development.

AmeriCorps NCCC is a full-time, residential, team-based program for people ages 18–26. Members serve on community projects across the country and may be deployed to respond to national crises and disasters.

AmeriCorps Seniors engages adults 55 and older in three programs: Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, and RSVP.

Public Health AmeriCorps supports the development of public health leaders, operating in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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AmeriCorps in Florida

Most AmeriCorps funding in Florida flows through Volunteer Florida, the governor-appointed state service commission, which administers annual grant competitions and awards subgrants to organizations across the state.

volunteerflorida

AmeriCorps Florida

43,000 Florida residents served through AmeriCorps between 1994-2023

62 million Hours of service completed by FL AmeriCorps since 1994

1,195 Local organizations served by FL AmeriCorps volunteers in 2023 alone

$147 million Education awards earned by FL AmeriCorps since 1994

$14 million Additional funding generated by local partners in 2023

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AmeriCorps & College Access: Florida

Several Florida organizations are using AmeriCorps State and National grants to support students' college and career trajectories.

Boys and Girls Clubs of Palm Beach County AmeriCorps members provide out-of-school academic support, mentoring, and college and career preparation to high school-age youth at nine clubs and five middle and high schools across Palm Beach County.

Broward College AmeriCorps members serve as peer mentors to all students, with a particular focus on first-generation college students. Mentors support study skills, academics, scholarship applications, and adjustment to college life.

City of Orlando AmeriCorps members provide academic and career counseling to high school juniors and seniors in three Orlando neighborhoods, with the goal that every senior leaves with a clear career or educational plan.

Overtown Youth Center AmeriCorps members support K-12 youth in career readiness, workforce employability, and financial literacy through the Inspire. Engage. Employ. program at the Overtown Youth Center and Booker T. Washington Senior High School in Miami.

Recent Federal Developments

In April 2025, AmeriCorps terminated nearly $400 million in grant program funding without warning, impacting more than 1,000 programs and ending the service of more than 32,000 AmeriCorps volunteers. Approximately 80% of AmeriCorps State and National programs received termination notices. About 75% of federal agency staff were placed on leave.

In June 2025, a federal judge ordered the restoration of funds for programs in 24 plaintiff states and reinstated AmeriCorps NCCC members to service. In July, another judge ordered the reinstatement of hundreds of federal staff. In August, the agency announced it was releasing funds at the end of September. **As of early 2026, AmeriCorps programs and grant cycles remain active. FCAN will continue to monitor developments.**

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AmeriCorps & College Access: National Models

Organizations across the country demonstrate what is possible when college access networks build AmeriCorps programs deliberately.

College Possible operates college access and success programs across seven sites nationally. Its Catalyze program embeds near-peer AmeriCorps coaches on partner college campuses to help first-generation and Pell-eligible students navigate barriers to persistence and degree completion.

Michigan College Access Network runs two dedicated AmeriCorps programs. AdviseMI places college graduates as college advisers in high schools with low college-going rates. College Completion Corps embeds AmeriCorps coaches on college campuses to support students facing the greatest barriers to finishing their degrees, each coach serving a cohort of 100–150 students.

About FCAN

This resource was produced by the Florida College Access Network (FCAN). FCAN is Florida's collaborative network committed to ensuring all Floridians have the opportunity to achieve an education beyond high school toward a rewarding career. FCAN strives to expand knowledge of research, data, policies, and practices that impact postsecondary access and attainment in Florida.

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