

Tony Evers
Governor

Christine Beatty
Board Chair

Jeanne Duffy
Executive Director
608-261-2716



101 E Wilson, 6th Floor
Madison, WI 53703

servewisconsin@wisconsin.gov

www.servewisconsin.wi.gov

SERVE WISCONSIN

AmeriCorps members in Wisconsin have served over 100,000 hours helping to respond to COVID-19!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Jeanne Duffy

PHONE: 608-692-4121

EMAIL: jeanne.duffy@wisconsin.gov

AmeriCorps members in Wisconsin have served over 100,000 hours helping to respond to COVID-19!

As Wisconsin passes the 100-day milestone since the issuance of the Safer at Home order, AmeriCorps members continue providing crucial assistance to those impacted by COVID-19 and the closure of schools and other community resources. They are providing virtual assistance to students completing coursework at home, packing and distributing meals at food banks and school meal programs, assisting with contact tracing and patient follow-up calls, assembling and distributing face masks, creating virtual content on community resources, answering COVID-19 hotline calls, assisting various community organizations serving those in need, and through completing other local community projects.

With many of the [over 300 Wisconsin AmeriCorps service locations](#) closing in March, Serve Wisconsin worked with Wisconsin's AmeriCorps programs, state and local disaster relief agencies, and community organizations to ensure AmeriCorps members were responding to the pandemic, either as a modified version of their initial service or taking on new projects to assist those in need. One of these alternative projects was a collaboration with 211 Wisconsin through the United Way of Wisconsin, with AmeriCorps members answering their COVID-19 related calls and providing callers with information and potential resources.

To broaden the ability of AmeriCorps members to assist community needs in Wisconsin, including those exacerbated by COVID-19 and its disparate impacts on minority and low-income communities, Serve Wisconsin is reaching out and [surveying nonprofit organizations](#) throughout the state.

The AmeriCorps members serving with the 26 AmeriCorps programs that are administered by Serve Wisconsin have provided unique COVID-19 response efforts to serve needs in their local communities.

Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee (BGCGM) AmeriCorps - Academic & Career Planning

Since the closure of schools in March, the AmeriCorps members with the BGCGM Academic & Career Planning program have continued working with their Graduation Plus students through virtual programming, including intensive assistance with college essay writing, as well as helping with food service and distribution at the LaVarnway Boys & Girls Club location.

Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee (BGCGM) - Education through Art, Reading and Nature (EARN)

AmeriCorps members with the BGCGM EARN program are providing direct programming to day campers at Camp Whitcomb Mason with modifications for health safety due to COVID-19. AmeriCorps members are providing in-person STEM programming and developing online STEM content, as well as helping with meal distribution at local BGCGM locations and at Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin.

Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee (BGCGM) - Inspire HOPE

AmeriCorps members with the BGCGM INSPIRE Hope program developed virtual social-emotional development content for the Clubs@home virtual platform to continue reaching the children they were serving before the spread of COVID-19. They are also assisting with food service/distribution at BGCGM locations, as well as precautionary temperature checks and other parts of the COVID-19 protocols in use at the BGCGM clubs that have reopened to provide childcare for members in the community.

College Possible Milwaukee

The AmeriCorps members with College Possible Milwaukee have continued their service by remotely helping their students determine their college plans for next year, pointing them toward resources they need, and assisting them with their virtual coursework. AmeriCorps members have also served at three Milwaukee Public Schools locations preparing and distributing meals to students and their families and distributing educational materials for students of all different grade levels.

Dane County Department of Human Services - Partners for After School Success (PASS)

PASS AmeriCorps members are serving students through host-site driven virtual platforms, with the online activities including virtual academic tutoring, individual and small group mentoring and extended learning and enrichment programming. PASS members also responded to numerous needs related to COVID-19, through outreach to students and families to assess resources and needs, food packaging and delivery at community centers and food banks, and answering calls for 211 Wisconsin.

Easterseals Wisconsin

The AmeriCorps members at Easterseals Wisconsin are continuing to serve remotely by maintaining connections and communication with their campers, who are individuals with disabilities and their families, through multiple online activities, including virtual camp fires and talent shows, art projects, experiments to do in the kitchen, virtual tours, and other activities the campers can complete at home. They have also assisted with additional COVID-19 service activities, such as answering calls for 211 Wisconsin and helping local organizations.

Marquette University - 414 Fellows

The AmeriCorps members with 414 Fellows transitioned to remote service at Next Door, where they engage low-income children ages birth-3 in one-on-one literacy and language building activities. They worked with the classroom teachers and recording themselves reading books or doing activities to share on their Classroom Dojo app, as well as providing additional service to the community when returning to their homes due to the closure of the Marquette campus.

Marshfield Clinic AmeriCorps - Afterschool

The AmeriCorps members with MCHS Afterschool continued their service with students remotely following the spread of COVID-19 by creating virtual classroom programming for afterschool program participants, curating enrichment activities for kids to do at home, and keeping in contact with students through regular phone calls with youth and their families to provide academics support. Additionally, they provided additional service to assist those impacted by COVID-19 by serving at local food pantry to organize and distribute food, assisting a local resource center in its efforts to contact families, and sewing masks for use at a VA medical facility.



Marshfield Clinic AmeriCorps - Recovery Corps

The AmeriCorps members with MCHS Recovery Corps continue to serve as recovery coaches for individuals with substance abuse disorders through virtual group services and individual calls with their recoverees. Additionally, they have been assisting with other COVID-19 related efforts, including the packing of meals for distribution at schools and the delivery of needed supplies and resources to those in need.

Marshfield Clinic AmeriCorps - Volunteer Wisconsin

The AmeriCorps members with MCHS Volunteer Wisconsin continue to promote volunteerism and boost the capacity of nonprofit organizations to serve their communities through developing virtual activities and trainings, as well as providing assistance to their organizations filling roles that their regular volunteers could not fill due to being parts of high-risk populations. They also supported COVID-19 relief activities, including answering 211 Wisconsin calls, sorting donations and distributing food to families in need, and providing recognition for graduating seniors.

Milwaukee Christian Center, Inc. (MCC) - YouthBuild

While COVID-19 has caused a temporary halting to their service constructing affordable, energy-efficient housing and completing accessible home modifications, the MCC AmeriCorps members are attending online classes to develop their career skills and earn their High School Equivalency Diploma. Additionally, MCC AmeriCorps have been able to provide service for community organizations in Milwaukee, including assisting with efforts by Milwaukee Public Schools to help prepare a local school for reopening with the needed precautions.

North Central Community Action Program (NCCAP) AmeriCorps

NCCAP AmeriCorps continue to work with the students they serve in the Wausau School District through several remote platforms. They have been able to assist their students virtually in numerous ways, ranging from checking in on grades and homework through email, assisting students through shared online collaborative documents, and video chatting with students to go over complicated problems and assignments or for advisory circles.

Public Allies Milwaukee

The AmeriCorps members with Public Allies Milwaukee continue serving with the non-profit organizations at which they were serving prior to the spread of COVID-19, providing virtual service focused upon how their organizations can help meet increasing community needs.

Racine Zoo AmeriCorps Program

Following the closure of schools across the state and the initial closure of the Racine Zoo to the public, the AmeriCorps members used virtual platforms to share educational information. Additionally, AmeriCorps members continued to go into the zoo for their animal care shifts alongside the Racine Zoo's animal care staff to provide assistance and gain skills for future work in animal care.

Renewal Unlimited

After creating protocols to safely serve at their sites during the COVID-19 pandemic, the AmeriCorps members with Renewal Unlimited completed construction of a single-family home and then started the framing of another home in Portage. Some members have also attended classes virtually and have started testing towards the achievement of their High School Equivalency Diploma.

Teach For America Milwaukee

AmeriCorps members with Teach For America Milwaukee continue to teach classes in Milwaukee schools throughout the school closures caused by COVID-19, moving their teaching to digital platforms.



United Way of Dane County - Achievement Connections

During the closure of schools due to COVID-19, the AmeriCorps members with Achievement Connections continued providing math tutoring support in algebra and geometry for high school students through virtual platforms. Additionally, AmeriCorps members have done call shifts with 211 Wisconsin, served at The River Food Pantry, assisted at the Madison Metropolitan School District's meal delivery locations, and helped with mask handouts conducted by the United Way of Dane County.

United Way of Dane County - Schools of Hope AmeriCorps Project

The AmeriCorps members with Schools of Hope are serving in many capacities since schools went to virtual learning, including continuing to work with students via Zoom and Google Classroom or packing and distributing bags of books for students. Members have also served in COVID-19 response activities with Second Harvest or other food distribution organizations and sewing masks for healthcare workers and others in need.

United Way Fox Cities – Be Well Fox Valley

The AmeriCorps members with United Way Fox Cities – Be Well Fox Valley continue their health efforts by providing virtual health education activities for schools, families, students, summer programs, and other community organizations, such as Special Olympics participants. They have additionally provided service responding to COVID-19 by helping with contact tracing calls, conducting public health preparedness webinars, providing local nonprofits with updated information from the CDC and Wisconsin Department of Health Services, serving at local food pantries, and answering help line calls for 211 Wisconsin.

UW-Eau Claire - Blugold Beginnings

The AmeriCorps members with Blugold Beginnings shifted to online mentoring of their students following the closure of schools due to COVID-19. This summer, they are engaging elementary, middle, and high school students in science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) activities through virtual day camps focused on robotics, coding, biomedical sciences and health professions, arts and culture, and other STEAM topics.

UW-Eau Claire - ECLIPSE

While COVID-19 prevented the ECLIPSE AmeriCorps members from providing early childhood educational support services at their local Head Start locations and child care centers in the Eau Claire area, they continued to serve by providing tutoring and educational support for the children of essential workers, answering 211 Wisconsin calls, serving at local food pantries, and sewing masks to distribute to others.

Western Dairyland EOC, Inc. - Chippewa Fresh Start YouthBuild

After safety measures were formulated, the AmeriCorps members with Chippewa Fresh Start YouthBuild have continued constructing single-family homes with smaller groups of AmeriCorps members rotating on site. Additionally, their AmeriCorps members have helped answer COVID-19 calls for 211 Wisconsin and assisted at the community garden in Eau Claire, with one of garden plots being used by Western Dairyland to help provide food assistance to those in need.

Wisconsin Association for Homeless and Runaway Services (WAHRS)

To meet the essential needs of runaway and homeless youth throughout the state during the COVID-19 pandemic, AmeriCorps members with Wisconsin Association for Homeless and Runaway Services are continuing to serve in person through street outreach, shelter services, and assisting young people and families in accessing essential services and needed items (such as food and clothing).



Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction - AmeriCorps Farm to School Program

The AmeriCorps members with the DPI AmeriCorps Farm to School have conducted numerous virtual activities to stay connected to their students during school closures, including nutrition lessons, cooking demonstrations, and farm tours. They have also continued working in school gardens so that students will have items to harvest in the fall and provided home garden kits to their students to help connect them to their school gardens.

Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association - Wisconsin HealthCorps

AmeriCorps members with Wisconsin HealthCorps have continued providing service since the spread of COVID-19 by conducting follow-up calls to patients, manning COVID-19 hotlines at their host sites, compiling community resources to share with patients, answering calls for 211, creating educational YouTube videos on nutrition and physical activity, and taking on efforts to strengthen community partnerships and provide additional health assistance through their host sites.

WisCorps

WisCorps redirected much of their AmeriCorps disaster response team’s efforts from addressing storm and flood damage to COVID-19 response service in the La Crosse area, including delivering meals and groceries and completing home repairs and maintenance for seniors and other high-risk individuals, as well as planting community gardens and removing local flood debris. This summer, six crews of AmeriCorps members will be deployed to complete conservation projects multiple locations throughout the state. Additionally, WisCorps AmeriCorps members will operate modified environmental education day camps for kids throughout the summer.

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Serve Wisconsin is the state commission for national and community service. Our mission is to promote service, provide training, and allocate resources to programs that enrich lives and communities through service and volunteerism. We currently support 26 AmeriCorps programs and 950 AmeriCorps members throughout the state and work collaboratively with Senior Corps and other national service programs. We are governed by a 21-member citizen board appointed by the Governor. For more information about Serve Wisconsin or funded AmeriCorps programs, visit www.servewisconsin.wi.gov.

