



COVID-19 Response Efforts:

Wisconsin AmeriCorps Serves over 150,000 Hours Responding to COVID-19

As of July 27, 2020

Serve Wisconsin, the Wisconsin state service commission, has taken an active role in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic through coordination with our 26 AmeriCorps programs throughout the state and helping to provide alternative service opportunities to AmeriCorps members in response to community needs. Serve Wisconsin is actively fostering opportunities for volunteer relief efforts throughout Wisconsin and assisting in the state response meeting the needs in local communities.

AmeriCorps Wisconsin members with the 26 programs administered by Serve Wisconsin have served **over 150,000 hours** since the closure of schools and businesses in March. A brief summary of the COVID-19 response service by each of these 26 programs is available in the [July 10 press release from Serve Wisconsin](#).

COVID-19 service by Wisconsin AmeriCorps members

- Wisconsin AmeriCorps members throughout the state have spent hundreds of hours answering calls related to COVID-19 for **211 Wisconsin**.
- Wisconsin AmeriCorps members continue to conduct **follow-up calls with patients**, assist local COVID-19 **contact tracing** efforts, provide **virtual recovery coaching** for individuals with substance abuse disorders, conduct **street outreach and shelter support** for homeless and runaway youth, create **virtual health education activities** for community members, and **compile community resources** and COVID-19 health updates.
- Wisconsin AmeriCorps members are **packing/distributing meals at food banks and school meal programs** and **assembling/ distributing face masks** throughout the community.
- Wisconsin AmeriCorps members continue serving students virtually during COVID-19 through providing **direct classroom instruction, elementary literacy support**, tutoring in algebra and geometry, **homework assistance, online mentoring, nutrition instruction, STEAM education activities, online afterschool programming, social-emotional development support**, and assistance to students with the **college application process**.
- Wisconsin AmeriCorps members serve children through both **in-person and virtual summer programming and day camps**, including STEAM education camps, environmental education camps, virtual camp activities for individuals with disabilities and their families, and support for children at local community centers and Boys and Girls Clubs.

COVID-19 efforts by Serve Wisconsin

- Serve Wisconsin collaborated with **United Way of Wisconsin** and **Wisconsin Volunteer Coordinators Association** to create the [COVID-19 Response Initiative](#) on the Volunteer Wisconsin website. The [Volunteer Wisconsin website](#) provides a centralized location for organizations to post projects addressing community needs during COVID-19 and allows people interested in helping others to search for COVID-19 response projects in their local communities. Since its inception, **over 500 projects** have been posted on the website, with over **100,000 online views** of these projects.

- Serve Wisconsin collaborated with the **Wisconsin Department of Health Services** to create [Volunteer Guidance in Accordance with Safer at Home](#) to provide information to Wisconsin residents on how to safely volunteer during the Safer at Home order and safety practices volunteers should follow.
- Serve Wisconsin staff served as the **acting State of Wisconsin Volunteer Agency Liaison (VAL)** in April and May, working with the **Wisconsin VOAD** (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster and the State Emergency Operations Center) to gauge local needs and assist with mobilization efforts.
- Serve Wisconsin will use a new 2020 **Volunteer Generation Fund** grant to support all streams of national service in Wisconsin to prepare, respond, and recover from disasters by building a national service volunteer force across the state and strengthening the partnerships and collaborative efforts in the local communities between national service, volunteer organizations, businesses, and governments statewide. Serve Wisconsin will work with identified stakeholders to develop local Community/Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD/VOADs) groups throughout the state. **By the end of the first year, 10 local COAD/VOADs will be developed throughout the 83 counties and Tribal Nations.**
- Serve Wisconsin is surveying Wisconsin non-profit organizations to determine how an expansion of AmeriCorps programming and service placements could broaden the ability of AmeriCorps members and non-profit organizations to assist community needs in Wisconsin, including those exacerbated by COVID-19 and its disparate impacts on minority and low-income communities.



Learn more: Jeanne Duffy, Executive Director, Serve Wisconsin, jeanne.duffy@wisconsin.gov or <https://www.servewisconsin.wi.gov/>



View more COVID response photos at: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SlDh16joNV1m9z-yWozTckZfVzvcJZV7?usp=sharing>

View PASS AmeriCorps COVID service video (1 minute) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cq7p6KUhNR4&feature=youtu.be>