



A Better You.
A Greater Us.



Service Year

Program Expansion Guide



A Better You.
A Greater Us.

Dear Leader,

In communities across the nation, tens of thousands of service year corps members are working to address local needs - impacting important issues such as education, the environment, health, and many more. In programs such as AmeriCorps, City Year, FoodCorps, Habitat for Humanity, and hundreds more -- service year corps members get things done for their communities while also building valuable skills that help advance their education and career. In the process, service year corps members meet people from backgrounds different from their own and feel part of something bigger than themselves, strengthening the civic health of the communities where they serve.

At the Service Year Alliance, we envision a future where a year of service is a common opportunity and cultural expectation for young Americans. We aspire to grow the number of service year opportunities for young Americans from 65,000 annually today to 100,000 by 2019 - and eventually to one million serving every year.

While nonprofits, universities, and government agencies in your community can increase their impact by creating service year positions at their organizations through ServiceYear.org, several standout programs operate at the national level, with placement sites spread out across the country. Given the many benefits of these programs, it's not surprising that community leaders frequently propose bringing these programs to their regions to support strategies addressing community needs. Until now, it's been challenging to navigate which service year program might be right for your area and how to bring them to your community.

The *Service Year Program Expansion Guide* solves for this, making it easy for you to learn about the nation's premier service year programs, the issues they address, and how to set up exploratory expansion conversations with programs of interest. We hope this guide helps you find the best programs for your community, and ultimately, to expand the opportunities for young people to help solve issues, build skills, and strengthen the fabric that binds us together.

We invite you to join us in imagining the impact service years at scale could have on our country and in your community. We hope you'll join us this important effort.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rosa Moreno".

Rosa Moreno
Managing Director, Growth
Service Year Alliance

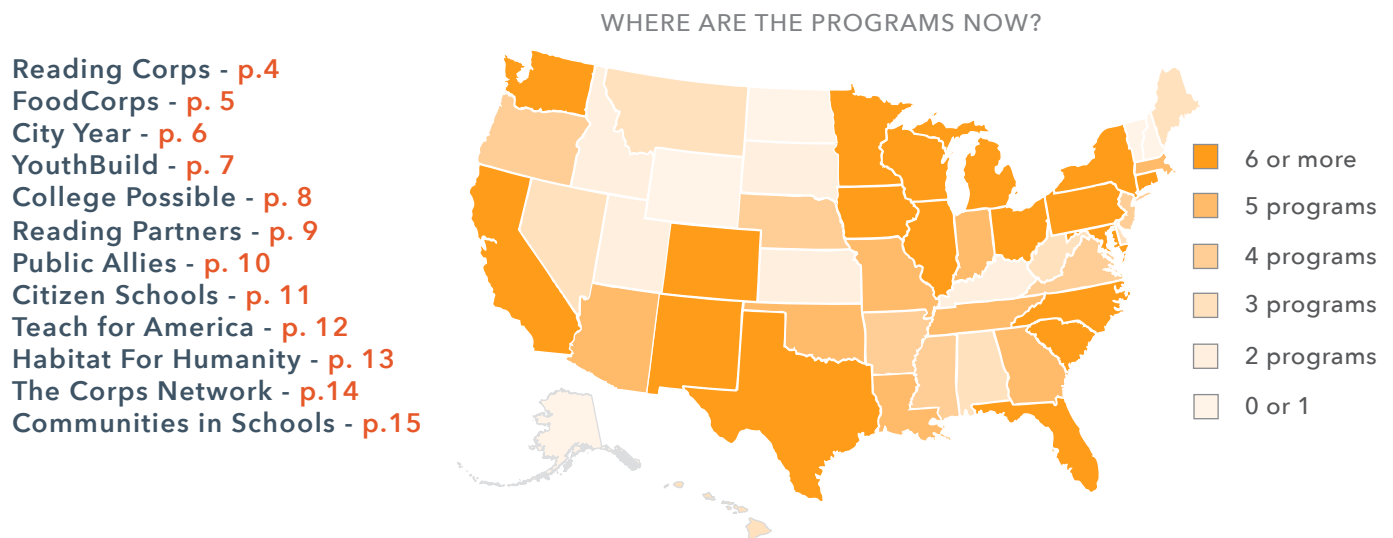
Service Year Program Expansion

ABOUT SERVICE YEAR ALLIANCE

Service Year Alliance is working to make a year of paid, full-time service – a service year – a common expectation and opportunity for all young Americans. A service year before, during, or after college – or as a way to get back on track – gives young people the chance to develop their skills, make an impact on the lives of others, and become the active citizens and leaders our nation needs. Expanding service years has the power to revitalize cities, uplift and educate children at risk, and empower communities struggling with poverty. It can unite the most diverse nation in history, binding people of different backgrounds through common cause. Service Year Alliance is asking nonprofits, higher education institutions, cities and states, companies and foundations, policymakers of both parties, and people of all ages to join the movement. **Learn more at [ServiceYear.org](https://www.serviceyear.org).**

HELPING GROW THE FIELD

Service Year Alliance works tirelessly to elevate and bring awareness to the concept of a service year. In order for this movement to grow, among other things, there needs to be continuous demand for positions and enough opportunities to participate. One of Service Year Alliance's operating strategies is to earnestly increase the number of service year opportunities for young people. These opportunities will be a combination of unique new programs and the expansion of already existing programs. There are communities across the United States that have yet to explore the notion of service to serve as a solution. Some of the toughest issues that our society faces are already being successfully tackled through service year programs operating all over the country. Many of these programs operate nationally and are readily replicable in communities across the US. **The programs featured in this idea book are:**



This guide is meant to provide a better understanding of the scope of resources necessary to make program expansion successful and to ultimately increase the number of service year opportunities. These prerequisites are not absolute and each program has its own unique requirements for exploring expansion which are subject to change at the discretion of the respective program's leadership.

HAVE QUESTIONS?: Contact Resources@ServiceYear.org

Reading Corps



THE CHALLENGE

Children who are not reading proficiently by third grade become at-risk for academic failure, and become four times less likely to graduate from high school on schedule.

THE SOLUTION

Reading Corps is proven to bring students up to grade level in reading. Reading Corps combines the power of national service with literacy science to deliver proven approaches that help struggling students catch up and achieve grade level reading proficiency. Tutors provide consistent, daily literacy practice to preschool and elementary aged students, all the while receiving rigorous training and ongoing expert literacy coaching throughout the year. With the help of data rich assessments, Reading Corps helps students reach their ultimate goals - grade level reading proficiency and increased confidence.

QUICK FACTS



ISSUE AREA: Education/Literacy



OF CORPS MEMBERS: 1,800



YEAR STARTED: 2003



LOCATIONS: CA, CO, DC, FL, IA, MA, MD, MI, MO, MN, ND, VA, WI

READINGCORPS.ORG

EXPANSION PROCESS

When exploring new partnerships, Reading Corps looks for the following:

- The existence of public-private partnerships—individuals, businesses, nonprofits, and local government all agree that there is a need in the community.
- A documented achievement gap among students of color, students eligible for free/reduced lunch, and English-language learners.



CONTACT: Service Year Alliance Growth Team at resources@serviceyear.org

FoodCorps



THE CHALLENGE

Healthy food is an essential building block for a full and productive life, but children face chronic barriers to eating it. Socioeconomic, racial, and geographic inequities in our country and shortcomings in our food system have resulted in an unacceptable number of children having insufficient opportunities to learn about, access, and enjoy healthy food.

THE SOLUTION

Collaborating with community partners and school teams, FoodCorps members provide an intervention designed to transform childrens' attitudes toward healthy eating and improve school food environments through three areas of service: hands-on learning, healthy school meals, and school wide culture of health.

QUICK FACTS



ISSUE AREA: Healthy Futures



OF CORPS MEMBERS: 205



YEAR STARTED: 2009



LOCATIONS: AR, AZ, CA, CT, DC, GA, HI, IA, MA, ME, MI, MS, MT, NJ, NM, NC, NY, OR
Native Communities in AZ, MI, MT, NC, NM, OR

[FOODCORPS.ORG](https://www.foodcorps.org)

EXPANSION PROCESS

In collaboration with statewide "host site" partners, that direct the FoodCorps program across the state, they select community-based organizations and schools that are at the forefront of locally-led efforts to support healthy food for kids as "service sites" that supervise and oversee FoodCorps AmeriCorps members. "Service Sites" are chosen based on:

- Designation as a high-need school—defined as having 50% or higher of its student population eligible for free or reduced lunch or other equal measure (such as community eligibility).
- A demonstrated commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion in all aspects of program management for FoodCorps.



CONTACT: Service Year Alliance Growth Team at resources@serviceyear.org

City Year



THE CHALLENGE

Every child has the potential to succeed, but some students in high poverty communities face adversity that interferes with their ability to arrive at school every day ready to learn. In many of these schools there is a gap between what students and teachers need and what schools have the capacity to provide.

THE SOLUTION

City Year is dedicated to helping students and schools succeed. Diverse teams of City Year AmeriCorps members serve full-time in high-poverty urban schools, providing high-impact student, classroom, and school-wide support to ultimately help students stay in school and on track to graduate from high school, and be ready for college and career success.

QUICK FACTS



ISSUE AREA: Education



OF CORPS MEMBERS: 3,000



YEAR STARTED: 1988



LOCATIONS: AR, CA, CO, DC, FL, IL, LA, MA, MI, MO, NH, NY, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, TN, TX, WA, WI

CITYYEAR.ORG

EXPANSION PROCESS

A proud member of the AmeriCorps national service network, City Year has grown to 28 locations across the United States through the dedication, leadership, and generosity of citizens, philanthropic institutions, and corporations. Each new City Year site must be developed in a manner which ensures that the site will be operationally sound and sustainable. City Year's Board of Trustees is vested with the authority to launch a new site. They take interest in potential sites where:

- The community's concentration of students who have dropped out of high school.
- There are commitments of partnership from community stakeholders including school district leaders, local elected officials, and individual champions.



CONTACT: Service Year Alliance Growth Team at resources@serviceyear.org



YouthBuild



THE CHALLENGE

Millions of 16 to 24 year old, low-income young people across the United States have energy, talent, and intelligence that are being wasted solely for lack of opportunity.

THE SOLUTION

At YouthBuild programs in the United States, Opportunity Youth who have left school without a diploma participate in a full time education programs to earn their high school credentials, gain employment skills and industry-recognized certifications, learn construction skills through building affordable housing for homeless and low-income people in their neighborhoods, and become leaders in their communities. Some programs also offer health care, digital literacy, customer service or other vocational training linked to their local labor markets. Students spend at least 50% of their time, usually alternate weeks, in personalized learning, and at least 40% of their time in hands-on job training building affordable housing or other community assets.

QUICK FACTS



ISSUE AREA: Education/Career, Leadership, and Community Development



OF YOUTHBUILD STUDENTS: 9,000



YEAR STARTED: 1978



LOCATIONS: AL,AR,AZ,CA,CO,CT,DC,FL,GA,HI,IA,ID,IL,IN,KS,KY,LA,MA,MD,ME,MI,MN,MO,MS,MT,NC,NE,NJ,NM,NV,NY,OH,OK,OR,PA,RI,SC,TN,TX, UT,VA,VI,VT,WA,WI,WV

[YOUTHBUILD.ORG](https://youthbuild.org)

EXPANSION PROCESS

YouthBuild partners with community organizations as affiliates who are committed to achieving the program design and performance standards established by the YouthBuild USA Affiliated Network. The exploratory phase with YouthBuild begins with:

- The creation of a basic profile on youthbuild.org, where there are resources and pathways to determine if YouthBuild is a good fit for your community and options for beginning the process of launching a new program.
- An understanding of the five essential integrated components of a comprehensive model and community partnerships that are critical to a program's success.



CONTACT: Service Year Alliance Growth Team at resources@serviceyear.org

College Possible



THE CHALLENGE

College has the ability to positively change an individual's life trajectory. Unfortunately, it is not an opportunity afforded to all and many of our country's students who come from low-income backgrounds do not get adequate mentorship to help them realize their goals of reaching college and its successes.

THE SOLUTION

College Possible makes college admission and success attainable for low-income students through an intensive curriculum of coaching and support. Coaches, who serve as AmeriCorps members, guide high school students through all of the key aspects of preparing for college during after-school sessions for two hours twice a week. Over the course of their junior and senior years, students complete 320 hours of curriculum with a supportive group of college-bound peers. College Possible high school graduates are coached through the transition to college and are supported all the way through college graduation.

EXPANSION PROCESS

College Possible's expansion efforts will power an ambitious 65% graduation rate for their students, new partnerships with more than 400 colleges and an enhanced community-college-to-bachelor's-degree pipeline by 2021. As part of their strategic growth plan, College Possible considers the following when exploring relationships:

- A strong support base in the local community, thereby demonstrating possible long-term financial sustainability of the site.
- The ability to match seed funds one-to-one.

QUICK FACTS



ISSUE AREA: Education/College Access



OF CORPS MEMBERS: 200



YEAR STARTED: 2000



LOCATIONS: IL, MN, NE, OR, PA, WI

COLLEGEPOSSIBLE.ORG



CONTACT: Contact: Service Year Alliance Growth Team at resources@serviceyear.org

Reading Partners



THE CHALLENGE

Nationwide, only 20% of low-income students, and 34% of students overall, are reading proficiently by the fourth grade and these numbers have not changed significantly in the past 15 years. Children who cannot read proficiently by the fourth grade are four times less likely to graduate on time—hindering their chances to succeed in college, career, and life.

THE SOLUTION

Reading Partners is guided by the belief that reading is the foundation for all future learning, and the ability to read transforms lives and empowers children and communities to reach their full potential. Reading Partners, through the service of AmeriCorps members, mobilizes communities by carefully training and supporting volunteers to work one-on-one with students for 45 minutes twice a week. Volunteers follow a structured, research-based curriculum, to provide students with the proven, individualized reading support they need to read at grade level by fourth grade.

QUICK FACTS



ISSUE AREA: Education/Literacy



OF CORPS MEMBERS: 236



YEAR STARTED: 2001



LOCATIONS: CA, CO, DC, MD, MN, NC, NY, OK, SC, TX, WA

READINGPARTNERS.ORG

EXPANSION PROCESS

Interested schools/school districts should have the following in order for Reading Partners to consider expanding into their community:

- A significant number of elementary-aged students who are reading below grade level and qualify for free/reduced lunch
- School and district leadership that has decided to prioritize literacy and can dedicate resources to supporting the program, financially and philosophically
- A local philanthropic base that may be willing to privately support such an endeavor

Schools and districts meeting these requirements are encouraged to submit an online interest form to begin an exploratory conversation.



CONTACT: Contact: Service Year Alliance Growth Team at resources@serviceyear.org

Public Allies



THE CHALLENGE

Lasting social change has always resulted from the acts of the many, and not just the inspiration of the few. The nation faces worrisome disparities around employment, education, and equity in communities all across the nation and the leadership needed to address the disparities are often overlooked and underutilized within these communities.

THE SOLUTION

Public Allies combines the power of national service and community partnerships to provide opportunities for passionate young leaders who come from talent-filled, yet underrepresented, communities. Core to their approach is rigorous leadership training. The training is a combination of group sessions that stress a commitment to a just and equitable society through the practice of core human values, continued higher-education and career supports, and an apprenticeship with a local nonprofit organization.

QUICK FACTS



ISSUE AREA: Leadership



OF CORPS MEMBERS: 700



YEAR STARTED: 1992



LOCATIONS: AZ, CA, CO, CT, DC, DE, FL, IA, IL, IN, MD, MI, MN, OH, NC, NM, NY, PA, TX, WI

PUBLICALLIES.ORG

EXPANSION PROCESS

As a national organization, local operating partners play an important role in helping develop new leadership. Public Allies looks for operating partners who:

- Are well-established nonprofit organizations or university centers
- Have missions complementary to Public Allies'
- Possess a strong organizational capacity
- Carry a culture that's supportive of Public Allies' unique leadership approach



CONTACT: Contact: Service Year Alliance Growth Team at resources@serviceyear.org

Citizen Schools



THE CHALLENGE

Students in upper-income families spend 300 more hours each year with adults than do their lower-income counterparts. Upper-income students also benefit from almost \$8,000 worth of enrichment activities yearly - robotics camp, piano lessons, academic tutoring and more. By sixth grade this contributes to an opportunity gap of over 6,000 hours of learning, resulting in a tremendous loss of moments for discovery.

THE SOLUTION

Citizen Schools addresses this critical gap in education - not the “achievement gap” but the opportunity gap - by mobilizing a team of passionate AmeriCorps members, aspiring educators, and community volunteers to enable public middle schools in low-income communities to provide a longer learning day, rich with new opportunities.

QUICK FACTS



ISSUE AREA: Education/After School Enrichment



OF CORPS MEMBERS: 170



YEAR STARTED: 1995



LOCATIONS: CA, IL, MA, NC, NY, TX

CITIZENSCHOOLS.ORG

EXPANSION PROCESS

When considering a partnership with a new school district, Citizen Schools requires the following commitments from both the district and the participating schools to ensure that resources are aligned toward making an impact:

- Strong leadership with shared commitment to program quality and partnership
- Financial support ~50% towards total direct costs
- In kind support for program logistics (transportation, physical space, support staff- eg. custodial, security, access to joint professional development opportunities for teaching staff)
- Access to student performance data
- Regular meetings with school staff to discuss academic data, logistics, and ongoing challenges



CONTACT: Contact: Service Year Alliance Growth Team at resources@serviceyear.org

Teach for America



THE CHALLENGE

There are more than 16 million children growing up in poverty in the United States. Of them, 1 in 3 will not graduate high school, and of those who do, 18% will enter a four-year college and ultimately only 9% will get a bachelor's degree by age 25.

THE SOLUTION

Teach For America works in partnership with communities to expand educational opportunity for children facing the challenges of poverty. Founded in 1990, Teach For America recruits and develops a diverse corps of outstanding college graduates and professionals to make a two-year commitment to teach in high-need schools and become lifelong leaders in the effort to end educational inequity.

QUICK FACTS



ISSUE AREA: Education



OF CORPS MEMBERS: 8,600



YEAR STARTED: 1990



LOCATIONS: AL, AR, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, HI, ID, IL, IN, KY, LA, MA, MD, MI, MN, MO, MS, NC, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OK, OH, PA, RI, SD, SC, TN, TX, WA

[TEACHFORAMERICA.ORG](https://teachforamerica.org)

EXPANSION PROCESS

Before entering a new community, Teach For America considers the following:

- The size and depth of the educational disparity in the community
- The level of support from the local school system and officials
- The guarantee of sustainable funding (including from the business and philanthropic communities)



CONTACT: Contact: Service Year Alliance Growth Team at resources@serviceyear.org



Communities in Schools



THE CHALLENGE

One million American students drop out of school each year because of various reasons: lack of access to resources and support that lead to low attendance rates, problems with behavior, and lower grades. Some students do not receive the support they need so that they can focus on learning.

THE SOLUTION

As a federated network, Communities in Schools relies on local affiliates to establish community relationships and identify target schools where integrated Student Supports is needed. Communities in Schools' unique model is based on Integrated Student Supports and positions site coordinators inside schools to assess students' needs and provide resources to help them succeed in the classroom and in life. They partner with local businesses, social service agencies, health care providers and volunteers and support goes beyond academics and includes basic needs, enrichment, family engagement, life skills, and behavioral interventions.

QUICK FACTS



ISSUE AREA: Education



OF CORPS MEMBERS: 260



YEAR STARTED: 1977



LOCATIONS: AK, CA, DC, DE, FL, GA, IA, IL, IN, KS, LA, MA, MI, NC, NE, NM, NV, NY, OH, OK, PA, SC, TN, TX, VA, WA, WV

[COMMUNITIESINSCHOOLS.ORG](https://communitiesinschools.org)

EXPANSION PROCESS

Starting a new local affiliate requires the presence of a Communities In Schools state office in the state where the community is located or the support and approval of the Communities and Schools national office where no state office exists. The role of the state office is to provide introductions to community leaders to gauge their interest in building a local affiliate, identify a local liaison who will spearhead efforts to bring Communities In Schools to the community, and then work with the local liaison to plan the next steps for starting an affiliate. With the assistance of a liaison, founding an affiliate requires:

- The development of a local task force
- An assessment of community needs and assets
- The creation of a work plan
- The existence of sufficient infrastructure
- An understanding of CIS's Total Quality Systems standards



CONTACT: Contact: Service Year Alliance Growth Team at resources@serviceyear.org

The Corps Network



THE CHALLENGE

Young Americans age 16-24 experience unemployment rates over twice the national average. Meanwhile, many of our nation's natural spaces, parks, and urban centers are experiencing environmental degradation due to a growing workforce gap and a shortage of resources devoted to conservation.

THE SOLUTION

Service and Conservation Corps harness the power of youth and young adults to tackle some of America's greatest challenges – deteriorating parks and natural spaces, youth unemployment, the opportunity gap, and climate change, disaster, and resource shortages. Corps members develop job and leadership skills, earn professional certifications, and network with potential employers. They receive a living allowance as well as an education award or scholarship, often with access to mental health, career planning, and educational counseling. They complete service projects such as weatherizing homes, operating recycling facilities, installing green infrastructure and constructing hiking trails.

EXPANSION PROCESS

The Corps Network does not create new programs without ample support and enthusiasm from local stakeholders. State and local governments or community based nonprofits interested in starting a Corps program can:

- Request access to the "Starting a Corps" manual, which provides an overview of Corps programming, the three phases of starting a program, and several case studies
- Request a feasibility study where The Corps Network analyzes local opportunities and challenges for starting a Corps
- Join The Corps Network as an Emerging Corps member, which allows access to The Corps Network's resource library, technical assistance offerings, and network of 130 Service and Conservation Corps

QUICK FACTS



ISSUE AREA: Workforce Development, Environment, Disaster Response



OF CORPS MEMBERS: 24,000



YEAR STARTED: 1985



LOCATIONS: AK, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DC, FL, GA, HI, IA, ID, IL, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MS, MT, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OH, OR, PA, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, VT, WA, WI, WV, WY

[CORPSNETWORK.ORG](https://corpsnetwork.org)



CONTACT: Service Year Alliance Growth Team at resources@serviceyear.org



Habitat for Humanity



THE CHALLENGE

In 2013, 48.5 million people were living in poverty the United States. Minimum wage has not kept up with the rising cost of living and many workers struggle to afford decent housing. Lack of stable housing causes ripple effects, negatively impacting educational and job prospects, health, physical safety and security, and overall quality of life for families and children all over the world.

THE SOLUTION

Habitat for Humanity is guided by the vision that every person in the world has a decent place to live. Habitat for Humanity's operations focus on helping to build, renovate or preserve homes, and partnering with others to accelerate and broaden access to affordable housing as a foundation for breaking the cycle of poverty. AmeriCorps volunteers work in communities across 35 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands to help homeowners achieve strength, stability and independence through shelter. Members serve in a variety of leadership roles on active build sites or in local Habitat offices, assisting homeowners, volunteers and staff.

EXPANSION PROCESS

Habitat for Humanity is able to maintain such an expansive presence through its affiliate model. Affiliates are community-level Habitat for Humanity offices that service a specific area in partnership with and on behalf of Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI). Habitat affiliates use the AmeriCorps program to build their capacity to serve more families. Habitat looks for the following qualities when considering affiliate applications:

- A demonstration of community need and reflection about how the AmeriCorps program will allow address that need
- A comprehensive illustration of how AmeriCorps member(s) will be trained, supervised, and supported
- An ability to financially support the cost share for the program

QUICK FACTS



ISSUE AREA: Affordable Housing/
Housing Development



OF CORPS MEMBERS: 450



YEAR STARTED: 1994



LOCATIONS: WA, OR, CA, AZ, MT, UT, CO, NM, TX, KS, NE, SD, IA, MO, LA, MS, AL, GA, FL, WI, IL, IN, OH, TN, SC, NC, VA, WV, MD, PA, NJ, CT, NY, MA, ME

[HABITAT.ORG](https://www.habitat.org)



CONTACT: Service Year Alliance Growth Team at resources@serviceyear.org



serviceyear.org