



**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
SERVE KENTUCKY**

Andy Beshear
Governor

275 East Main Street, 3W-E
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 564-7420
www.serve.ky.gov

Eric C. Friedlander
Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Susan Dunlap, (502) 226-0245,
susan.dunlap@ky.gov

Kentucky Receives \$8.1 Million in Federal AmeriCorps Service Grants

Federal funding will help meet critical state and local needs

FRANKFORT, Ky. (July 14, 2021) – The Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) acknowledged today proof of commitment to Kentucky communities from AmeriCorps, a national service program administered by Serve Kentucky, a CHFS agency. Twenty-two AmeriCorps-funded grants will provide more than \$8.1 million in federal funding in Kentucky.

Gov. Andy Beshear said, “Through the support of AmeriCorps, Kentucky’s commitment to service will be significantly boosted. As we continue to recover from the pandemic, AmeriCorps members and volunteers are even more crucial, and this commitment from AmeriCorps will help us continue to make positive impact in our communities.”

The grant funding is provided by AmeriCorps, the federal agency for national service and community volunteerism. Funding will impact efforts in Kentucky ranging from utility assistance, to housing needs, to clothing and food to those in need, to tutoring, mentoring, teaching and other educational services for all grade levels and post-secondary, to helping to address social needs at senior centers, senior living facilities and hospice facilities.

Every year, 75,000 AmeriCorps members serve through thousands of nonprofit, community and faith-based organizations across the country. These citizens have played a critical role in the recovery of communities affected by disasters and helped thousands of first-generation college students access higher education. AmeriCorps brings people together to tackle the county’s most pressing challenges. Since the agency’s inception in 1994, nearly 1.2 million AmeriCorps members have served the nation.

Kentucky received more than \$5.3 million in national competitive grant funding for nine AmeriCorps programs along with \$2.8 million in formula grant funding to support additional state programs. Serve Kentucky awarded grants to 12 additional programs based on this state-allocated funding. AmeriCorps program sponsors are also contributing nearly \$7 million in local funding matches. The AmeriCorps federal agency will make

available more than \$4 million in Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards. After completing a full term of service, members are eligible for \$6,345 for college, postsecondary education or to pay back student loans.

For the past year, thousands of AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors members across all 50 states and U.S. territories have continued their service, quickly adapting to meet the changing needs caused by the pandemic. Dedicated members have persisted to support communities as they respond and recover from the impact of COVID-19, developing new ways to deliver the same services to keep both themselves and those they serve safe.

The recently passed American Rescue Plan includes an additional \$1 billion for AmeriCorps. The federal agency will use this investment to expand national service programs into new communities and increase the opportunity for all Americans to serve their country.

CHFS Secretary Eric Friedlander praised AmeriCorps for its support. Program funding, he noted, impacts Kentucky's quest to build more resilient communities. Friedlander said, "As Team Kentucky moves forward with building a better commonwealth following the pandemic, the programs supported by Serve Kentucky and AmeriCorps will play a significant role in making Kentuckians and the places they live more resilient and ready for a brighter future."

Serve Kentucky Executive Director Joe Bringardner said that AmeriCorps funding helps provide services to aging Kentuckians, disaster relief, K-12 tutoring and mentoring, college readiness support, financial literacy, housing assistance, environmental education, and food support services across the commonwealth. He said, "AmeriCorps members use their talents, their vision and their boundless energy to establish immediate and long-lasting change in Kentucky."

AmeriCorps grants are awarded to eligible organizations which galvanize members to strengthen communities. This is done through faith-based and nonprofit organizations; educational institutions; local government entities, and state agencies. The full list of grant recipients can be found online here: https://serve.ky.gov/americorps/Documents/FY21_KY_AmeriCorps_Grants.pdf.

Friedlander said AmeriCorps expands educational and economic opportunities across the state while it helps communities meet local needs.

Including additional match funding and educational grants, AmeriCorps programs will result in a \$19.1 million investment in Kentucky. This funding will continue to build workforce and community resources, while addressing many critical needs across the commonwealth.

Learn more about Serve Kentucky and AmeriCorps at www.serve.ky.gov or by calling 502-564-7420.

Note: Competitive grants are awarded nationally for fixed periods for specific projects and costs. Formula grants are awarded by the bipartisan Serve Kentucky commission based on local needs, Governor's Office priorities, geographic and program diversity, performance measurements and federal focus areas.

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The Cabinet for Health and Family Services is home to most of the state's human services and health care programs, including the Department for Medicaid Services; the Department for Community Based Services; the Department for Public Health; the Department for Aging and Independent Living; and the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities. CHFS is one of the largest agencies in state government, with nearly 8,000 full- and part-time employees located across the Commonwealth focused on improving the lives and health of Kentuckians.