



KENTUCKY YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH CORPS

Expanding access. Strengthening workforce. Supporting youth.

Serve Kentucky is launching the Youth Mental Health Corps, a nationwide initiative to address the youth mental health crisis while providing a pathway for young adults to promising and meaningful careers. Supported by a **\$500,000** grant, the program connects public health, education, workforce, and community partners to expand access and strengthen services.



\$500,000 GRANT
30-month initiative



50-100 MEMBERS
Young adults ages 18-24



LAUNCH: SEPT. 2026
Statewide rollout

WHAT IT DOES

- Places trained peer navigators in schools and community settings
- Expands access to youth mental health support
- Builds service-to-career pathways
- Prepares young adults for behavioral health careers

WHY IT MATTERS

- Addresses the youth mental health crisis
- Tackles the behavioral health workforce shortage
- Supports vulnerable youth where they are
- Creates economic mobility for young Kentuckians

HOW IT WORKS

- Hosted by existing AmeriCorps programs across Kentucky
- Members receive training, certifications, and credentials
- Provides paid service opportunities and education award

For more information, contact Serve Kentucky at AmeriCorps@ky.gov or 502.564.7420.





KENTUCKY YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH CORPS

MEMBER PATHWAYS



School Mental Health Navigator

- Serve at schools, out-of-school time, and community-based organizations as peer navigators
- Earn certifications, credentials, and/or higher education credit



Peer Support Specialist

- Based at nonprofits as peer support navigators
- Lived experience in substance use disorders or mental health challenges
- Earn certifications



Community Mental Health Navigators

- Based in youth-serving organizations as peer or near-peer navigators
- Earn Community Health Worker certification
- Serving communities with limited access to mental health services

QUALIFICATIONS



1. Must be 18-24 years old at start of service
2. Must have or be working towards a High School Diploma or GED equivalent
3. Must be a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or Lawful Permanent Resident
4. Interest in behavioral health, psychology, social work, human services, or related fields

MEMBER BENEFITS



Living Allowance



Segal AmeriCorps Education Award



Professional certification and/or credentials



Networking with other YMHC members



Career coaching and skill development



Supervised experience in behavioral health service

Youth Mental Health Corps helps young adults build meaningful careers while strengthening support systems for Kentucky youth.

