



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.





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BENEFITS OF YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH CORPS

Supporting employers. Strengthening partnerships. Expanding opportunity.



BENEFITS FOR EMPLOYERS

- Builds a stronger pipeline of work-ready young adults
- Increases organizational capacity and expands support services
- Creates a longer-term on-ramp to behavioral and mental health careers
- Provides structured, supervised member experiences through established program hosts
- Reduces recruitment and onboarding barriers for participating organizations



BENEFITS FOR WORKFORCE PARTNERS

- Strengthens connections among education, workforce, and service providers
- Improves experiences for members, volunteers, staff, and clients
- Expands access to training opportunities and service capacity
- Supports collaboration across systems serving Kentucky youth
- Enhances long-term workforce development strategies statewide

HOW PARTNERS CAN ENGAGE

HOST



Provide service placements and supervision

TRAIN



Support certifications, coaching, and career development

CONNECT



Collaborate across education, workforce, and behavioral health systems

Together, we can expand access to mental health supports for youth and build a stronger behavioral health workforce for Kentucky.

