

ANNUAL REPORT



2021



Volunteer Maine
Maine Commission for Community Service



Message From the Chair

Greetings!

As Chair and on behalf of the Commissioners, I have the distinct honor to share with you the 2021 Annual Report for Volunteer Maine, the Maine Commission for Community Service. It is with the utmost pride and gratitude that we invite you to review the past year and the critical work of Volunteer Maine as it continues its mission to create and support a stronger Maine through volunteerism.

As we look back on the past year, we are mindful of the energies, commitment to service, and mission of Mainers taking care of Mainers that have been stretched so thinly, tested harshly, and nearly exhausted by the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. But, as we look back we do not see defeat, we do not see resignation. What we have seen instead is strength, vision, tenacity, and heart.

The strength we see is in the everyday efforts and determination of volunteers and organizations to deliver AND develop services to support and serve our communities and our neighbors.

The vision is in the collaboration with citizen lawmakers to successfully enact and develop legislation that established the Maine Service Fellows program and the guiding steps to create the Maine Climate Corps. These vital service corps will not only serve Maine, but present opportunities for public-private partnerships to address the needs of our communities, our environment, the people of Maine and the future generations of our bold, fierce State in ways that are Maine-sized for our small, rural regions, as well as our larger, more populated cities and towns.

The tenacity is in the dedication of staff, programs, volunteers, corps members, policy makers and Commissioners who have adapted to emerging needs – improvised with sometimes disrupted tool belts and supplies – and overcome challenges by working together and supporting each other as we build a stronger Maine.

The heart is the ongoing work being done by all to ensure that services and programs continue to be delivered equitably and justly to ALL Mainers. As we continue fulfilling our mission, we have embarked upon in-depth examination and study of our policies and practices to ensure that no Mainer is left behind. Our commitment to this effort has been taken on by our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion subgroup, and this work continues to engage our staff and full Commission in finding ways to increase access and support, and remove barriers that limit or hinder our volunteer services from reaching every Mainer. We are committed to ensuring that ALL Mainers are served, and that ALL Mainers can and will be a part of a stronger Maine.

Volunteer Maine is the only entity, public or non-profit, that is mission-driven to build and fortify the capacity and sustainability of volunteerism in Maine's public and non-profit sectors. We are proud of the work we are charged with and extremely proud of the people whose talents, expertise, and commitment make it possible. While we welcome your interest, engagement, and involvement, we also extend to you our gratitude for entrusting and investing in us to serve our State and our fellow Mainers.

With gratitude,

Jenni Tilton-Flood
Commission Chair

Our Core Values



Our Impact

Working to Impact Maine's Volunteer Sector



We Serve



Managers of Volunteers



Maine National Service Grantees



Organizations Seeking to Engage Volunteers



Agencies Seeking to Develop National Service Programs

Our Assets



Our Resources



How We Serve



Promote service as a strategy.



Provide training and technical assistance to volunteer programs & staff.



Make, administer, and evaluate volunteer program grants.



Foster high quality volunteer management practices.

We Are Volunteer Maine



Jenni Tilton-Flood
Chair



Luke Shorty
Chair-elect



Pamela Proulx-Curry
Vice Chair



F. Celeste Branham
Immediate Past Chair



Ryan Almy



Susan Asselin Hawthorne



Edward Barrett



Susan Cheesman



Peter Doak



Julia Fiori



Stacie Haines



Matthew L'Italien



Zachary Maher



Robert Meinders



Jessica Nixon



John Portela



Nathaniel Rudy




Commissioners


Commissioners Completing Service

Jonathan Barczyk
Mathison Deering
Lisa Phelps
Dale Rowley

Supporters

Alana Shapiro, Saco
Alina Wright, Maine Emergency Management Agency
Bangor Daily News
Bangor Savings Bank
Ben Filippo, Naples
Bill Birney, Oakland
Cabot Creamery Cooperative
Carin Reisch, Consultant, Volunteer Management
Charles Curtis, Volunteer New York!
Christine Force, Yarmouth
Elisabeth Donovan, Galaxy Digital
Esperanza Stancioff, UMaine Sea Grant
Jack Frost, Ellsworth
Jared McCannell, Penobscot Language School
Jennifer Trowbridge, Ellsworth
Jessica Friedlander, Volunteer New York!
Joanna Martel, South Portland

Kayla Hartt, Windham
Madelyn Hennessey, West Bath
Maine Association of Broadcasters
Maine Volunteer Foundation
Mark Battle, Ph.D., Bowdoin College
Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation
Mott Foundation
Nate Hinchey, Portland
Orion Breen, Durham
Patricia Oh, UMaine Center on Aging
Rachel Puckett, Michigan State University Extension
Representative Morgan Rielly, District 34, Westbrook
Ron Holmes, New Sharon
Sara Grant, Senior Companions, UMaine Center on Aging
Tracy Harkins, Harkins Consulting
Veronica Kupferman, Knox

Office Team



Maryalice Crofton
Executive Director



Michael Ashmore
Program Development/
Training Officer



Jamie McFaul
Grants Officer



Bryan Roche
Communications Officer



Kelsey Preecs
Program Officer, Volunteer
Sector Initiatives



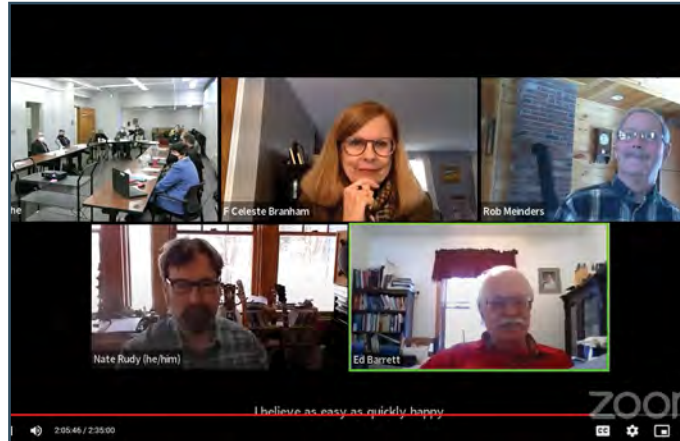
Nathan McIvor
Office Administrator



Kate Klibansky
Climate Corps Planner

2021: A (Virtu

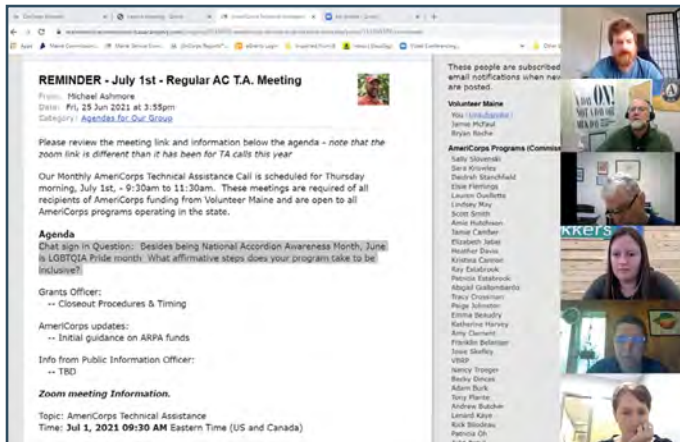
Virtual and hybrid
Volunteer Maine
Commission full
business meetings



Season 1 of "Issues" convers
volunte



12 virtual AmeriCorps
technical assistance
meetings



Virtual
AmeriCorps
Member
Conference



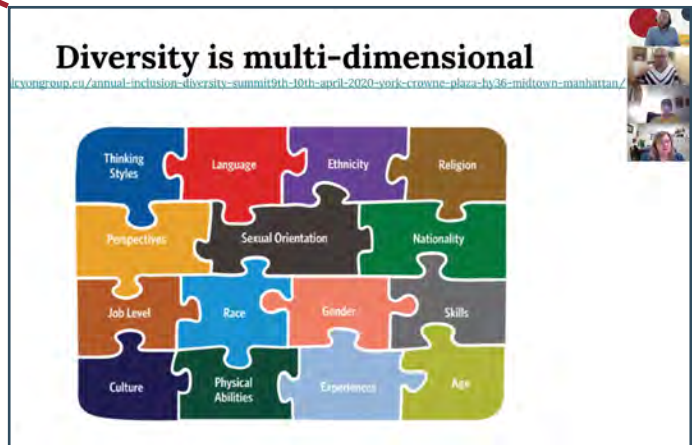
al) Roadmap

Education series on service and volunteerism



35th Governor's Awards for Service and Volunteerism virtual ceremony

Virtual Maine Volunteer Leadership Conference

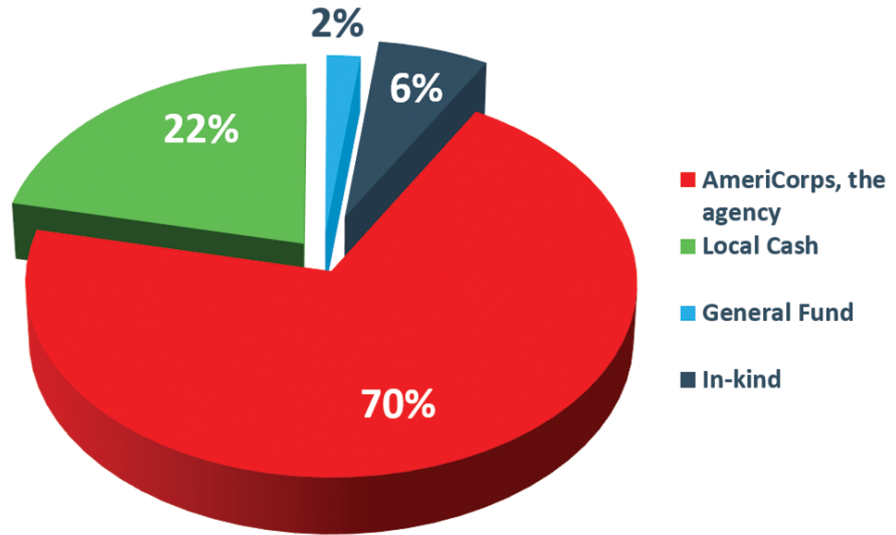


27th Maine AmeriCorps Induction Ceremony

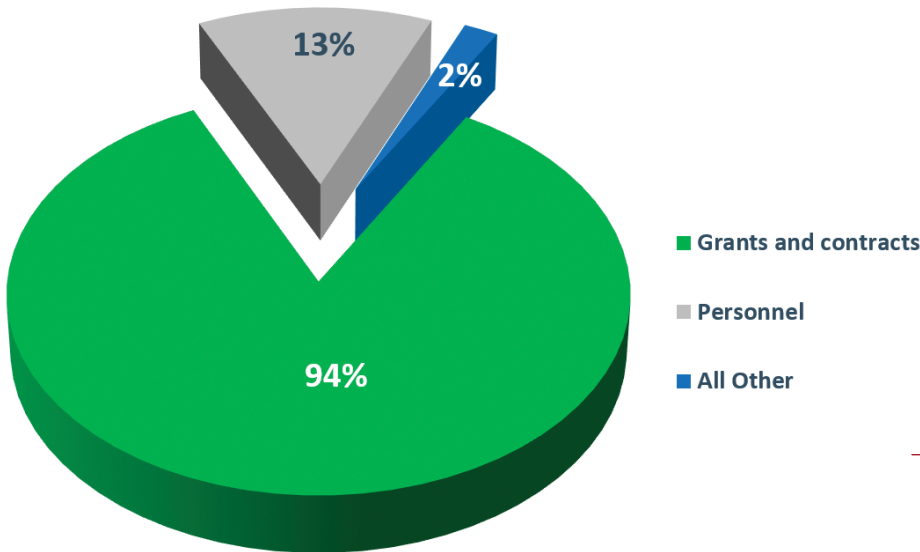


Commission Fundamentals & Finances

2021 Revenues



\$3,419,935	Total revenues
\$2,398,691	Federal funds from AmeriCorps (formerly the Corporation for National and Community Service)
\$ 739,137	Local cash (registration fees for training, private sponsorships of activities, grants, etc.)
\$ 65,336	State of Maine General Fund
\$ 216,771	In-kind donations of services, space, supplies (valued according to Government Accounting Standards)



\$3,297,670	Total expenses
\$ 440,273	Personnel
\$2,792,474	Grants and contracts*
\$ 40,231	Indirect costs
\$ 64,923	All other (includes communications, supplies, occupancy, indirect, etc.)

2021 Expenses

*Includes AmeriCorps State and Volunteer Generation Federal grants to communities. This data is for informational purposes only and is not an official financial statement.

SURVEY RESULTS: COVID-19'S IMPACT ON MAINE VOLUNTEERING



WHO WAS REPRESENTED?

44%

RURAL

Urban and rural organizations



Agency volunteer manager or senior administrator

Every Maine county



Most agencies had small budgets for volunteer service

Agencies of all sizes

24% HAD BUDGETS UNDER \$100,000

67% HAD BUDGETS OVER \$500,000

67%

REPORTED VOLUNTEER SERVICE BUDGET IS **UNDER 10%** OF AGENCY BUDGET

HOW DID COVID IMPACT VOLUNTEER SERVICES?

74%

reduced or eliminated volunteer direct services to customers or clients

85%

reported a decrease or elimination of service hours by volunteers

94%

reduced or eliminated in-person service by volunteers

83%

continued at reduced capacity

78%

reported some level of volunteer resignations

32%

of those who continued at a reduced capacity reported older volunteers who had to resign were replaced with new, younger volunteers

MORE RURAL PROGRAMS REPORTED...



staff responsible for overseeing volunteer services were reduced or eliminated (**35%** rural; **25%** urban programs)



volunteers' lack of internet access impacted communication and restricted options for moving to virtual activities



limited transportation options impacted the degree to which volunteer services could be redesigned (**61%**)



less concern about volunteer attrition once restrictions are lifted (**80%** rural; **62%** urban)

ACCESS THE FULL SURVEY ONLINE:
VolunteerMaine.gov/Media/News/Covid-Impact-Survey-2021

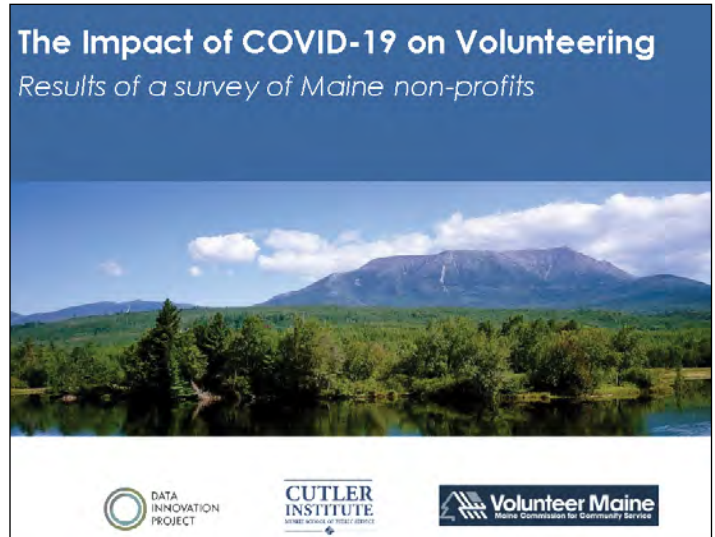
The survey was conducted by the Data Innovation Project and the Survey Research Center at the University of Southern Maine on behalf of Volunteer Maine, the Maine Commission for Community Service.



Enhancing Service Delivery

The Impact of COVID-19 on Volunteering: Results of a Survey of Maine Non-profits

The purpose of the survey -- conducted by the Data Innovation Project and the Survey Research Center at the University of Southern Maine on behalf of Volunteer Maine -- is to help gain a better understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on Maine's nonprofit volunteer base, and learn how Volunteer Maine can most effectively contribute to the sector's recovery. Key findings from the survey can be viewed on the infographic published on the previous page.



Volunteer Generation Fund

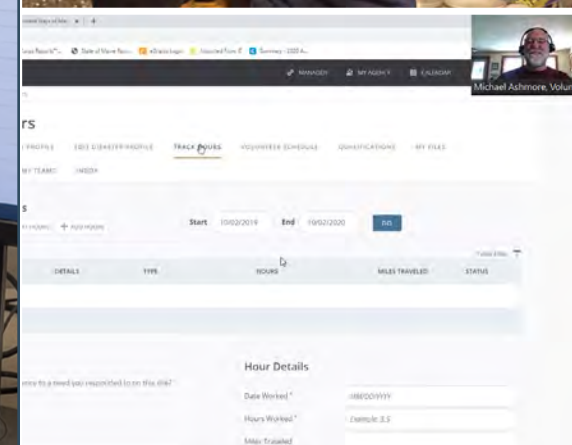
With funding from AmeriCorps, the Maine Volunteer Generation Fund grant supports volunteerism in the State by providing resources for volunteer managers to build and sustain stronger volunteer programs. Examples of resources include offering small grants, training, and networking opportunities.

What Happened?

- ⊛ **Maine Volunteer Managers Network:** It gives people who work with volunteers a chance to network with peers and access resources that can strengthen their volunteer program. Launching in November 2021, the group had 31 members by December 31, 2021.
- ⊛ **Certificate in Management of Volunteers 101:** Ten people earned the certificate in 2021. This provides novice level skills to develop and run volunteer programs.
- ⊛ **Service Enterprise:** A program that trains and coaches organizations to better integrate volunteers into their daily missions. Seven organizations completed 17.5 hours of training each and then worked to earn a certification as a Service Enterprise.
- ⊛ **44 organizations represented at Maine Volunteer Leadership Conference:** The Maine Volunteer Leadership Conference (MVLC) is

Maine's only statewide educational event focused on engaging citizens in volunteer service. Typically held in October, the conference annually attracts between 250 and 300 volunteer managers.

- ⊛ **\$18,626 of grants** awarded to community agencies
- ⊛ **\$16,698 leveraged by grants** (local cash and in-kind donations)
- ⊛ **Funds awarded by Mott Foundation: \$20,000** -- The ASC Youth Grant, sponsored by the Mott Foundation, is allowing Volunteer Maine to provide Service Learning to community organizations. Service Learning is a type service that allows the students to take the reigns of how they want to affect change in their community. Organizations will learn how to do quality Service Learning projects and receive coaching to help build new programming.
- ⊛ **Maine Service Instigator grant:** The Service Instigator grant focused on food insecurity in Maine and required youth to investigate how they can impact hunger issues in their communities. For example, Bryant Pond looked into access to fresh food for seniors in their community and how they could be more inclusive in their community gardens. Youth decided to create handicap accessible garden beds to allow for more access to produce. They are also planning on growing their community garden for years to come to allow for more produce.



Maine Ready

Prepare. Respond. Recover.

In 2021, Volunteer Maine provided increased outreach and training opportunities for MaineReady.org, an emergency response volunteering platform. In 2021, **760 users** across the State were recruited to utilize the platform while **19 organizations** participated in training activities.

This site provides state, county and other emergency response and management organizations a virtual way to coordinate offers of help with on-the-ground needs for assistance. Agencies are able to post volunteer opportunities, recruit volunteers, communicate with users, track volunteer hours and schedule volunteer shifts for disaster response. Maine Ready allows potential volunteers to create a profile with information about their interest and special skills and connects them to volunteer opportunities that match that profile. Volunteers also have the opportunity to search by location or follow specific agencies to be notified of needs. Maine Ready is a joint effort of the Maine Emergency Management Agency and Volunteer Maine.



Maine Service Fellows: an Update

The enactment of L.D. 1010, *An Act to Establish the Maine Service Fellows Program*, made Maine Service Fellows a permanent part of Commission responsibilities. L.D. 1010 was signed by Governor Janet T. Mills on June 10, 2021.

Rep. Morgan Rielly (D - Westbrook) introduced legislation to create the program.

The bill was co-sponsored by Sen. Joseph Baldacci (D - Penobscot), Rep. Nathan Carlow (R - Buxton), Rep. Kristen Cloutier (D - Lewiston), House Speaker Ryan Fecteau (D - Biddeford), Rep. Ann Matlack (D - St. George), and Sen. Marianne Moore (R - Washington), Rep. Walter Riseman (I - Harrison), and Rep. Sophia Warren (I - Scarborough).



Gov. Janet T. Mills (center, seated) signs "An Act to Establish the Maine Service Fellows Program" into law during a June 30, 2021 ceremony. Also pictured, left to right, F. Celeste Branham, Immediate Past Chair of Volunteer Maine; Rep. Morgan Rielly (D - Westbrook); Maryalice Crofton, Volunteer Maine Executive Director; Rep. Lori Gramlich (D - Old Orchard Beach); and Hannah Pingree, Director, Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future.

The Program Will:

- ✪ provide rural and underserved communities in the State a resource to address critical health and human, public safety, education and environmental needs;
- ✪ increase the opportunities for individuals to devote a year of service to communities in the State;
- ✪ attract to and retain in the State motivated adults who have completed a college degree within the prior five years to serve in positions where they can apply skills and abilities to projects for the benefit of citizens of the State; and
- ✪ strengthen civic engagement of both the program fellows and community residents through solutions based in whole or in part in volunteer service.

During the first three years of operation of Maine Service Fellows, the Commission is directed to ensure that members focus on helping communities recover from the effects of the pandemic while also addressing long-term issues that communities face.

Advisory Committee

The Maine Service Fellows statute directs the Committee to ensure the program is advised by local leadership, suggest criteria for the selection of program fellows, encourage publicity of the program, and assist the Commission in monitoring progress of the program. Reports of the committee meetings are posted on the Volunteer Maine website and the meetings are announced on the calendar. Additional information can be accessed at [VolunteerMaine.gov/Serve-In-Maine/Service-Fellows](https://www.volunteermaine.gov/Serve-In-Maine/Service-Fellows)

Advisory Committee Members:

- ✪ F. Celeste Branham, Committee Chair and Commission Immediate Past Chair
- ✪ Rebecca Graham, Maine Municipal Association
- ✪ Madelyn Hennessey, Town Councilor, West Bath
- ✪ Libby Hite, AmeriCorps Alum
- ✪ Rep. Morgan Rielly, Westbrook
- ✪ Betsy Fitzgerald, Washington County Manager
- ✪ Kate Tagai, Island Institute
- ✪ Jarod Farn-Guillette, Hancock County Planning Commission
- ✪ Orion Breen, Maine Volunteer Foundation



Maine Climate Corps

L.D. 722, *Resolve, To Study the Establishment of the Maine Climate Corps*, was passed by the 130th Maine Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Mills on June 8, 2021. It directed Volunteer Maine to study three aspects of creating a Maine Climate Corps:

- ✦ how best to structure the program,
- ✦ what existing service programs might serve as the foundation, and
- ✦ what public and private partnerships could be created to accomplish the program goals.

The study used structured interviews of climate experts, researchers, corps leaders in other states, state agency climate program leaders, and community representatives. Using a rating rubric, ten areas of impact were identified as: 1) contributing to the goals of Maine Won't Wait: the Four-Year Climate Action Plan; 2) priorities for action that would have broad, near-term impact on climate related issues; & 3) at the point of shovel-ready implementation so that a corps could devote significant time & effort to the work.

Recommendations

- ✦ **Recommendation 1:** Maine Climate Corps be structured as a set of programs.
- ✦ **Recommendation 2:** Any program operating as part of Maine Climate Corps will be proposed by a coalition of organizations committed to the program's priority for action and a member of the coalition takes responsibility for administering the program as the lead sponsor.
- ✦ **Recommendation 3:** Authorize programming in eight climate-related areas to give Climate Corps the greatest latitude in tackling climate impacts with proven tactics.
- ✦ **Recommendation 4:** Based on current science and expressed need of Maine communities, prioritize for action 11 project areas.



- ✦ **Recommendation 5:** The Maine Climate Corps be created in statute as an amendment to the Maine Commission for Community Service (Volunteer Maine) statute in order to ensure the purpose, structure, standards, and responsibility for coordination are clearly established.
- ✦ **Recommendation 6:** A Climate Corps Coordinator at Volunteer Maine to provide State leadership.
- ✦ **Recommendation 7:** Direct state agencies to coordinate climate-related funding for projects so that the human resources Climate Corps brings to bear can be paired with federal project financial resources to maximize scale and scope of those funds.
- ✦ **Recommendation 8:** Leverage federal Climate Corps resources that will flow through AmeriCorps by appropriating state funding for corps programs' leadership (a local match expense) and supporting the Maine Service Fellows so it can help rural communities do essential planning and preparation for successful Climate Corps action.

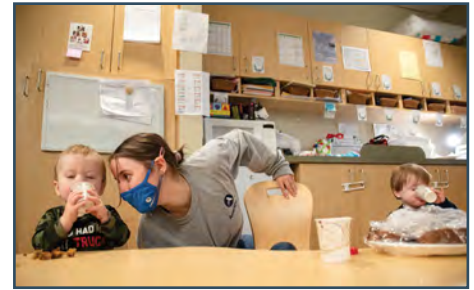
The full report is available for viewing on the Volunteer Maine website at [VolunteerMaine.gov/Serve-In-Maine/Climate-Corps](https://www.volunteermaine.gov/Serve-In-Maine/Climate-Corps)



The past year, in Maine and across the country, AmeriCorps members continued to serve and find new ways to support communities while grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic did impact success with only 37 percent of positions filled. Programs met the challenge of operating with creativity and perseverance.

178 AmeriCorps Members

- ✦ Served **164,625** hours in Maine communities
- ✦ Served **1,667** children and youth
- ✦ Served **208** individuals affected by disaster
- ✦ Enlisted **2,108** community volunteers to serve **16,308** additional hours with them



AmeriCorps Planning Grants

AmeriCorps planning grants provide recipients funding to support an organized training and planning process with the goal of developing a competitive application for operating funds and allowing them to establish conditions necessary for success in their initial years of AmeriCorps grant management.

By the Numbers

- ✦ Total amount awarded: **\$141,116**
- ✦ Number of planning grants awarded: **3**
- ✦ **2** successfully competed for operating programs
- ✦ Aggregate number of Community partner organizations represented on respective planning teams: **14**

Town of Van Buren

“The planning team involved stakeholders from two communities. They identified and prioritized significant community needs, realistically assessed the ability of our volunteer agency to address them, and then proposed effective means of addressing the top two needs. The five participants represented Aroostook Community Action Program, school districts, towns, and Educational Talent Search/TRiO. Their work resulted in a program that incorporates a year-round after school program alongside, and collaborating with, a program for senior citizens, funded in part by AmeriCorps.”
David Cote, Director, Van Buren Resiliency Project

University of Maine Center on Aging

“The planning grant gave us the information we needed to make an informed decision about launching the Lifelong Maine AmeriCorps Program (LMAP). We had guidance

to engage funding and resource partners, develop program guidance for the selection of host communities, and support to navigate the application process. All of these, together, allowed us to launch the LMAP program, which is currently working in seven host communities and will soon have 15 fully enrolled members working in those communities to make change.” *Patricia Oh, PhD, LMSW, Program Manager, University of Maine Center on Aging*

Penquis Community Action

“The process allowed us to fully evaluate our ideas and create a logic model. It was an extremely valuable process and tool for us. The outcome was that we were not at a point to successfully apply for an operational grant, but without the planning grant we would not have been able to make the important decision to take more time to gather data and fine-tune our goals and plans.” *Rebecca Dinces, Regional Manager, Penquis*

Making an Impact

Key Findings From AmeriCorps Member Exit Survey



AmeriCorps

- ✦ **56%** of respondents were NOT from Maine at time of application and an additional **22%** had lived in Maine for less than 1 year
- ✦ After service ended, **37%** of these members decided to stay in Maine for work, education, or to serve another year
- ✦ **42%** of applicants had less than a college degree of any type
- ✦ **25%** of all members said they were planning to use their education award at a community college or technical training program
- ✦ **15%** respondents were hired into a new employee position created to continue the work done during service
- ✦ **67%** of members who were residents at the time they enrolled plan to “Remain in Maine”. Of these, **24%** plan on attending community college or vocational training using their education award.
- ✦ **93.3%** learned new technical skills related to [their] service area (e.g., environment, public safety, human needs, education)
- ✦ Of the group acquiring new technical skills, **89%** described having some or significant growth or learning in this area, with more than half describing it as significant
- ✦ **91.9%** explored areas of interest that could lead to work or future education and a similar percentage made professional connections
- ✦ Of the **91.4%** making new Professional connections, **45.4%** saw those connections as significant

Other Workforce Skills:

- ✦ **97%** learned to take responsibility for assuring work quality, safety, and results
- ✦ **96%** learned how to work within an organization’s norms (business practices, expectations, etc.)
- ✦ **89%** learned to use best practices for the industry or discipline, laws, and trends to set priorities
- ✦ **97%** learned to communicate so that others understand [my] opinions, instructions, questions, or needs
- ✦ **97%** developed respect for others and worked to eliminate discrimination and prejudice
- ✦ **83%** learned to manage and resolve conflict
- ✦ **93%** learned to balance multiple needs and responsibilities

Value of AmeriCorps Service:

- ✦ **86%** of respondents would encourage or strongly encourage a friend to join AmeriCorps

Members’ thoughts...

“It was a great experience that got me to fall in love with Maine and the communities that make up this State”

“My role helped me build skills and confidence that I can take with me to future employment opportunities.”

“I went from being a single stay at home mother of a disabled child living off social security benefits to a useful member of the community who is now able to take the CADC exam and is working on obtaining a Masters degree and serving the state of Maine in the opioid crisis professionally. I never would of been able to do this without this program. It changed my life and because of that, now I can hopefully help change others lives.”

“This experience has meant so much to me, I finally ‘found myself.’ Before serving for AmeriCorps, I was working a dead end job and was going through the motions. I knew I wanted something different for my life but didn’t know exactly what or how to make it happen. During my service, I got connected with an amazing educational opportunity. I have been able to pursue an education and discover my niche in the world. My soul is finally happy and for that, I am forever grateful.”

Volunteer Maine awards and manages federal funds granted to Maine by the AmeriCorps federal agency. After grant decisions, Volunteer Maine monitors grantee performance, outcomes and compliance. It also ensures participants in AmeriCorps are eligible for program benefits. Under AmeriCorps, grant awards are three years.

Did you know? you can View expanded program descriptions on our website!
VolunteerMaine.gov/National-Service

❖ = funded by Volunteer Maine

State/National Operating Programs

AmeriCorps Five to Ninety Five ❖

Grantee: Town of Van Buren

The mission of the program is to build a trauma-informed community. The program motto is “Be the adult you needed when you were a kid.” We strive to empower children and older adults to be their healthiest and happiest selves through positive relationships, support, and mentorships that benefit everyone involved.

Members serve as Youth and Elder Development Specialists. They help facilitate a mentorship program between elders and middle school students in out-of-school time. They also assist in organizing a self-governing elder program that easily connects participants to much-needed resources.

AmeriCorps Resilience Corps ❖

Grantee: Greater Portland Council of Governments

The AmeriCorps Resilience Corps supports local government agencies, nonprofit agencies and regional cohorts in the Greater Portland area in their recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and planning efforts towards regional resilience. Fourteen Corps Members undertake projects related to regional, community,

or organizational resilience and help to accelerate civic innovation, climate action, racial equity, and digital equity for all Mainers.

Corps members receive workforce development as a cohort in data collection, analysis, and visualization, professional skills, and participate in AmeriCorps National Days of Service.



AYCC AmeriCorps Mentoring Program ❖

Grantee: Alford Youth & Community Center

Two AmeriCorps members are working to create a one-on-one mentoring program that works within the Alford Youth and Community Center After School Program. They train mentors to take an inclusive developmental approach that focuses on creating a strong bond with their mentee and getting to know them as a person.

Mentors and mentees commit to meeting at least one hour per week for one year. Consistent interactions, recruitment of patient and empathetic volunteers,

in-depth training, and ongoing monitoring will create an effective mentorship program that will eventually expand to other Boys & Girls Clubs throughout the state.

Cooking Matters AmeriCorps

Grantee: Good Shepherd Food Bank

AmeriCorps members from the National Direct AmeriCorps program, Share Our Strength, serve with and support the Cooking Matters program at Good Shepherd Food Bank.

Cooking Matters provides low-income people at risk of hunger with hands-on cooking and nutrition classes led by volunteer professional chefs and nutritionists.

These 4-6 week classes are held in local community agencies and schools. Classes are free to participants and host agencies. At each class, participants receive a bag of groceries and recipes to try at home.

First4 AmeriCorps ❖

Grantee: Kennebec Valley Community Action Plan/Educare Central Maine

The goal of the program is to support the social emotional development of the children in Head Start and Early Head Start classrooms as a means to reduce overall toxic stress, to boost resilience, and to improve school-

readiness because it is known that approximately 80% of brain development happens in the first four years of life.

Members provide direct support to disadvantaged children in KVCAP's Head Start and Early Head Start classrooms; build strong relationships and secure attachments with the children; receive training to better understand trauma-informed teaching and social-emotional development; and collaborate with a team of like-minded people eager to impact children's futures.



Food Corps

FoodCorps seeks to change in how schools educate children about food, so as to nurture a nation of healthy children and address the causes of childhood obesity.

In Maine, seven full-time FoodCorps AmeriCorps members will each complete 1,700 hours over 11.5 months. Members serve in limited-resource schools implementing interventions across three evidence based program areas that get kids eating healthy: hands-on learning, healthy school meals, and schoolwide culture of health.

I Know ME AmeriCorps Program

Grantee: Maine Youth Alliance

The Game Loft hosts two AmeriCorps members to provide

mentoring to RSU #3 students, age 12-15, in Waldo County, using the "I Know ME" curriculum.

Each year the two AmeriCorps members are responsible for preparing 36 students at-risk for success in the classroom, within their peer groups and beyond the school walls. Additionally, the AmeriCorps members engage local volunteers in developing new mentoring relationships with the students and develop the host agency's capacity to better manage volunteers.

Lifelong Maine AmeriCorps Program

Grantee: University of Maine Center on Aging

The mission of the Lifelong Maine AmeriCorps Program is to serve alongside local grassroots organizations on age-friendly, lifelong community development projects that will contribute to a more resilient, healthier, safer, and more engaged community.

AmeriCorps members help to address challenges such as access to technology, food security, home repair, transportation, and social isolation. Members build local capacity by networking with partners, recruiting volunteers, and serving with the core team to develop sustainable and inclusive leadership.

While the focus is on older residents, Lifelong Communities work for a time when residents of all ages, abilities, economic backgrounds, and lifestyles will have the opportunity to live safe, healthy, and rewarding lives.

Maine Conservation Corps

Grantee: Maine Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

Maine Conservation Corps has two AmeriCorps service options: Environmental Stewards and Field Teams.

Environmental Stewards serve individually with non-profits and state and federal agencies to increase organizational volunteer capacity and aid in the development and implementation of host sites' land management plans. They plan conservation projects and recruit, train and lead volunteers in creating and improving recreational trails.

Field Teams construct & rehab trails on public lands like Baxter State Park, the Appalachian Trail, & land owned by local communities & land trusts.

Members are taught employment skills and create individualized plans for employment. Collaborative partnerships with workforce development organizations help create positive economic opportunity outcomes for members.

Maine Energy AmeriCorps Program

Grantee: Maine Campus Compact/Univ. of Southern Maine

Maine Energy AmeriCorps Program (MEAP) is dedicated to building campus/community partnerships to improve energy efficiency in homes and higher education institutions throughout the state of Maine.

The goal of the program is to spark behavioral and technical interventions to increase local and regional energy efficiency, particularly for economically disadvantaged individuals and households.

Main Street Fellows AmeriCorps Program ❖

Grantee: Maine Development Foundation

Five AmeriCorps members support 12 low-income communities recover from the pandemic's impact and develop the capacity to be resilient in the face of future challenges. In addition, the AmeriCorps members will recruit 10-20 volunteers who will be engaged in local research, planning, education and technology projects.



Multilingual Leadership Corps

Grantee: Goodwill Industries of Northern New England

The Multilingual Leadership Corps places AmeriCorps members in Maine and New Hampshire schools, housing communities, and educational non-profits in Greater Portland and in Lewiston/Auburn.

Members serve K-12 English Language Learners (ELL) through the Check & Connect mentoring program (a research-based intervention for academically disengaged students). Members increase academic engagement among ELL students through in-school and afterschool support for academic skills, aspirations, enrichment, and community engagement.

Skowhegan AmeriCorps Outdoor Recreation ❖

Grantee: Main Street Skowhegan

Skowhegan Outdoors AmeriCorps Program offers connection to outdoor recreation for those in the Skowhegan community, including free outdoor programming, the implementation of a community gear library, the development of Run of River, and the expansion of the local trail network. Skowhegan Outdoors will help bring people together through shared experiences, promote our outdoor spaces and facilities, and catalyze a shift toward a more active lifestyle in Skowhegan--a lifestyle that is accessible to everyone.

AmeriCorps members serve the community directly by involving its members in outdoor recreation programming, which they plan, prepare for, and execute. The AmeriCorps members also train additional volunteers to lead the programs, promote the programs in virtual and real spaces, create online content, and are tasked with establishing a gear library so residents can borrow outdoor recreation equipment free of charge.

Student Conservation Association AmeriCorps Program

Grantee: Student Conservation Association

SCA provides college and high school-aged members with hands-on conservation service opportunities in every field imaginable, from tracking grizzlies through the Tetons to restoring desert ecosystems and teaching environmental education. SCA strives to build the next generation of conservation leaders.

Trekkers AmeriCorps Aspirations ❖

Grantee: Trekkers

Since 1994, Trekkers has been dedicated to helping young people thrive. Our mission is to cultivate the inherent strengths of young people through the power of long-term mentoring relationships. Trekkers is a unique six-year experiential learning program for students, starting in 7th grade and lasting through 12th grade. Throughout the school year, teams of up to 20 students meet to plan their annual expedition and participate in activities, like exploring the outdoors, volunteering, learning about new cultures, and more. Student voice and choice is essential, so every program looks a little different.

AmeriCorps VISTA

Conservation Legacy Stewards VISTA Program

Stewards supports non-profit organizations and state and federal agencies build capacity within communities across the country. From community revitalization to public lands education, to community gardening programs, Stewards VISTAs can make a huge impact, and gain a great deal in return.





Ending Hunger in Maine VISTA

Grantee: Maine Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

The VISTA Project will seek to support the development of Maine’s roadmap for ending hunger, and build the capacity of public and private entities implementing that plan. Two VISTA leaders and 23 VISTA members will contribute to the goals of the project by performing activities such as developing the State’s anti-hunger metrics and supporting planning to meet them; developing educational, health, and housing programs that foster economic stability; and helping harmonize Maine’s anti-hunger efforts.

The VISTA Project is part of the Hunger Free Maine initiative, which is housed within the Commissioner’s Office of Maine’s Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry (DACF). It is guided by a broad-based Advisory Group of public and private agencies that are working to ensure all Maine people have consistent access to healthy food today and to eliminate the root causes of food insecurity for the future.

Goodwill VISTA Partnership

Grantee: Goodwill Industries of Northern New England

The Goodwill VISTA Partnership

is an intermediary model VISTA Project focused on poverty reduction throughout Maine. Forty AmeriCorps VISTA members and leaders are placed in 12 counties serving at nonprofits. Goodwill VISTA Partnership has been at the forefront of providing national service resources to organizations working on New Americans and Refugee Resettlement services. AmeriCorps VISTAs are also focusing on building the capacity related to success in school, access to healthy food, senior services, and housing development.

Hunger Free America Anti-Hunger Corps

Grantee: Goodwill Industries of Northern New England/Healthy Acadia

The America Anti-hunger VISTA program aims to address hunger, poverty, and build the capacity of the agencies that address these issues. Members assist unemployed and under-employed people obtain job training, job placement, and financial literacy services; improve access to food from government and nonprofit sources for targeted populations in particular and food insecure people in general; enable residents of food deserts to access healthier foods through farmers markets and community gardens; more low-income children to obtain free school breakfasts and summer meals; effective nonprofit groups fighting hunger and poverty to raise more money and recruit and manage more volunteers, particularly high-impact and skilled volunteers.

Maine Campus Compact AmeriCorps VISTA Project

Grantee: Maine Campus Compact

This AmeriCorps VISTA program is part of the Northern New England Campus Compact AmeriCorps VISTA collaboration among the Campus Compact state affiliates in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

Eight Maine Campus Compact VISTAs spend a year of service on college campuses in Maine. They serve in a wide variety of communities on campuses of all types — small and large, public and private — in all corners of the state.

VISTA members collaborate with college students, faculty, staff, and community partners to develop programming that improves college aspirations, increases the belief that college is an option, and increases access to higher education for low-income youth.



PAARI VISTA Recovery Corps

Members of the Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative (PAARI) National Recovery Corps strengthen the ability of partnering law enforcement agencies to increase access to care and address addiction and poverty through non-arrest approaches. This program places VISTAs in police departments to help build, strengthen, and sustain police-led programs to reduce and prevent overdose deaths and help more people with opioid use disorder get into treatment and recovery.



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