



Catalog of Service Year Positions - Domestic and International

June 2017

Note: Items in italics indicate that the position is likely to be appropriate for people 18 years old and younger.

Positions in Education and Youth Development

55,000 Early Childhood Center Placements

Poor children in the United States start school at a disadvantage in terms of their early skills, behaviors, and health. A 2012 Brookings institution study found that only 48% of children from poor families are ready for school at age five, compared to 75% of children from families with higher income (*Digest of Education Statistics*, 2014). This study found that quality early childhood development programs are the intervention that offers the greatest promise to reduce this gap. "Preprimary" programs like these are common in the United States - 60% of 3- to 5-year olds were enrolled in preprimary programs in 2013. Even after controlling for a variety of factors, children who participate in full-day early childhood environments have better reading, math, cognitive flexibility, and approaches to learning scores in kindergarten than children that do not. By working in early childhood centers, Service Year corps can make a significant impact on the next generation of students.

Organizations such as Early Learning Indiana use AmeriCorps members to provide wrap around services for both childcare and entire families. Focusing on empowerment and quality of care, these organizations serve as development centers providing invaluable hands-on learning experiences and problem-solving skills (Isaacs, 2012).

How Service Years Can Help:

- *Reading to children one-on-one to support reading readiness*
- *Improving adult-to-child ratios in the classroom*
- Facilitating use of educational technology, data collection, and analysis
- Training staff to implement evidence-based practices
- Conducting home visits to help parents learn to facilitate their child's development
- Raising funds and securing supplies through grassroots fundraising activities or grant

writing

- *Recruiting and managing community volunteers*
- *Engaging parents in center-based programs*

Placements: 4,625,000 three-to-five year olds are enrolled in preschool settings, including Head Start, public school early childhood centers, and private programs. Assuming one corps member per one hundred students, potential placements equal 46,250. Alternatively, a more targeted option could place one corps member per twenty Head Start students (1,100,000 from birth to age five), or 55,000 (*Outcomes, n.d.*).

124,000 Public Elementary School Placements

The early elementary-school years are a critical time for children’s development. However, two-thirds of fourth-graders read below the proficient level and a third read below the basic level. Further, large achievement gaps persist between white and black or Hispanic students, as well as between middle- or high-income and low-income students. There is a clear correlation between a school district’s academic success and the socioeconomic status of the families that it serves (Cox, Amanda, & Bloch, 2016). Early grades are also the time that essential social- and emotional skills - including self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship management, and responsible decision making skills - are developed (*Digest of Education Statistics, 2015*). The presence of additional adults in schools who can reinforce social and emotional learning through structured activities can ensure that all children build these skills.

Currently, Minnesota Reading Corps are doing this work by determining how service and science can accelerate improvement in both students and systems. By mobilizing the people power of AmeriCorps, Reading Corps provides evidence-based literacy interventions and data-based assessments to children from age three to grade three (Minnesota Reading Corps, n.d.).

How Service Years Can Help:

- Tutoring reading and math
- Organizing recess activities that increase physical activity during the school day
- Organizing activities that emphasize cooperation, leadership, and conflict resolution
- Facilitating use of educational technology and individualized instruction
- Encouraging healthy eating and other healthy behaviors
- Working with families to improve attendance and parent engagement
- Helping families navigate supportive, social, and health services to meet children’s needs
- Translating for non-English-speaking parents
- Recruiting and managing community volunteers

Placements: 12,390,000 elementary students were served with Title I funds (allocated to schools with low-income students). Assuming one corps member per 100 students, potential placements equal 123,900 (Bridgeland, Bruce, & Hariharan, n.d.).

60,000 Out-of-school-time Program Placements

Afterschool and summer programs provide safe and healthy supervised environments for children with working parents. Research shows that students in afterschool programs go to school more, see improvements in their behavior, and are more likely to move on to the next grade level and graduate. Research suggests that the majority of the socioeconomic achievement gap can be traced back to a lack of summer enrichment (Alexander, Entwisle, & Olson, 2007). Consistent participation in quality afterschool and summer programs can significantly boost student test scores (Afterschool Alliance, 2014).

After schools programs like Citizen Schools operate in numerous states. With support from AmeriCorps, they accelerate student learning, reduce absenteeism, help students reach grade-level proficiency, and prepare students for college and beyond (Citizen Schools, n.d.).

How Service Years Can Help:

- *Providing homework help in afterschool programs*
- *Leading enrichment opportunities in the arts, STEM, and service-learning*
- *Organizing scout, club, and other activities to promote positive youth development*
- *Recruiting and managing community volunteers*
- *Raising funds through grassroots fundraising activities or grant writing*

Placements: Six million low-income students are enrolled in afterschool programs, with demand for services for 12 million additional low-income students. Assuming one corps member per 100 enrolled students, potential placements to meet current enrollment equals 60,000 (Vandell, Reisner, & Pierce, 2007).

75,000 Placements as Student Success Coaches Focused on Dropout Prevention

When a student fails to graduate high school, they are less likely to get a high-paying job and will contribute less to the economy on average. Low-income students fail to graduate five times as frequently as middle income students. (Chapman, Laird, Ifill, & Kewal Ramani, 2011). Other risk factors for dropping out can be identified as early as middle school. (Sikhan, n.d.; Gould, & Weller, 2015; Reasons Students Dropout of High School, 2013). Addressing the early warning signs for dropping out -- poor attendance, behavior issues, and course failure -- can increase graduation rates for students at risk.

By responding to early warning signs and focusing on the "whole school" and "whole child," City Year reduces the number of low-income students who drop out of urban public schools with AmeriCorps resources. (City Year, n.d.).

How Service Years Can Help:

- *Providing classroom support and tutoring*
- *Providing mentorship on careers and real-world skills, such as financial management*

- and entrepreneurship
- Facilitating use of technology for individualized learning
- *Mentoring students*
- *Recruiting and managing community volunteers*
- Working with students and families to improve attendance
- Translating for non-English speaking parents

Placements: Approximately 3,000 public high schools have a completion rate of less than 60 percent. Assuming each of these schools has an average of 1.5 feeder schools serving middle grades, 7,500 schools could each host a team of ten student success coaches, for a total of 75,000 positions (Department of Education, 2014; GradNation, 2016).

98,000 Placements to Support STEM Education

For many students there is little applied science, math and even computational thinking in school. There is a huge mismatch within our K- 12 schools and the needs of our citizens in our economy. There are 3.6 unemployed workers for every job in the United States. That compares with only one unemployed STEM worker for two unfilled STEM jobs throughout the country (Engler, 2012). Hands-on learning, extra tutoring, and connecting STEM studies to real world opportunities can boost interest and achievement in STEM courses.

Through organizations like the SySTEM Real School AmeriCorps Program in Maine, Service Year corps can work with schools and local organizations to support interest and achievement in STEM (SySTEM REAL School AmeriCorps Program, n.d.).

How Service Years Can Help:

- *Providing extra classroom help to facilitate hands-on learning*
- Cultivating a community of practice for teachers and out-of-school-time providers to exchange ideas
- Helping educators implement STEM programs
- Engaging local employers, higher education institutions, and STEM-rich organizations to develop STEM-oriented school and out-of-school time program partnerships

Placements: If one Service Year member were to be placed in each public school to facilitate STEM programming, 98,271(National Center for Education Statistics, n.d.) placements would be created.

7,000 Placements Supporting Service Learning in Elementary and Secondary Education¹

Service learning provides students experiential opportunities to learn in real world contexts and develop skills, while affording community partners opportunities to address significant needs. Service learning is often used to increase student motivation to learn and improve student

¹ This section courtesy of an interview with Dr. Amy Well-Dolan, Adjunct Professor of Leadership & Counselor Education; University of Mississippi.

learning outcomes. Research shows that service learning facilitates personal and interpersonal development, understanding and application, critical thinking, and citizenship (Spring, Grimm Jr, & Dietz, 2008).

The Wyman Center in Eureka, MO, uses AmeriCorps members to help implement the evidence-based Teen Outreach and Teen Leadership program, which includes service-learning as a key element (Skinner & Chapman, 1999).

How Service Years Can Help:

- Acting as a service learning coordinator for schools and afterschool programs
- *Providing logistical support for service learning projects*
- Developing service learning projects under the direction of teachers
- Building and fostering relationships between the school and community

Placements: Approximately one in four US public schools foster civic engagement and experiential learning through service learning whether provided or recognized through their school (Eyler, Giles Jr, Stenson, & Gray, 2001). One in five public school teacher-run service learning programs could benefit from assistance from a service learning coordinator (O'Connor, 2016). Currently there are 33,597 public schools running programs that could support 7,055 positions as service learning coordinators. Additional schools could add service learning programs and create an even greater number of positions.

29,000 Placements to Ensure College Success for Post-secondary Students²

While college provides students with immense opportunities to experience cultural and social diversity, it can be particularly arduous for first-generation students. Historically, students of color, low-income students, students with disabilities, and students who are the first in their families to attend college have lower rates of post-secondary attainment. Even when these students are able to enroll in college, about 90% of low-income, first-generation students do not graduate (Zinshteyn, 2016) within six years due to the “hidden curriculum” of best study practices and higher education navigation. Though factors such as integration, government assistance programming and population shifts are helpful, first generation college students still face distinctive challenges. They frequently lack college readiness, financial stability, familial support, and academic self-esteem. Service year corps members can even the playing field for these students by providing the supports associated with college success, including hands on college preparation, college assimilation and inclusion programs, proper college financial guidance, and ongoing support (National Center for Education Statistics, 2005).

College Possible provides long-term, supportive services beginning in high school to first-generation college students. With the use of AmeriCorps members as coaches, the program is more cost-effective than other federal programs, and a body of strong research documents significant results (College Possible, n.d.).

² This section courtesy of an interview with Jim McCorkell, CEO and Founder of College Possible.

How Service Years Can Help:

- Encouraging high school juniors to complete courses needed for college
- Working with high school juniors to explore colleges and arranging campus visits
- Helping juniors to prepare for the ACT and the SAT
- Helping seniors apply to colleges, weigh choices, and apply for scholarships and financial aid
- Acting as mentors during the summer months between graduation and matriculation
- Mentoring first-generation college students on campus to provide confidence and help them navigate systems
- Serving as tutors and study hall proctors in postsecondary institutions

Placements: Each year, roughly 30% of the more than 12 million young people enroll in college are first-generation. Assuming that one corps member can support 125 students, 28,800 corps members would be needed to support this growing population each year.

Positions to Support Distinct Populations

71,450 Placements to Support Aging Populations³

More than 42 million Americans are aged 65 and older (Bureau, 2016). While 90% of older adults prefer to “age in place,” isolation can lead to depression, illness, and eventually, the need for expensive nursing home care (National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, n.d.). A 2015 research study co-sponsored by Philips, Inc. and Georgetown University’s McDonough School of Business found that 48% of caregivers said they are concerned that the older adults in their care are depressed or lonely. In addition, 75% of older adults live in auto-dependent suburbs designed with limited regard to services (healthcare, transportation, groceries, etc.). Forty one percent of seniors (16.5 million), do not use the Internet; 53% have no broadband at home; and 23% do not use cell phones. Nearly 30% of homeowners aged 65 and older live in homes built before 1950, which are often not designed for people of that age (Unintended Consequences, 2015).

In 2015, 15.9 million family members and friends provided 18.1 billion hours of unpaid care to those with Alzheimer’s and other dementias, most of whom are age 65 and older. (Alzheimer’s Association, 2016). Over 32% of individuals caring for patients with Alzheimer’s agreed or strongly agreed that the care had put a financial strain on their family. Without public programs to help and with limited discretionary means to support the needs and desire to age independently, moderate to middle income families are most squeezed.

Service year programs such as Eldercare Assistants Program in North Carolina engage AmeriCorps members to provide services to help improve the lives of older adults. Tasks

³ This section courtesy of an interview with Diane Ty, consultant to the Service Year Alliance.

include care management, crime victim services, financial management, guardian services and TeleCare, a telephone program that promotes social engagement and personal connection (Eldercare Assistants Program, n.d.).

How Service Years Can Help:

- *Offering opportunities for social interaction.*
- *Training aging populations on the internet, mobile devices, and other technology*
- *Providing home accessibility evaluation and modification to help the elderly live in their homes*
- *Assisting with meal delivery, meal preparation, and grocery shopping*
- *Providing transportation to events, medical appointments, and public meetings*
- Assisting with public benefits navigation and enrollment
- Providing check-ins for social support, wellness, and medication adherence
- Providing geriatric care, home health aide, and similar wellness support.
- Designing and engineering new products that are helpful to the elderly
- Building the capacity of nonprofits serving older adults
- *Staffing the villages that have formed across the country as part of the “village movement” (Snelling, 2012)*

Placements: Each of the 618 Area Agencies on Aging in the U.S. could place a team of 25 corps members in local area organizations that serve older adults (National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, n.d.). Each of the more than 200 senior villages could place a team of 5 corps members (Village to Village Network, n.d.) Teams of five corps members could be deployed through each of the nation’s 11,000 senior centers (National Council on Aging, n.d.).

44,000 Placements to Support Military Veterans

Our nation’s military veterans and their families, some of whom have paid the ultimate sacrifice, are historically supported through the Veterans Affairs (VA) system and its partners. While homelessness (National Alliance to End Homeless, 2015) and unemployment among veterans (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2016; Ferreira, 2017) are on the decline, healthcare support, in particular mental health services, is still inaccessible to many veterans. The VA has recently come under intense scrutiny for extreme wait times for medical care (Lawrence, Whitney, & Tomsic, 2016), and a tragic number of veterans’ suicides (Shane III & Kime, 2016) still occur each day. To help, veteran serving organizations (VSOs) such as Virginia Veterans Corps, an AmeriCorps program, have stepped into the arena to help solve challenges facing the military veteran community (Veteran Corps of America, n.d.).

How Service Years Can Help:

- Providing peer-to-peer counseling
- Supporting wounded or disabled veterans
- *Recruiting and managing volunteers and building the capacity of VSOs*
- Providing job placement services and resume development for unemployed veterans

- Helping veterans to navigate available benefits
- Organizing volunteer opportunities for veterans
- Helping veterans complete postsecondary education
- *Engaging with veterans in VA hospitals*

Placements: Approximately 1,700 hospitals and clinics serve 6 million patients a year (U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 2016; Bagalman, 2014). There are over 40,000 nonprofit organizations dedicated to serving the military and veterans and an estimated 400,000 service organizations that in some way touch veterans or service members (CharityWatch, 2015). If each hospital and clinic engaged 20 members and five percent of veteran serving nonprofits engaged five members, 44,000 service year members could serve two million veterans and their families. Many of these service positions could be filled by veterans, as nearly 250,000 transition out of the military every year (D., 2014). A service year can be a valuable and effective way for former service members to transition into civilian life, while leveraging their training in leadership, teambuilding, and problem-solving to address community-based issues.

Positions in Disaster Preparation, Response, and Recovery

11,000 Placements in Disaster Preparation, Response, and Recovery⁴

In the past ten years, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has declared anywhere from 47 to 242 natural disasters annually across the country. Due to the unpredictability of these events, FEMA operates a corps of nearly 1,000 AmeriCorps members through FEMA Corps to provide additional response capacity in times of need (FEMA Corps, n.d.). These service year FEMA Corps AmeriCorps members are deployed in teams of 6-10 to work within communities on immediate response tasks to assist individuals and government entities with cleanup and rebuilding efforts. FEMA Corps members receive valuable training that can lead to a future in disaster planning in government agencies, emergency preparedness and response, and critical thinking and management skills like inventory, shipping, and logistics.

Similarly, Resilience Corps is an AmeriCorps-sponsored response and readiness team building resilience in vulnerable communities disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate-related conditions – many of which are already facing economic or health-related challenges. This two-year pilot program assists vulnerable communities to address and help prepare communities for natural disasters and extreme weather conditions (Resilience AmeriCorps, n.d.).

How Service Years Can Help:

⁴ This section courtesy of interviews with Jen Murphy, Disaster Services Unit, Operations Manager for the Corporation for National and Community Service, and Jennifer Lieb, Program Liaison for FEMA Corps.

- *Providing education on preparedness and resiliency training for communities*
- *Helping schools, child care organizations, organizations, residential facilities, and neighborhood associations to develop disaster plans*
- *Managing volunteers before, during and after disasters*
- *Remediating and cleaning up damage after floods, fires, earthquakes, and storms*
- Supporting victims of disaster with benefits navigation and support from agencies and nonprofits
- Directing victims to long term emotional support programming
- Connecting victims to legal resources
- Providing help in translating complex insurance and housing rights information
- *Helping to rebuild infrastructure after disaster*

Placements: There are more than 3,000 counties and county equivalents in the U.S. (USA Counties, n.d.), each of which houses an emergency preparedness department. If each county could use three additional service year member to support emergency response planning, coordination, training, and volunteer recruitment. 9,000 new service year positions would be created and their members at the ready to be deployed across the U.S. in case of emergency. If FEMA Corps could be doubled, an additional 2,000 positions would be available.