



# Leveraging service years to address community needs



Communities are facing more challenges than ever: a 21st century skills gap, learning loss from the pandemic, significant racial, economic, and political division, atrophying civic participation, and countless other needs without the capacity or resources to sufficiently address them.

With recent historic investments in AmeriCorps and a rising interest in service years from philanthropic organizations, there has never been a better time to explore the possibilities of leveraging service years as a community development strategy and bringing outside resources to your community.

Engaging people through service years who are working together towards meaningful, impactful goals and developing valuable skills while solving problems has the power to revitalize and empower communities across the nation.

## What is a service year?

A service year is a paid opportunity to develop real-world skills through hands-on service. Service years transform lives, strengthen communities, and fuel civic renewal.

**A BETTER YOU.  
A GREATER US.**

# SERVICE YEAR

## Impact Communities

Imagine hundreds of community members working across local government agencies, schools, and community organizations undertaking challenges like emergency preparedness, public health, student mentoring, poverty reduction, and climate change. Although they serve in different

organizations and different capacities, through an Impact Community initiative, service year corps members come together for shared training, professional development, and group service days, creating a broader identity and a shared purpose across all their various service sites. Upon completing their service year, corps members are prepared with the skills they need to enter local, in-demand careers or attend post-secondary institutions, and have the knowledge and strategies they need to be engaged citizens and active community leaders.

### The Return on Investment of Service Years

Want to learn more about how cost-effective Service Year Impact Communities can be? Check out the 2020 report, [Quantifying the Impact](#), and read about the incredible work happening in Flint, Michigan where there is a return of \$27.40 for every \$1 invested in service years.

Through Service Year Impact Communities, Service Year Alliance partners with communities to make this vision a reality.

Service Year Impact Communities are local collaboratives of existing or prospective service year host sites and programs, nonprofits, local government, higher education institutions, and other community leaders who realize the transformative potential of service years. They work to grow the number of service year positions available locally and to ensure they offer high quality programming to effectively meet the needs of communities, set up corps members for success, and transform the local and national civic landscape by empowering committed servant leaders.

To learn more about the benefits and criteria for becoming a Service Year Impact Community, [visit the webpage](#) and [review the application](#) to join the Impact Community network and collaborate with other communities that are utilizing service years across the country. Questions? Email [partnerships@serviceyear.org](mailto:partnerships@serviceyear.org).