**AmeriCorps mission:** To improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering.

**Background information:** AmeriCorps is a federal agency that administers funds and human capital placements to nonprofits, public agencies, schools, and community and faith-based organizations to utilize national service to solve local and community needs. The needs can vary and be everything from administering disaster response to tutoring kids in schools to building capacity to enact large scale community plans. And the list goes on…

**Watch this video** (for a high-level overview of AmeriCorps): [youtu.be/QgdRkzLKIPM](https://youtu.be/QgdRkzLKIPM)

**How it works:** There are several ways to engage with AmeriCorps. There are different programs and grants based on the need you are solving for in your community. You will want to start by familiarizing yourself with the different areas of AmeriCorps: [americorps.gov/partner/how-it-works](https://americorps.gov/partner/how-it-works)

Next, depending on what opportunity you choose, you will want to follow the instructions for that program area or funding opportunity. The three main opportunities that will be discussed at the Flint convening will be:

- **AmeriCorps State & National**
- **AmeriCorps VISTA**
- **AmeriCorps NCCC**

**AmeriCorps in relation to the Flint Convening:** The majority of national service programs in the United States are funded in some capacity or way through AmeriCorps (though there are examples of national service programs funded with exclusively private and state/local funding). And through AmeriCorps funding requirements, there is a natural public/private investment built in for communities to match a percentage of the investment from the federal government with other funds. Service Year Alliance wants to see an increase in national service addressing unmet needs in communities and AmeriCorps is a way to achieve that. By achieving national service at scale and addressing unmet needs in the community, the program also can be an opportunity for all, build pathways post service, and fuel civic renewal.