



What is a Service Year impact Community?

Service Year Impact Communities are collaborative efforts among community stakeholders to leverage service years as a tool to address community needs. By coordinating local efforts, impact communities work to create the conditions for universal national service – full-time, paid service that is impactful, equitable, offers career, education, and civic opportunity, and exists at scale. Impact Communities can be at the neighborhood, city, county, regional or state level. When service year programs work together with local government agencies and elected officials, community leaders, philanthropic organizations, education institutions, and other community stakeholders, they are more effective at transforming lives, strengthening communities, and fueling civic renewal.

Service year programs like AmeriCorps are receiving more resources than ever before, and communities have an opportunity to leverage those resources to expand existing service year programs and add new ones. Meanwhile, more cities and states are standing up their own privately or locally funded corps to address local challenges. Impact Communities offer a powerful means to coordinate all local service year corps — federally funded or not — towards shared goals to ensure even greater impact.

Principles of Universal National Service



Exist at **scale**



Meet the demand our nation has to address unmet **needs**, which may evolve and change over time



Be an **opportunity** for all (including through pay)



Build **pathways** to long-term success for individuals



Fuel **civic renewal**

Why Impact Communities?

Undertaking the work of a Service Year Impact Community has a variety of benefits for service year programs, corps members, and communities. Impact Communities make service more cost-effective by creating a shared capacity among programs. They help connect corps members to the broader work happening around them by creating a cohort experience across programs. Finally, they help make service years more impactful and resilient by working together, reducing overlaps, and identifying opportunities to bring service years to new issue areas and organizations. By coming together, stakeholders can utilize the framework of national service to address local needs.

Benefits of Becoming a Service Year Impact Community

Additional benefits of joining the Service Year Impact Community network include:

- Access to a network of practitioners working to make universal national service a reality in their communities, including in-person convenings
- Monthly coaching and technical support from Service Year Alliance to advance the collaborative work in your community or region
- Preferential consideration for Service Year Alliance grant-funded projects and programs
- A web presence on the Service Year Alliance's website and frequent promotion of work through conversations, conferences, social media, and public-facing communications
- Opportunities to be featured in Service Year Alliance's monthly newsletter, The Connector, to over two thousand service year program contacts and partners
- Creation of a network page on ServiceYear.org to promote open service year opportunities in your community or region

Impact Communities more than double the return on investment of service year programs -- for every \$1 spent, there is a return of more than \$27 to the federal government, corps members and society!

To learn more about existing Service Year Impact Communities, [visit our website](#) where you will also find a link to our application and more details. We hope you consider joining the Service Year Impact Community network. Questions? Contact partnerships@serviceyear.org

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