

NYC Service™

NYC
SERVICE
YEAR

NYCorps Connections 2021

A Guide to Navigating NYC as an AmeriCorps Member





THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007

October 2021

Dear Service Year Member:

Congratulations on your selection as a service year member in New York City!

New York's most valuable resource is in the strength of its people and the countless ways they come together to help those in need, improve their communities, and forge paths to a better and brighter future. The extraordinarily difficult circumstances presented by the COVID-19 pandemic have been a source of tremendous stress for neighborhoods throughout New York City and far beyond, and by choosing to complete your service year here in the five boroughs, you will be vital in our efforts to confront the challenges presented by the virus and continue the work of recovering and rebuilding.

As one of more than 2,000 New York City-based AmeriCorps members, you will utilize your individual strengths and be challenged in new ways to add capacity, adapt to a changing environment, and build on the foundations of previous programs. You will learn important new skills, make lasting connections that will help support your career and grow your network, and discover firsthand what makes New York City the greatest city in the world.

To support your service year transition and make it as smooth and stress-free as possible, we offer this *NYCorps Connections* guide. Containing a variety of tips, recommendations, useful information, and additional resources, this guide is a valuable tool that will support you in your new role.

As you embark on this exciting journey filled with opportunities for civic engagement, personal development, and community impact, the NYC Service Team is here to support you and provide valuable assistance throughout your service year. We join with the NYC Service Team and all New Yorkers in commending your dedication to serving our residents at such a critical time in our city's history. Best wishes for a productive service year full of growth, leadership, and change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill de Blasio".

Bill de Blasio
Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Rog".

Laura Rog
NYC Chief Service Officer

October 2021

About the Guide

Your commitment to a year of service is profoundly appreciated. The leadership and development you will bring to New York City communities is critical to maintaining vitality and effective solutions to the city's most pressing issues. As you embark on this servant leadership mission, challenges will be impending. This *NYCorps Connections* guide will serve as a tool to reference for useful resources, information on Covid-19, and additional external components relevant throughout your year of service. Please note that not every situation will be solvable with this set of resources. However, this guide can be quite effective in ensuring the fulfillment of an impactful and memorable service term.

New York City offers an extensive set of opportunities that are available to you as service year members. The advice, information, and recommendations included in this guide were compiled from a wide range of resources available to us that reflect the collaboration of various City agencies and local community-based organizations. Additionally, we recommend using the valuable support provided by the AmeriCorps, Service Year Alliance, NYC Service, and AmeriCorps Alums. Please visit their websites for more information:

AmeriCorps: <https://www.americorps.gov/>

Service Year Alliance: <https://serviceyear.org/>

NYC Service: <https://www.nycservice.org/>

AmeriCorps Alums: <https://www.americorpsalums.org/>

The topics highlighted in this guide derived from original observations and recommendations from current and past service year members' surveys and experiences. The content in this guide is provided for informational purposes only. Any reference in this guide to any commercial entity, product, process, or service does NOT constitute an automatic endorsement by NYC Service. *Please note that information is also subject to change.*

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NYC Service Year Overview

Congratulations on embarking on a service year! By dedicating a year of service to New York City, you are joining a cohort of leaders and young professionals who are using their professional skills and voice to create long-lasting, positive change. During an era where our nation is divided and healing from Covid-19 setbacks, service years bind together individuals of different socio-economic backgrounds through a common cause. You have the power to unite communities and address pressing complex issues that impact real lives. Together, the NYC Service Year community can create a movement of systemic social change to make the city a better place for future generations.

Now, more than ever, the NYC Service Year community has the potential to *address the urgent needs of its residents*. Despite the ongoing pandemic, we are “New York Tough.”

Mission

NYC Service Year is a citywide movement led by the NYC Service Year Leadership Council to promote, sustain, and grow service year/AmeriCorps programming in NYC. Service year programming engages New Yorkers in service to their city, empowering their individual growth, workforce skills development, and civic leadership. Ultimately, those who embark on service year opportunities are delivering measurable change in key city priority areas such as; education, economic opportunity, sustainability, food insecurity, health, and much more.

Vision

The NYC Service Year movement will engage thousands in service each year, positively impact city needs, raise the quality of life for all New Yorkers, and serve as a high performing service year accelerator model for the country.

GET INVOLVED

1. Apply with NYC Service to become a Service Year Member Council Member
2. Join the NYC Service Year Group on Facebook and NYC Service Year Network on LinkedIn
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1079544615458302/about/>
<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12399639/>
3. Become a Social Media Ambassador or Influencer and share/re-post @NYCSERVICE content to your personal networks, then participate on a citywide and national level by registering with Service Year Alliance! Represent the NYC Service Year network and virtually connect with hundreds of others via Service Year Alliance. <https://serviceyear.org/register-corps-member/>
4. Join the NYC AmeriCorps Alums Facebook Group & LinkedIn
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/nycamericorpsalums>
<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/105198/>

Overview of AmeriCorps in New York State

National Service in New York 2020 YEAR IN REVIEW



New York by the Numbers

 **14,990**  **2,126**  **\$89.5m**
Members & Volunteers Service Locations Total Investment

Meeting Needs in New York

Last year more than 14,900 Americans of all ages and backgrounds united to meet local needs, strengthen communities, and expand opportunity through national service in New York. AmeriCorps invested more than \$47.0 million in federal funding to support cost-effective community solutions, working hand in hand with local partners to empower individuals to help communities tackle their toughest challenges.

AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers are preparing today's students for tomorrow's jobs, helping communities and families impacted by COVID-19, reducing crime and reviving cities, connecting veterans to services, fighting the opioid epidemic, helping seniors live independently, and rebuilding communities after disasters.

AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers served at more than 2,100 locations across New York, including schools, food banks, homeless shelters, health clinics, youth centers, veterans' facilities, and other nonprofit and faith-based organizations. Through a unique public-private partnership, AmeriCorps and its partners generated more than \$42.4 million in outside resources from businesses, foundations, public agencies, and other sources in New York in the last year. This local support strengthened community impact and increased the return on taxpayer dollars.

What is AmeriCorps?

AmeriCorps is the only federal agency tasked with elevating service and volunteerism in America. We provide opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to give their time and talent to strengthen communities across our country.

A Cornerstone of Our National Culture

By bringing people together to serve communities, AmeriCorps is making service to others an indispensable part of the American experience. We offer individuals and organizations flexible ways to make a local impact through our programs and initiatives.

Segal AmeriCorps Education Award

In exchange for their service, AmeriCorps members earn a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award that can be used to pay for trade school, college, or graduate school; or to pay back qualified student loans. **Since 1994, more than 94,000 New York residents have served approximately 150 million hours and earned education awards totaling more than \$358.9 million.**

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[AmeriCorps.gov](https://www.AmeriCorps.gov)

Our Programs and Initiatives

AmeriCorps State and National matches individuals with organizations that see service as a solution to local, regional, and national challenges. There are thousands of opportunities in locations across the country to serve with nonprofits, schools, public agencies, tribes, and community and faith-based groups. Most AmeriCorps grant funding goes to New York State Commission on National and Community Service, the Governor-appointed State Service Commission, which in turn awards grants to organizations to respond to local needs.

AmeriCorps VISTA places individuals with organizations that fight poverty, to build capacity and make sustainable change. Through fundraising, grant writing, volunteer recruitment, and so much more, AmeriCorps VISTA members gain experience and leadership skills that put them on track for a life of service in the public, private, or nonprofit sector.

AmeriCorps NCCC is a full-time, team-based, residential program for 18-24-year-olds. Whether clearing trails for a national park or building homes for families in need, AmeriCorps NCCC members engage in a variety of projects in multiple communities while developing leadership and teamwork skills. AmeriCorps NCCC FEMA Corps serves communities, in coordination with FEMA, through disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.

AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparents provides grants to organizations to engage low-income Americans 55 and older in providing one-on-one mentoring and academic support to children with special or exceptional needs.

AmeriCorps Seniors Senior Companions provides grants to organizations to engage low-income Americans 55 and older in providing supportive, individualized services to help older adults and adults maintain their dignity and independence.

AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP provides grants to organizations to engage Americans 55 and older in tutoring and mentoring youth, responding to natural disasters, supporting veterans and their families, and meeting other critical needs.

Volunteer Generation Fund supports voluntary organizations and state service commissions in boosting the impact of volunteers in addressing critical community needs.

MLK Day of Service is observed each year on the third Monday in January as “a day on, not a day off.” MLK Day is the only federal holiday designated as a national day of service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities.

9/11 Day of Service calls Americans across the country to volunteer in their local communities in tribute to the individuals lost and injured in the attacks, first responders, and the many who have risen in service to defend freedom.

Learn More

To see other reports about national service in New York, email NY@cns.gov.

New York | At a Glance Report

2020 YEAR IN REVIEW



 **14,990**
Members & Volunteers

 **2,126**
Service Locations

 **\$89,533,631**
Total Investment

Program Funding

	Projects	Service Locations	Completed Participants	Education Awards	Federal Funding
AmeriCorps National	71	355	1,495	\$6,923,324	\$9,405,610
AmeriCorps NCCC	5	5	42	-	-
AmeriCorps State	37	287	1,114	\$4,491,986	\$8,302,881
AmeriCorps VISTA	34	165	410	\$1,613,847	\$4,474,711
AmeriCorps Programs Subtotal	147	812	3,061	\$13,029,157	\$22,183,202

	Projects	Service Locations	Completed Participants	Education Awards	Federal Funding
Foster Grandparent Program	13	320	1,267	-	\$6,027,291
RSVP	32	841	9,883	-	\$2,058,859
Senior Companion Program	7	153	779	-	\$2,360,205
AmeriCorps Seniors Programs Subtotal	52	1,314	11,929	-	\$10,446,356

Other Funding

	Projects	Service Locations	Completed Participants	Education Awards	Federal Funding
AmeriCorps State Planning Grant	1	-	-	-	\$75,000
Martin Luther King Day	2	-	-	-	\$43,285
Research Grants	2	-	-	-	\$112,291
September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance	4	-	-	-	\$303,530
State Commission Investment Funds	1	-	-	-	\$343,630
State Commission Operations Support	1	-	-	-	\$540,860
VISTA Recruitment Support	1	-	-	-	\$19,141
Subtotal	12	-	-	-	\$1,437,737

Total Program Funding	\$34,067,294
Total AmeriCorps Funding Including Education Scholarships	\$47,096,451
Total Local Project Support (Non-AmeriCorps Resources)	\$42,437,180
Total AmeriCorps Funding + Total Local Project Support	\$89,533,631

Since 1994, more than 94,000 New York residents have served approximately 150 million hours through AmeriCorps, earning Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards totaling more than \$358.9 million.

Notes: All data shown represents national service activity completed between January 15, 2020 and January 13, 2021. 1. Projects may be headquartered in other states. 2. The service location total may contain multiple counts of unique locations where multiple AmeriCorps programs operated. 3. Completed participants reflects all AmeriCorps members who completed service in New York between January 15, 2020 and January 13, 2021. For AmeriCorps Seniors, this reflects all volunteers funded by grants completed during that same period. 4. The Education Awards figures represent the maximum potential value of Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards that could be earned by AmeriCorps members who completed service in New York. The award can be used in any state to pay for college, graduate school, vocational training, or to pay back student loans. 5. AmeriCorps State and National, Foster Grandparent, and Senior Companion federal funding reflects the estimated proportionate share of the federal grant associated with the participants in this report. For AmeriCorps VISTA, funding reflects the national average cost per participant. RSVP funding appears in the state where the project is based and reflects the full amount awarded to operate the completed grant. 6. Current participants reflects national service participants currently serving in New York. 7. Total local project support reflects non-AmeriCorps cash and in-kind resources that AmeriCorps grantees committed to raise in support of their completed grants. As part of its public-private partnership approach, AmeriCorps grantees leverage additional resources to strengthen community impact and increase the return on the federal investment.

I. Navigating Benefits in NYC

This section is designed to provide you with guidance on applying for essential resources that will reduce your personal expenses during your year of service. Please review eligibility requirements and application steps carefully before applying to any of these programs.

Culture Pass NYC

Explore New York City's museums and attractions with Culture Pass. If you have a library card, you can get free admission to dozens of cultural and educational institutions.

Cardholding patrons 13 years and older of the Queens Public Library, Brooklyn Public Library, and New York Public Library are eligible to reserve passes for free admission to participating cultural institutions. To qualify for a free public library card in New York City, you must be a resident of New York State or work for a company or go to school in New York City. Please visit <https://www.nypl.org/library-card> for information specific for applying for a NYPL card. If you are eligible, and are able to receive your card, you should next visit <https://www.culturepass.nyc/> and check out what programs are available. Currently, there are a lot of new virtual programs <https://www.culturepass.nyc/virtual-programs>.

*** If you are a New York State resident and can provide proof, most NYC museums are free.*

IDNYC

IDNYC is a card for all New Yorkers, from all backgrounds, and from all five boroughs. The free, municipal identification card for New York City residents, ages 10 and up, provides access to a wide variety of services and programs offered by the City. IDNYC cardholders enjoy benefits and discounts offered by businesses and cultural institutions across the five boroughs. Launched in 2015, IDNYC is the largest and most successful municipal ID program in the country.

You can apply for an IDNYC card at enrollment centers across the city if:

You have proof of NYC residency;
You have proof of your identity; and
You are at least 10 years old

Applications are available in more than 25 languages, and immigration status DOES NOT matter. Please make an appointment to apply for a new card, a replacement card, or to update information on your card. Call 311 and say 'IDNYC' or visit [NYC.Gov/IDNYC](https://nyc.gov/IDNYC) to find an enrollment center near you. For information on the documents that IDNYC accepts as proof of identity and residency, please visit: on.nyc.gov/IDNYCDocumentCalculator

Benefits of the IDNYC card include:


- Use your IDNYC to prove your age and residency to get the #COVID19 vaccine, access your immunization records through NYC Health + Hospitals, and save up to 50% off on prescription medications
- Connect with City programs such as the Department of Housing Preservation & Development's Housing Connect portal for affordable Housing
- Use IDNYC as a primary ID card to open a bank or credit union account at one of several participating financial institutions across the boroughs
- IDNYC can be used as your library card at every public library in NYC

- Access free one-year memberships at 40+ cultural institutions
- Save on live entertainment, online shopping, and sign up for discounted memberships at the YMCA, NYC Parks Department Recreation Centers, and CitiBike
- Enjoy discounts at grocery stores and supermarkets, such as Food Bazaar Supermarket and Costco and much more!

Cultural institutions that grant free memberships with IDNYC include:

Visit [NYC.Gov/IDNYC](https://nyc.gov/idnyc) for a full list of the museum and cultural institution partners. IDNYC cardholders are now eligible for free one-year memberships or discounted tickets at a number of participating institutions. These institutions include:

Bronx Museum of the Arts	Wildlife Conservation Society/Bronx Zoo
Pregones/Puerto Rican Traveling Theater	Brooklyn Children's Museum
BAM (Brooklyn Academy of Music)	BRIC
American Museum of Natural History	The Apollo Theater
MoMA	Flushing Town Hall
Queens Museum	King Manor
Jacques Marchais Center for Tibetan Art	Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden



A Resource Guide for Immigrant New Yorkers

All New Yorkers Can Seek Care and Support Without Fear

NYC
Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs

IMMIGRATION LEGAL HELP

Call ActionNYC at **800-354-0365**, from Monday to Friday, 9AM to 6PM for free, safe immigration legal help. Get help only from a trusted, licensed attorney or an accredited representative.

SUPPORTING IMMIGRANT FAMILIES

Health Care

- Getting vaccinated, care, testing, or treatment for COVID-19 will not affect your immigration status. Find a free testing site near you at nyc.gov/covidtest or call **212-COVID19 (212-268-4319)**.
- Enroll in health insurance plans, including free plans at nyc.gov/getcoverednyc or call **311**. If you do not qualify for health insurance, NYC Care guarantees services at little to no cost. Immigration status does not matter. Call **646-NYC-Care (646-692-2273)** or visit nycare.nyc.
- Feeling stressed or anxious? Talk to an NYC Well counselor for confidential support and to connect to mental health care and substance use resources. Visit nyc.gov/nycwell, call **888-NYC-Well (888-692-9355)**, or text WELL to **65173**.

Education

- All NYC children age 4 are eligible for Pre-K and can attend public school until they turn 21. In some neighborhoods "3-K" may also be available to children age 3. To enroll, visit schools.nyc.gov/enrollment or call **311**.
- Learn English for Free with We Speak NYC. Intermediate English language learners can visit wespeaknyc.cityofnewyork.us to sign up for online conversation classes.

Emergency Food

- There are free vegetarian, halal, and kosher meals available at locations across NYC. Delivery options are available for eligible New Yorkers. Learn more at nyc.gov/getfood or call **311** and say "Get Food."

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE

Public Safety

- By law, the NYPD cannot ask about the immigration status of crime victims, witnesses, or other people who ask for help. Anyone who has been the victim of a crime or has witnessed a crime should call **911**.

Protections Against Discrimination

- Discrimination, retaliation, and harassment against anyone on the basis of their race, religion, or immigration status is not tolerated in New York City. To report harassment or discrimination, call the NYC Commission on Human Rights at **212-416-0197**.

Public Safety

- IDNYC is a free government issued photo ID card for all NYC residents ages 10 and above and provides access to a wide range of services and discounts. IDNYC applicants' information is confidential. Immigration status does not matter. Renew online or make an appointment to enroll at nyc.gov/idnyc or call **311**.

Protections Against Domestic Violence

- The City is here to help you if you are experiencing abuse. You can visit nyc.gov/nychope or call NYC's Domestic Violence Hotline at **800-621-HOPE**.

YOU HAVE RIGHTS

Know Your Rights with ICE (Immigration Enforcement)

- The City does not conduct immigration enforcement. If you are approached by federal immigration enforcement, you have rights. Visit nyc.gov/knowyourrights or call ActionNYC at **800-354-0365** for free and safe immigration legal help.

Tenant Rights

- If you are a residential renter and need help with any issues related to eviction or your landlord, visit nyc.gov/tenantprotection or call **311** and say "tenant helpline" for free legal help. For additional housing support go to nyc.gov/housing.

Workers' Rights

- You have a right to paid sick leave under New York City law. Immigration status does not matter. Immigrant New Yorkers with work authorization may qualify for unemployment insurance benefits. Visit nyc.gov/workers for resources or call **212-436-0381**.

Ask MOIA Hotline

- If you have questions about immigration or how to access City services, help in your language is available. Call the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) hotline at **212-788-7654** from Monday to Friday, 9AM to 5PM, or email askmoia@cityhall.nyc.gov.

ACCESS NYC

ACCESS NYC provides a mobile-friendly front door for New Yorkers to screen for benefit and program eligibility, learn how to apply, gather required documents, and find help. Information on Access NYC is available in eleven languages: English, Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Korean, Arabic, Haitian Creole, Bengali, French, Polish, and Urdu. Check out <https://access.nyc.gov/> for further information.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) offers nutrition assistance to millions of eligible, low-income individuals and families, and provides economic benefits to numerous communities. SNAP is the largest program in the domestic hunger safety net. SNAP issues monthly electronic benefits that can be used like cash to purchase food at authorized local retail and food stores. Eligibility and benefit levels are based on household size, income, and other factors which can be found here:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/hra/help/snap-benefits-food-program.page>

Applying for SNAP Benefits

You can apply for SNAP Benefits on the ACCESS HRA Website:

<https://a069-access.nyc.gov/accesshra/>



AmeriCorps VISTA members receive healthcare coverage through AmeriCorps. NYC service year members should check with their program staff to learn about healthcare options available to them before pursuing Medicaid. For more information about Medicaid, please visit www.nyc.gov/ochia/medicaid.

Medicaid is a government health insurance program for citizens and non-citizens with low income. If the AmeriCorps living stipend is your only source of income, it is very likely that you will qualify for Medicaid. You must be a US citizen or lawfully present immigrant to be eligible for Medicaid.

Please see the chart below for the Medicaid monthly income limits by family household size. The income eligibility is updated yearly and based on the federal poverty level. MAGI refers to the modified adjusted gross income. Non-MAGI groups are those who are aged 65 and over, eligible for Medicare, or have a disability. MAGI are groups that represent children and adults who are younger than 65 and don't have Medicare.

2021	Non-MAGI Disabled, 65+ or Blind ("DAB" or SSI- Related)		MAGI (< 65, Does not have Medicare)(OR has Medicare and has dependent child < 18 or < 19 in school) 138% FPL***		
	1	2	1	2	3
Income	\$884	\$1,300	\$1,482	\$2,004	\$2,526
Resources	\$15,900	\$23,400	**NO RESOURCE LIMIT**		

How do I know if I qualify for Medicaid?

You may be covered by Medicaid if:

- You meet certain financial requirements, and
- You have high medical bills or
- You receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

How do I apply for Medicaid?

You may apply for Medicaid in the following ways:

- NY State of Health, The Official Health Plan Marketplace (855) 355-5777
Website: <https://info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov>
- Managed Care Organization (MCO)
Directory: https://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/managed_care/mcplans.htm
- Navigators and Certified Application Counselors
Website: <http://info.nystateofhealth.ny.gov/IPANavigatorSiteLocations>
- Local District Social Services Offices
Directory: http://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/ldss.htm
- Medicaid Helpline (800) 541-2831
- Facilitated Enrollment for People 65 and older and People with Disabilities (347) 396-4705 www.nyc.gov/ochia/ABDProgram

Where you apply for Medicaid will depend on your category (i.e. single, childless couple, pregnant woman, and parent or caretaker relatives with dependent children).

The New York State Marketplace is the recommended method for completing most Medicaid applications. It determines eligibility using Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) Rules. In general, income is counted with the same rules as the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) with minor variations. However, if an AmeriCorps member is age 65 and older or eligible for Medicare, they should apply with their local department of social services.

What do I need to apply for Medicaid?

- Valid Social Security number (**not required to apply, but required to qualify for MA**)
- Proof of citizenship or immigration status
- Proof of age
- Four weeks of recent paycheck stubs if you are working (or other financial and/or income documentation)
- Proof of where you live, such as a rent receipt, landlord statement, mortgage statement, or envelope from mail you received recently
- Insurance benefit card or the policy (if you have any other health insurance)
- Proof of resources for people 65 and older and people with disabilities

MAGI Eligibility Groups: (Groups applying on the NY State Health Marketplace)

- Pregnant women
- Infants and children under age 19
- Childless adults which include individuals who are: not pregnant, age 19-64, not on Medicare, and could be certified disabled but not on Medicare
- Parents/caretaker relatives
- 19 & 20 year olds living with parents

Non-MAGI Eligibility Groups: (Groups applying with local Dept. of social services)

- SSI recipients
- Individuals who are age 65 or older, unless a parent/caretaker relative, blind or disabled and do not meet the criteria of the MAGI Eligibility Groups
- COBRA
- Medicare Savings Program (MSP)
- AIDS Health Insurance Program (AHIP)
- Foster Care and Children Formerly in Foster Care
- Medicaid Buy-In for Working People with Disabilities
- Medicaid Cancer Treatment Program
- Residents of Adult Home run by LDSS, OMH Residential Care Centers/Community Residences
- Clients Needing Excess Income Medicaid (surplus)
- Medicaid Continuation of Widow and Widowers, Pickle and Disabled-Adult-Children (DAC) eligible individuals

Home Energy Assistance Program

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is a federal program that assists New Yorkers with the cost of utility and heating bills. You can receive a regular benefit and an emergency benefit. For additional information on HEAP benefits, income limitations, and locations, go to: <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/>.

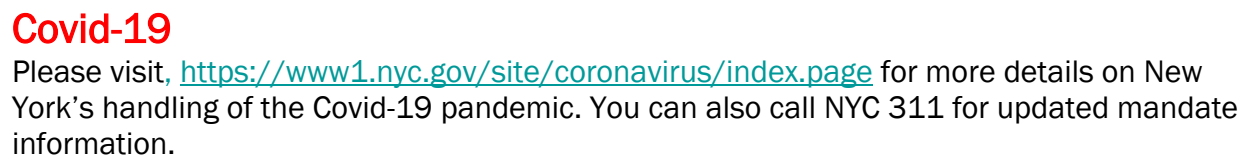
Resources for Eviction

It's important to know your rights as a tenant or subletter. Check out <https://www1.nyc.gov/content/tenantresourceportal/pages/eviction-moratorium-and-courthouse-closures> and <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/nycha/index.page> to learn more.

Cash Assistance

Visit: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/hra/help/cash-assistance.page>

This section focuses on providing you with some additional options for healthy living. Through your service year journey, you will execute important initiatives for the improvement of local communities, but remember to devote care to yourself, too!



Information & Mask Usage

- People that have no symptoms can still spread COVID-19.
- A face covering is critical to stopping the spread of COVID-19.
- A state order requires everyone over age 2 who can medically tolerate a face covering to wear one when outside their home
- Continue to maintain at least 6 feet from others even when wearing a face covering
- A face covering is a well-secured cloth covering or disposable mask that covers both your nose and mouth. Face coverings help prevent the spread of COVID-19 by:

Protecting the wearer, by reducing their exposure to respiratory particles

Protecting others, by reducing the amount of respiratory particles that enter the air when someone with COVID-19 coughs, sneezes, talks or breathes

Providing two or three layers of material to better prevent unfiltered air

Wearing two face coverings (a cloth mask over a disposable mask), which improves the fit and adds layers of filtered protection

Mask Safety & Mandates

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-vaccine-facts.page>

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-main.page>

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-testing.page>

Starting August 17, 2021, you will be required to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination for almost all if not all indoor activities and some outdoor large gatherings (e.g., concerts, sports).

Employees at locations offering indoor activities are also required to be vaccinated.

* Establishments may also have social distancing, mask mandates, and other rules.

NYC Vaccinations

Use the Vax Finder to help locate a vaccination site near you. <https://vaccinefinder.nyc.gov/>.

Further information on the benefits and safety of the vaccines can be found here:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-vaccines.page>.

Mental Health: Project Hope

Need assistance coping with Covid-19? Check out Project Hope at

https://nyprojecthope.org/?utm_medium=G1Search&utm_source=Google&utm_campaign=OMHProjectHOPERSPGrant.

Mental Health

All New Yorkers can access a range of free, confidential mental health services by phone or online. If you or someone you care about needs support, reach out to the following programs.

Mental Health for All

Check out Mental Health for All, if you need immediate assistance or would like counseling.

<https://mentalhealthforall.nyc.gov/>



New York State Emotional Support Hotline

The Emotional Support Helpline (1-844-863-9314) provides free and confidential support, helping callers experiencing increased anxiety due to the coronavirus emergency. The Helpline is staffed by volunteers, including mental health professionals, who have received training in crisis counseling.

The Office of Community Mental Health

The Office of Community Mental Health (OCMH) oversees strategies to close critical gaps in mental healthcare so every New Yorker, in every neighborhood, has the support they need. Building on the strong foundation of ThriveNYC, OCMH partners with 13 city agencies and nearly 200 non-profit organizations to implement innovative programs that reach people with the highest need – those with serious mental illness, those affected by trauma, and those living in historically under-served neighborhoods. OCMH also provides strategic policy guidance to activate every part of City government to promote mental health for all. To learn more, please visit <https://mentalhealth.cityofnewyork.us/>.

Bystander Intervention

As New Yorkers, we look out for each other. If you want to help someone who needs mental healthcare, you can. Get started with OCMH's "How to help someone who needs mental healthcare" guide, produced with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and NYC Health + Hospitals. The guide walks you through how to get mental health support for anyone, at any level of need - including what to know, where to look, and who to call. To receive a copy of the guide, please visit <https://mentalhealth.cityofnewyork.us/how-to-help>.

NYC Well

Visit <https://nycwell.cityofnewyork.us/en/> for a number of well-being and emotional support applications that can help you live your best and healthiest life. If your symptoms of stress become overwhelming, reach out for support and help. You can contact NYC Well, a confidential helpline for mental health and substance misuse services. Trained counselors can provide you with support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in over 200 languages. Services include:

- Crisis counseling
- Peer support
- Short-term counseling
- Mobile crisis teams
- Connection to ongoing mental health and substance misuse services

Additional Resources

<https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/>
<https://www.rainn.org/>
<https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>
https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/suicide_prevention/cp.html
<https://www.preventsuicideny.org/>
<https://www.safehorizon.org/domestic-violence-shelters/>
<https://www.nyscadv.org/find-help/program-directory.html>
<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/hra/help/domestic-violence-support.page>

Fitness and Recreation

There are several free and affordable fitness activities around NYC. Registration is typically required beforehand; please go to the specific program's website for more information.

Shape Up NYC

Shape Up NYC is managed by NYC Parks in partnership with NYC Service, Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield, and Nike. It is a free, drop-in fitness program with locations across the five boroughs. Classes include aerobics, yoga, Zumba, and much more. The fitness instructors know how to make fitness fun!

*** You do not need to be a member of a local recreation center in order to attend a class. Bring a lock for classes held at recreation centers, if you plan on using a locker.*

To learn more about Shape Up NYC, visit the website at: www.nyc.gov/shapeupnyc.

Free one-year recreation center memberships are available to New Yorkers who sign up between September 7 – December 31, 2021.

<https://www.nycgovparks.org/facilities/recreationcenters>

Citi Bike NYC

Citi Bike aims to offer New Yorkers an affordable, accessible, and fun transportation option. You'll get an unlimited number of rides for a whole year and access to thousands of bikes across Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, and Jersey City. With your IDNYC card, you can save up to 15% on your annual membership during your first year as a new Citi Bike member. To learn more, visit nyc.gov/IDNYC and or <https://citibikenyc.com/how-it-works>.

Other Low Cost & NYC Fitness Opportunities

- The YMCA has gym memberships that range in price depending on the gym's location and membership type (e.g. Adult, Student, and Senior). <http://www.ymcanyc.org/>
- Planet Fitness charges \$10/month for basic access to all equipment and they're open 24/7. <http://www.planetfitness.com/>
- Blink Fitness charges \$15-\$20/month for membership. They're a rapidly expanding chain and opening new locations all the time, especially in Brooklyn. <https://www.blinkfitness.com/>
- New York City Sports Clubs <https://www.newyorksportsclubs.com/club-policies>
- Crunch Fitness NYC <https://www.crunch.com/join>



Community-based exercise groups

- ✓ Front Runners NY (LGBTQ run group):
- ✓ <http://frny.org/>
- ✓ North Brooklyn Runners
- ✓ <http://northbrooklynrunners.org/>
- ✓ Yoga to the People
- ✓ <http://yogatothepeople.com/new-york/>
- ✓ Meet Up App for Group Fitness and Sports
- ✓ <https://www.meetup.com/>

How much activity do I need?

Moderate-intensity aerobic activity

Anything that gets your heart beating faster counts.

at least
150
minutes
a week



AND

Muscle-strengthening activity

Do activities that make your muscles work harder than usual.

at least
2
days
a week



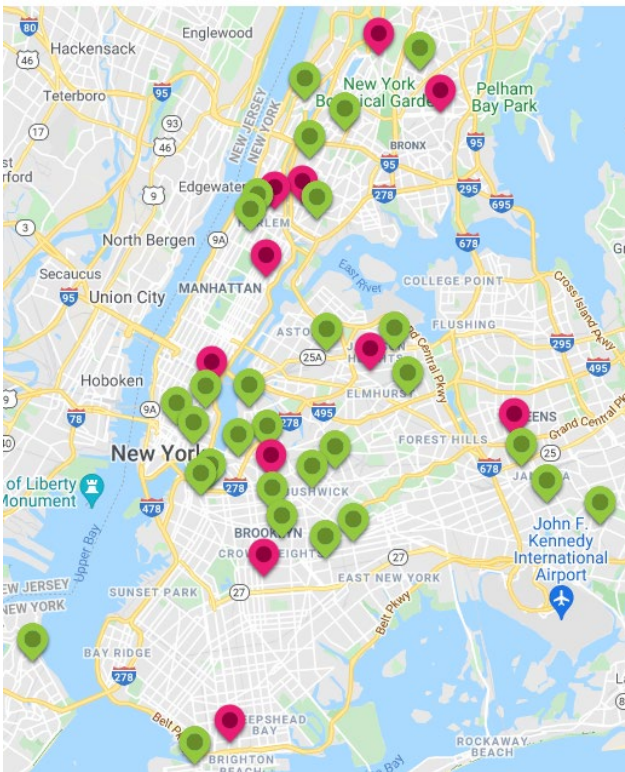
Break it up over the whole week however you want!



Health Clinics

There are multiple free or low-cost health clinics across the five boroughs of New York City. If you find yourself sick and with little means to manage medical expenses, please visit one.

Clinic Name	Phone Number	Location
FREE CLINICS		
Columbia Student Medical Outreach	212.342.4719	21 Audubon Ave., New York, NY 10033
Columbia-Harlem Homeless Medical Partnership	347.614.2121	St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 521 West 126th Street, New York, NY 10027
East Harlem Health Outreach Program - Mount Sinai	626.942.6519	17 East 102nd Street, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10029
ECHO Free Clinic	800.836.1316	1894 Walton Ave, Bronx, NY 10453
Mount Sinai Adolescent Health Care Clinic	212.423.3000	312 East 94th St., New York, NY 10128
New York City Free Clinic	917.544.0735	16 East 16th St., New York, NY 10003
St. Anthony's Free Clinic	718.401.9705	421 East 155th St., Bronx, NY 10455
Weill Cornell Community Clinic	646.962.9222	505 East 70th Street, 1st Floor, New York, NY 10021
SLIDING SCALE FACILITIES		
Amsterdam Family Health Center	212.865.4104	690 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, NY 10025
Family Health Center of Harlem	212.423.4500	1824 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10035
Health and Home Care	866.692.4663	Please call for locations

<p>NYC Health+Hospitals Facilities (offering comprehensive healthcare, including primary care, women's health services, dental care, and specialty care, etc). Largest sites listed below; additional 50+ community clinics not listed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bronx: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Jacobi o North Central Bronx o Morrisania o Belvis o Tremont - Manhattan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Harlem o Sydenham o Metropolitan o Bellevue o Gouverneur - Queens: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Elmhurst o Queens - Brooklyn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Woodhull o Cumberland o Kings County o East New York o Coney Island - Staten Island: Vanderbilt 	<p>844-NYC-4NYC (844-694-4694)</p>	
High School of Fashion Industries School-Based Health Center	212. 206.2910	225 West 24th St., New York, NY 10011
Institute for Family Health	212.633.0800	See website for local locations, institute.org
Mt. Hope Family Practice	718.583.9000	130 West Tremont Avenue, Bronx, NY 10453
NYCHealthandHospitals.org	Dial 311	Please visit website for locations: nychealthandhospitals.org
P.S. 57 James Weldon Johnson School-Based Health Center	212.860.5812	176 East 115th Street, New York, NY 10029
Sidney Hillman/Phillips Family Practice	212.206.5200	16 East 16th St., New York, NY 10003
Stevenson Family Health Center	718.589.8775	731 White Plains Rd., Bronx, NY 10473
The IFH Center for Counseling at ASC	646.741.9100	64 West 35th St., New York, NY 10001
The IFH Center for Counseling - Frisby Avenue	718.239.1610	2590 Frisby Avenue, 1st Floor, Bronx, NY 10461
Urban Horizons Family Health Center	718.293.3900	50-98 East 168th St., Bronx, NY 10452
Walton Family Health Center and Center for Counseling	718.583.3060	1894 Walton Avenue, Bronx, NY 10453
Washington Irving Campus School-Based Health Center	646.654.0640	40 Irving Place, Room 422, New York, NY 10003
WOMEN'S & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES		
Book of Choices	Visit website for specific location number	See website for local locations: http://www.bookofchoices.org/

Boro Hall Center	212.965.7000	44 Court Street, 6th Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11201
Margaret Sanger Center	212.965.7000	26 Bleecker St., New York, NY 10012
Planned Parenthood	1-800-230-7526	https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-new-york-city
Staten Island Center	212.965.7000	23 Hyatt St., Staten Island, NY 10301
The Bronx Center	212.965.7000	349 East 149th Street, 2nd Floor, Bronx, NY 10451
DENTAL SERVICES		
Columbia University Dental Center	212.305.6100	622 West 168th Street, New York, NY 10032
Family Health Center of Harlem	212.423.4400	1824 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10035
Heritage Healthcare Center	212.862.0054	1727 Amsterdam Avenue, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10031
NYC College of Technology Dental Hygiene Clinic	718.260.5074	300 Jay Street, 2nd floor, Brooklyn, NY 11201
NYU Dental School	212.998.9872	345 East 24th St., New York, NY 10010
NYU Lutheran Department of Dental Medicine	718.630.6875	150 55th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11220
Stevenson Family Health Center	718.589.8775	731 White Plains Rd., Bronx, NY 10473
Walton Family Health Center	718.583.2700	1894 Walton Avenue, Bronx, NY 10453

Nutrition

Finding fresh and affordable healthy food options can be a challenge in New York City. GrowNYC's Greenmarkets, Farmstands, and Fresh Food Box sites offer fresh, affordable, and regionally grown foods across the five boroughs

*** Every GrowNYC location accepts SNAP/EBT benefits.*

Greenmarkets, Farmstands and Fresh Food Box sites

GrowNYC's bustling markets across all five boroughs promote regional agriculture by providing small family farms the opportunity to sell their locally grown products directly to consumers, and ensuring that all New Yorkers have access to the freshest, most nutritious locally grown food the region has to offer. In addition to Greenmarkets, GrowNYC manages Fresh Food Box weekly pick-up locations, and Farmstands. GrowNYC welcomes shoppers using SNAP benefits and offers Health Bucks at Greenmarkets and Farmstands along with half-price Fresh Food Boxes at these locations. Find your local Greenmarket, Fresh Food Box or Farmstand and learn more about SNAP and Health Bucks at:

<https://www.grownyc.org/greenmarket/ourmarkets>.

Food Scrap Collection

You can bring your food scraps to the Greenmarket and other convenient locations for composting – reducing your trash and helping create healthy soil.

To find a drop site near you, visit <https://www.grownyc.org/compost>.

Community Gardens

There are more than 550 community gardens in New York City. Some are green spaces meant for relaxation and as a community meeting space, others are full-fledged farms, and many are a mix. Volunteer gardeners are the backbone of these spaces. For assistance joining a community garden in your neighborhood, contact GrowNYC at

<http://www.grownyc.org/about/contact>, or visit <https://www.grownyc.org/gardens> or GreenThumb at <https://greenthumb.nycgovparks.org/>.

Governors Island

Looking to escape the concrete and hurried pace of the city (but still stay in the city)? Head out to GrowNYC's one-acre urban farm on Governors Island on weekends for tours, garden and nutrition related workshops, tours, scavenger hunts and other activities – all for free. Governors Island is an extraordinary and unique destination for transformative public art, unforgettable events, cultural and educational programming, and recreational activities for all ages. Visit <https://www.govisland.com/things-to-do>.

Stop 'N' Swap

Furnish your apartment for free! Stop N Swaps are free reuse events where anyone can bring or take gently used household items, clothing, books, etc. Find a swap near you by visiting <https://www.grownyc.org/swap> or by following @grownyc on Instagram and Facebook.



III. Personal Management

This section provides you with tips to manage your financial resources and offers practical budgeting techniques to keep you afloat throughout your service term. Living on a service year stipend will teach you a lot about budgeting, self-control, and responsibility.

Personal Budgeting

Throughout your NYC service year term, budgeting is a necessity. It is also important to consider personal finance choices for your post-service transition as you plan for potential gaps in employment, moving to a new place (or staying where you served), cost of living, or becoming a student.

- Create a budget to estimate costs for the first few months of your service term. Research budget templates or use free online resources like www.mint.com to make a plan for how you will pay for your expenses during (and after) your service year.
- Set up an emergency fund, or savings account which is a fund where you can put aside between three and six months-worth of post-tax income in case of an emergency. A strategy for not spending from this fund is to set it up in a different account from the accounts you use to pay expenses.
- Seek out resources like the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs, which offer free tax help for taxpayers who qualify. Information on the programs can be found at: <http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Free-Tax-Return-Preparation-for-You-by-Volunteers>.
- IDNYC cardholders can use their card as primary ID to open a bank or credit union account at one of several financial institutions across New York City. Other financial institutions accept it as a secondary form of ID. Visit nyc.gov/IDNYC for more info.

50/20/30 Budget

The 50/20/30 budget has a simple concept that is easy to follow. It is credited as U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren's rule. Like all budgets, they are most successful when you make consistent contributions to the proposed schedule. The 50/20/30 rule can be malleable. The main concept is that you identify a set amount each pay period that should be designated to your essential needs. For NYC Service Year members, it may be hard to include a 20% savings component with such limited funds. So your budget might actually reflect 70%-Essentials and 30%-Personal Choice. Remember, a budget is supposed to help you manage your finances, so whatever model you end up choosing, be consistent. Below is the example of a breakdown of the 50/20/30 budget rule.

50% of Your Income – Essentials

Expenses that you cannot live without

- Rent
- Food
- Phone/Wi-Fi
- Other Bills

20% of Your Income – Financial Obligations

- Paying down debt or saving for things that you need but you can live without
- 401K
- Tuition
- Emergency fund
- Future housing purchases

30% of Your Income – Personal Choices

- Voluntary expenses that improve your lifestyle
- Gym memberships
- New clothes
- Social outings

Determining essential and non-essential needs is not always easy, and often changes with age. Think deeply about what you absolutely need and then use this model to help organize the allocation of your remaining funds.

Financial Empowerment Tools

The NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection's Office of Financial Empowerment (OFE) works to educate, empower, and protect New Yorkers and their communities so they can improve their financial health and build assets. OFE offers several resources that may be helpful to you during your service term. Please review the following innovative programs and products that can help you even after your service term is complete.

Financial Empowerment Centers

The NYC Financial Empowerment Centers offer FREE, one-on-one financial counseling and coaching to help you manage your budget, tackle debt, save for the future, open a bank account, improve credit, and much more. Financial counseling is free and confidential, and professional counselors speak multiple languages. You can call 311 to schedule a free, one-on-one financial counseling appointment or visit nyc.gov/TalkMoney for more information. Financial counseling is available in-person and by phone.

NYC SafeStart Account

The NYC SafeStart Account is a safe and affordable starter savings account available for New Yorkers. The NYC SafeStart Account special features include:

- No overdraft fees
- No monthly fees, provided a minimum balance is met
- Minimum balance requirements are \$25 or less
- ATM card for withdrawals (Note: It is NOT a debit card)

Please visit nyc.gov/SafeStart for more information on SafeStart and other information on opening a bank account.

NYC Free Tax Prep

NYC Free Tax Prep provides free tax filing services so New Yorkers can claim valuable tax credits and avoid paying high fees. The program also provides helpful tips during tax time.

Please visit nyc.gov/taxprep or call 311 for more information on filing your taxes safely and for free.

Note: Some sites are open year-round, in addition to being open during the tax season. The criteria for the 2021 tax season are listed below.

Online Self-Prep with Help:

To use this service, families must earn \$68,000 or less in 2021 and single filers earning \$48,000 or less in 2021. Please have a valid email address and know your 2020 Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) or Self-Select PIN.

- The online service is quick, easy, and secure.
- Step-by-step instructions help you claim deductions and credits like the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and NYC Child Care Tax Credit (NYC CCTC).
- Experts are available by phone or e-chat to answer questions.

Virtual Tax Prep:

To use this service, families must earn \$68,000 or less in 2021 and single filers earning \$48,000 or less in 2021. Please have a valid email address and access to a web camera.

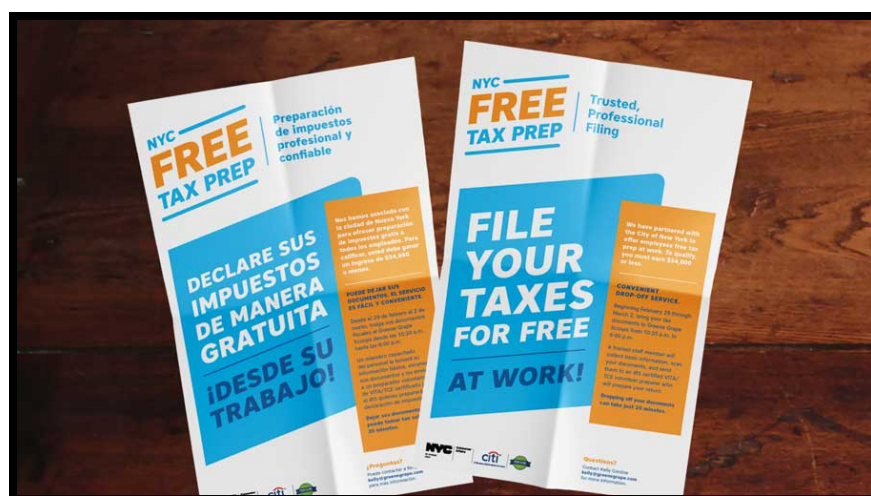
- This online service consists of a 60-90 minute virtual call.
- An IRS certified Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)/Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) volunteer preparer will help you file your 2020 tax return.
- You will use a secure digital system to manage your tax documents.

File in person at your local NYC Free Tax Prep site:

For most sites, families must earn \$68,000 or less in 2021 and single filers earning \$48,000 or less in 2021.

- IRS certified VITA/TCE volunteer preparers help you claim deductions and credits like the EITC and NYC CCTC.
- Some sites let you drop off your tax documents and pick up the completed return later.

Important Updates Due to COVID-19: While some fully in-person appointments are available, drop-off tax services are also offered. Visit nyc.gov/taxprep to learn more.



Advance Child Tax Credit Payments

Under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act, the Child Tax Credit was expanded in several key ways. First, the total value increased to \$3,000 per child for children ages 6 to 17 or \$3,600 per child for children ages 0 to 5. Second, the distribution schedule changed to half of the total credit being distributed on a monthly basis between July and December of 2021, with the other half distributed at tax time in 2022. No action is required for most eligible families. However, if you did not file taxes or claim a stimulus payment in 2019 or 2020, you must act. Visit nyc.gov/taxprep to learn more.

Economic Impact Payments (Stimulus Payments)

Under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act, eligible individuals and families are eligible to receive by direct deposit or mail 3 Economic Impact Payments totaling of up to \$3,200 (for single filers) and \$6,400 (for married couples filing jointly) plus an additional \$2,300 for each dependent child under age 17. No action was required by most eligible recipients. If you were eligible but did not receive your stimulus in 2020 and 2021, you may claim them when you file your taxes via the Recovery Rebate Credit. Learn more about stimulus payments at nyc.gov/TalkMoney.

NYC Financial Empowerment Centers

You can get free financial counseling in person or by phone. Visit nyc.gov/TalkMoney to book an appointment. Work with your counselor to open a bank account so you can set up direct deposit; navigate the IRS Get My Payment tool; manage sudden changes to your household budget or income; contact creditors, and more.

Student Loans

Know your rights and responsibilities when it comes to student loans, including payment options and resources to aid decision-making; know the signs of predatory practices by some schools and lenders; and get free financial counseling and referrals to legal services. Learn more at nyc.gov/studentloans.

Identity Theft Prevention & Online Safety Resources

<https://www.identitytheft.gov/#/>

<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/feature-0014-identity-theft>

<https://portal.311.nyc.gov/article/?kanumber=KA-02533>

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dca/consumers/scams.page#idtheft>

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dca/consumers/10-things-consumer.page>

IV. Housing Resources

This section will provide you information on housing resources and services. Housing in New York City can be expensive and frustrating when you are trying to find a place that meets all your needs. However, there are some resources that are available to help lower the cost, including room shares and NYC Housing Connect.

Room Sharing

Trying to find an affordable place in NYC can be a daunting task. Past service year members have found that room shares help cut the cost for housing in the city. These websites are recommended by local service year members to locate roommates, and they are free. Be cautious and smart when looking for housing as there are scams and unlicensed real estate brokers.

<https://newyork.craigslist.org/>

Craigslist has a series of housing listings for room shares and apartment leasing across New York City. Often, third parties list the housing opportunities on behalf of the landlord. Make sure you do ample research on any property you are interested in, and get the landlord's contact information, so you can be certain the property is indeed available. If you want to view the property in person, it is recommended that you bring a friend or family member.

<https://www.spareroom.com/newyork>

SpareRoom helps you find rooms, sublets, and roommates in the New York City area. You can search for your perfect room across the five boroughs.

<https://www.padmapper.com/apartments/new-york-ny>

You can find apartments within your price range across New York City and other areas. It captures all the listings in the area that have been posted through various websites and their photos, with precise map location.

Additional Websites

http://padmatchre.com/	http://easy-apartments-to-rent.com/
nakedapartments.com	Gypsy Housing NYC (Facebook group)
Landlordwatchlist.com	https://streeteasy.com/
https://www.apartments.com/new-york-ny/	https://www.zillow.com/ny/apartments/
https://www.renthop.com/	https://www.cityrealty.com/
https://www.apartmentfinder.com/New-York/New-York-Apartments	https://www.stuytown.com/
https://roomiapp.com/	https://perfectstrangersofnyc.com/

Tips for the Apartment Search in NYC:

- Get a copy of the New York State Tenant's Rights Guide online at https://www.hud.gov/states/new_york/renting/tenantrights or in hard copy.
- Don't agree to live somewhere before you've seen the place in person for yourself.
- Never live somewhere without first signing a contract that you and the landlord have on file. Additionally, make copies of everything including the deposit transaction.
- Keep your service year site location in mind. Avoid a 1.5 hour commute, if possible!
- Consider what percentage of your income is going to rent and how realistic that is.

Other considerations before renting an apartment:

- Nearby subway and bus lines for transportation
- Availability of necessities like laundry
- Monthly utilities, as well as rent, for your budget

NYC Housing Connect

The NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) offers a wide variety of programs that create newly constructed or renovated affordable rental housing throughout the five boroughs. HPD and its partners use city subsidies and other financing tools to make these apartments affordable to low-, moderate-, and middle-income individuals and families.

Through NYC Housing Connect (nyc.gov/housingconnect), you can learn how to apply for affordable housing lotteries, view lotteries currently open for applications, set up a profile, and submit applications for your household.

HPD also partners with community-based service providers in New York City who help people prepare and apply for affordable housing. To find a Housing Ambassador near you, please visit nyc.gov/housing-ambassadors.

To access a list of NYC Housing Development Corporation-financed developments that are currently accepting applications visit www.nychdc.com/pages/Now-Renting.html.



V. Exploring NYC

This section will provide you with some helpful websites and information for attractions, restaurants, and fun things to do outside of your service.



Recommended Websites

https://www.reddit.com/r/nyc/	https://www.timeout.com/newyork
http://nymag.com/	https://www.nonsensenyc.com/
https://www.nycgo.com/	https://theskint.com/
http://brooklyn.com/	https://www.nytimes.com/
https://www.zagat.com/new-york-city	https://www.ny.gov/

NYC Guidebooks

- *The Brooklyn Experience: The Ultimate Guide to Neighborhoods & Noshes, Culture & the Cutting Edge*, by Ellen Freudenheim
- *Not For Tourists Guide to New York City*, by Not For Tourist
- *Lonely Planet New York City (Travel Guide)*, by Lonely Planet
- *MICHELIN Guide New York City: Restaurants*, by Michelin

Virtual Guide

<https://www.nycgo.com/virtual-nyc/>

Affordable Restaurants

Here's a brief list of resources to find the best restaurant deals, but don't be afraid to dive into your neighborhood's food scene. It's likely to provide cheap and authentic options. Check out Timeout NYC for some tips. Additionally, when you're tired of \$1 pizza and other cheap treats, joining a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) can be a great way of getting cheap, fresh produce.

- Join a CSA: <http://www.justfood.org/csalloc>
- 60 Cheap Eats: <http://ny.eater.com/maps/cheap-eats-nyc-mapped>
- NYC Restaurant Week: <http://www.nycgo.com/restaurant-week>
- Groupon NYC: <https://www.groupon.com/local/new-york-city/restaurants>
- 20 Best Spots for Cheap Eats: <https://www.thrillist.com/eat/new-york/best-cheap-eats-in-nyc>

Eating In

- Making grocery lists and sticking to them are a must for service year members. Planning your meals can make all the difference when it comes to living on the stipend. If you can buy things in bulk, go for it, but only if you'll use it and they won't spoil.
- Trader Joe's has low-price and high quality groceries.
- Check out Chinatown markets for cheap produce, rice, and tofu.
- If you're in Brooklyn, look into joining the Brooklyn Food Co-op.
- If you want to purchase a rice cooker, blender, homebrew kit, or coffee maker, check out thrift stores before you pay full price or look online.
- Check out the *Good and Cheap Cookbook* by Leanne Brown, available to download for free: <https://cookbooks.leannebrown.com/good-and-cheap.pdf>.

Entertainment

- AMC Stubs A-List is part of the AMC Stubs loyalty program. Join their monthly movie membership and make FREE online reservations in advance. You can see multiple movies per day or make reservations for upcoming movies, including all premium formats such as Dolby Cinema, RealD® 3D and IMAX®.
- Take the Staten Island Ferry to see an amazing view of the city for free.
- Check out Roosevelt Island and Governors Island.
- Central Park and Prospect Park are great places to explore.
- Visit the 9/11 Memorial & Museum in Manhattan.
- Go to Chinatown, Korea Town, and Little Italy. Tons of restaurants and shops.
- The Downtown Boathouse at Pier 26 in Manhattan hosts free kayaking.
- Coney Island is a cheap center of entertainment or for a day at the beach.
- Visit <https://www.nycgo.com/> for information on food and entertainment.
- In Queens, be sure to check out Astoria Park, Museum of the Moving Image, MoMA PS1 for summer concerts, the Steinway area for boutique shopping, and explore Broadway and 30th Avenue for great places to eat.
- Museums: Lots of amazing museums have evening hours or days where admission is free or cheap. Check out The Met, American Museum of Natural History, MOMA, etc. Use this TripSavvy guide to New York City Museums for more info: <https://www.tripsavvy.com/free-and-discount-nyc-museum-admission-1613168>.
- If you're not already registered with Groupon and Living Social for the NYC area, now's the time. These websites can provide cheap tickets to events, tours, and alternatives to gym memberships, along with much more.
- To find live music shows, visit <https://www.bandsintown.com/cities/new-york-ny>, Ticketmaster, StubHub, and <https://www.ohmyrockness.com>.
- Go to [meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com) to find social groups and outings that you may want to join. They are free to join and offer many diverse opportunities across New York City
- [Everfest.com](https://www.everfest.com) is your complete guide to festivals across the five boroughs.
- Check out NYC's professional sports teams: New York Yankees, New York Mets, New York Jets, New York Giants, Brooklyn Nets, New York Knicks, New York Red Bulls, New

York City FC, New York Rangers, New York Islanders, New York Liberty, Harlem Globetrotters, etc.

- Large music venues and festivals: Madison Square Garden, Brooklyn Barclays Center, Rolling Loud NYC, Global Citizen Live NYC, Governors Ball, Electric Zoo, Tribeca Film Fest, etc.

Shopping & Donations

- Buffalo Exchange is a good place to find work clothes or sell your clothes for cash when cleaning out a closet. Learn more at: <https://www.buffaloexchange.com/>.
- Housing Works Thrift Shops are neighborhood treasures, thriving off the donations from the community. Housing Works Thrift Shops sell an eclectic collection of clothing, accessories, art, furniture, and homewares at unbeatable prices. Find great deals and support the NYC nonprofit community: <https://www.housingworks.org/>.
- Lot-Less Closeouts has great deals on housewares, linens, clothing and even pantry staples. Find one near you at: <https://lot-less.com/>.
- Good Will NY/NY <https://www.goodwillnyny.org/>
- Salvation Army <https://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/>
- Donation NYC <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/donate/site/>

Transportation

Your service year experience may take you to different parts of the city, so it's good to have a sense of New York City's transportation system. MTA subways, buses, and railroads provide 2.73 billion trips each year to New Yorkers. The MTA has its own website at <http://www.mta.info/>, where you can check for schedules, maps, and service advisories.



Good MTA Apps

CityMapper | Moovit | Transit | BusBus NYC | KickMap | Google Maps | MyMTA | NYC Ferry

Buses

- Bolt Bus - goes to several cities across the United States, <https://www.boltbus.com/>
- Greyhound - <https://www.greyhound.com/>
- Megabus - goes to several cities across the United States (offers Wi-Fi and charging stations on bus), <https://us.megabus.com/>
- Academy - <https://www.academybuscharter.com/cities/new-york-new-jersey/services/>
- Bonanza (Peter Pan) - <https://peterpanbus.com/>
- Coach USA - <https://www.coachusa.com/bus-schedules>

Trains

- Amtrak - train service across the United States, <https://www.amtrak.com/>
- Long Island Railroad - train service to Long Island, <http://www.mta.info/lirr>
- Metro-North Railroad – train service to parts of New York and Connecticut, <http://www.mta.info/mnr>
- PATH - train service to New Jersey, <http://www.panynj.gov/path/>
- NJ Transit – train and bus service across New Jersey, www.njtransit.com

Airports

- LaGuardia Airport (LGA)
- John F. Kennedy Airport (JFK)
- Newark Liberty (NWK)

City Parking and Driving via Car

<https://www.nycgo.com/parking-in-nyc>
<https://www.parkwhiz.com/>
<https://spothero.com/>
<https://iconparkingsystems.com/>
<https://parknyc.parkmobile.us/parknyc/>

Free Wi-Fi

<https://www.link.nyc/>
<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/blended-learning/technical-tools-and-support/ipads-and-laptops/free-and-low-cost-internet-options>
<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/mopd/resources/list-of-providers-offering-free-wifi.page>
<https://www.nycgo.com/articles/wifi-in-nyc/>
<https://www.nycgovparks.org/facilities/wifi>



VI. Volunteer Opportunities

As you progress through your service term, you may want to explore other opportunities to fulfill your personal service goals. Or, you may find that your term is ending and you need more hours. This section provides a subset of organizations that readily offer or promote additional volunteer opportunities so you can complete your service on time.

NYC Service - <https://nyc.gov/service>

NYC Service's website serves as a platform to learn about diverse volunteer resources, opportunities, and service events across New York City. Hundreds of organizations partner with NYC Service to promote volunteer opportunities on the website, which allows you to perform a targeted search by selecting filters for interest, region, skillset, and date.

New York Cares - <https://www.newyorkcares.org/>

As a New York Cares volunteer, you'll be on the front lines of creating positive change in our city. They provide a multitude of opportunities for service, including helping disadvantaged teens go to college, restoring neglected community gardens, and helping recent immigrants speak their first English conversations. With the assistance of volunteers, they impact over 400,000 disadvantaged New Yorkers every year.

Volunteer Match - <https://www.volunteermatch.org/>

Volunteer Match connects people and organizations that want to create change. They post several opportunities in multiple focus areas where service year members can participate. Getting started is easy; you can create a profile with your Facebook or LinkedIn page, and then select opportunities that align with your interests. Volunteer Match has helped match 14 million volunteers and works with over 120,000 organizations throughout the US.

Volunteer Referral - <https://volunteer-referral.com/>

The Volunteer Referral Center (VRC) refers thousands of New Yorkers to great volunteer opportunities at hundreds of nonprofit organizations. Well known for personal service and expert advice, VRC connects those who want to volunteer with organizations that need them. The service is free to volunteers.

NYC Parks - <https://www.nycgovparks.org/opportunities/volunteer>

Join the thousands of New Yorkers who help keep the City's parks and playgrounds clean and green. Find a program, upcoming volunteer event, or partner organization in your community where you can offer your service. You can volunteer with NYC Parks to help restore natural areas, care for trees, and monitor wildlife in our city's parklands. Or, help grow and protect New York City's natural areas and tend to street trees at upcoming volunteer meetups in neighborhoods most in need of care. You can also join other New Yorkers in the local parks and playgrounds to help plant flowers, paint benches, weed, and rake leaves.

GrowNYC - <https://www.grownyc.org/volunteer>

GrowNYC has many opportunities for individuals to dig in and make NYC a truly livable city, one where every person can flourish. Individuals must be 18 years of age or older and attend an orientation before volunteering. Greenmarket volunteers help at market, providing farmer support and community outreach. Volunteers can also help distribute Fresh Food Boxes and support the Farmstands.

VII. Continuing Education

As you progress through your service term, you may be thinking about life after service, including post-secondary education. This section provides information on the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award, local and state higher education institutions, and personal development courses.

Segal AmeriCorps Education Award & Member Benefits

Using Your Segal AmeriCorps Education Award

After successfully completing your AmeriCorps term of service, you are eligible to receive a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award. You can use your education award to repay qualified student loans and or pay certain educational expenses like tuition at eligible institutions of higher education and training programs. You can access the entire award or part of it until the total amount has been used or the award expires 7 years after the end of your service term. Learn more about using the Segal Education Award here:

<https://americorps.gov/members-volunteers/education-award-faqs>.

The Importance of Using My AmeriCorps Portal

To prevent a delay in the processing of Segal AmeriCorps Education Award payments, individuals must request payments electronically and exclusively using the online system, My AmeriCorps. This is a fast, secure, exclusive, and user-friendly method for requesting payments to be sent to qualified schools or loan holders. It also provides electronic records of payments requested for record keeping, and it's eco-friendly.

AmeriCorps Member Benefits and Discounts

AmeriCorps alumni are eligible to receive discounts that provide you with real savings and benefit options that support your personal and professional life after AmeriCorps. Check out exclusive discounts available to alumni by visiting <http://www.americorpsalums.org/>. Some of the benefits are also available to currently serving AmeriCorps members.

National AmeriCorps Alums Network Access

<https://www.americorps.gov/members-volunteers/alumni>

Higher Education Recruiting



Colleges and universities across the country actively recruit talented AmeriCorps alumni for their reputation of perseverance, drive, and proven active citizenship. Many of these institutions offer a variety of incentives such as service scholarships, new applicant fee waivers, or a match for the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award.

For more information, visit: <https://www.americorps.gov/partner/partnerships/schools-national-service-search>.

New York State & NYC Higher Education Institutions

If you are interested post-secondary education in NYC or New York State, here are some well-known institutions.

Adelphi University	Manhattan College
Bard College	Ithaca College
Barnard College	Manhattanville College
Baruch College	Marymount Manhattan
Binghamton University	Sarah Lawrence
Borough of Manhattan CC (BMCC)	Medgar Evers College
Brooklyn College	Monroe College
City College of New York	New York University
City Tech	Pace University
Clarkson University	Vassar College
College of Staten Island	Pratt Institute
Columbia University	Queens College
Cooper Union	Rutgers University – NYC location
Fordham University	St. John's University
Hofstra University	St Joseph's College
Hostos Community College	Stony Brook University
Hunter College	SUNY Downstate, Empire, Purchase etc.
Iona College	Syracuse University
John Jay University	The New School
Kingsborough Community College	Touro College
LaGuardia Community College	Wagner College
Lehman College	Yeshiva University
Macaulay Honors College	Cornell University
Rochester University	York College
Skidmore College	Marist College



Personal Development Courses

<https://coursehorse.com/nyc/classes/life-skills/self-improvement>

<https://www.landmarkworldwide.com/>

<https://dol.ny.gov/career-center>

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/hra/help/career-services.page>

<https://www.careercenters.com/>

<https://www.nypl.org/education/adults/career-employment/snfl>

<https://info.joinjobcorps.com/>

<https://www.coursera.org/>

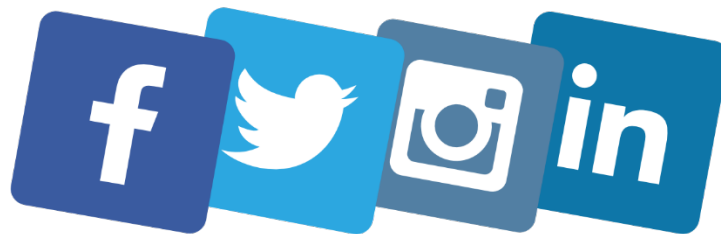
<https://www.udemy.com/>

Thank you for your service!



NYC Service™

NYC Service, a division of the Office of the Mayor, builds partnerships to deepen and expand civic engagement through volunteer and service programs, creating sustainable change for New York City's greatest needs. Follow us on social media @NYCService.



@NYCService #servenyc #NYCService