



What Nonprofit CEOs and Experts are Saying About AmeriCorps' Pipeline to Public Service

On May 13, 2008, the Corporation for National and Community Service released "Still Serving: Measuring the Eight-Year Impact of AmeriCorps on Alumni," is the most rigorous evaluation done to date about AmeriCorps' long-term impacts on members. One of the key findings of the report is that AmeriCorps alums continue to be highly civically engaged and enter public service careers at a rate of 60% significantly higher than a similar comparison group. This finding is critical, as the nonprofit and government sectors are facing a looming workforce and leadership crisis.

"Our work with AmeriCorps allows us to benefit from and develop compassionate young leaders who are committed to serving their communities. Their contributions to Habitat for Humanity across the United States are invaluable to helping move our mission forward, and we're so grateful for the support they and the entire AmeriCorps program provide Habitat. The passion and leadership AmeriCorps members invest in Habitat today will only strengthen this ministry tomorrow."

--- Jonathan Reckford, CEO, Habitat for Humanity International. Since 1994, several thousand AmeriCorps members have served with Habitat, mobilizing hundreds of thousands of volunteers to build more than 8,000 homes. Hundreds of AmeriCorps alums have taken staff positions with Habitat and others serve as board members, donors, and advocates.

"This study shows that AmeriCorps opens the doors to lifelong public service and motivates alumni to continue serving their communities through their careers and in their personal life. These findings offer public agencies and nonprofit organizations renewed hope as they work to address the coming workforce crisis. AmeriCorps is a powerful booster shot to address this crisis and help build the next generation of public servants and social entrepreneurs."

-- Paul Light, author of "A Government Ill Executed" and New York University professor

"AmeriCorps is perhaps the best pipeline for helping the nonprofit sector recruit its next generation of leadership. In recent years, several studies have documented the leadership deficit, even leadership crisis, facing the nonprofit sector. AmeriCorps is a sleeping giant of a solution with 75,000 people each year being directly exposed to nonprofit and public service."

-- Paul Schmitz, CEO of Public Allies and Chair, Nonprofit Workforce Coalition. Public Allies has graduated more than 2,200 AmeriCorps members with more than 80% continuing careers in public service and with levels of volunteer and civic activity more than double their age cohort

"This study demonstrates the tremendously important role of AmeriCorps as a pipeline for public service. AmeriCorps alums are emerging as dynamic and capable social entrepreneurs, public servants, and nonprofit sector leaders and thereby offering new promise and possibilities for our nation's civic health. "

-- Michelle Nunn, CEO, Points of Light & Hands on Network

"The nonprofit sector is facing a serious leadership deficit that threatens to undermine the effectiveness of organizations that are tackling some of our nation's most critical social needs. By giving 75,000 men and women the opportunity for intensive service every year, AmeriCorps is helping to groom the next generation of nonprofit leaders."

-- Thomas J. Tierney, Chairman and Co-founder, The Bridgespan Group

"What AmeriCorps workers really contribute to Boys and Girls Clubs is they enable us to extend what we're doing so that in many cases they're conducting new programs in our clubs and they're conducting. We are seeing AmeriCorps alumni being employed by our clubs. We see it in Biloxi, we see it in Utah, we're seeing it all over the country. It is clear to me that this is a pipeline for future employees and future professionals."

-- Roxanne Spillet, CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of America

“Because of AmeriCorps, thousands of young people have been able to act on their idealism as City Year corps members. After their AmeriCorps service, City Year alumni are on the path to becoming leaders for life. We are proud of our partnership with AmeriCorps and we believe national service has the power to transform this generation and those to come.”

-- *Michael Brown, CEO and Co-Founder City Year. An extensive study of City Year alumni found that they are more than twice as likely as their peers to be engaged in volunteer activity and to belong to a civic or community organization, and that three quarters of alumni report that their service year prepared them to solve programs in their communities.*

“What is remarkable is that important impacts of service have been sustained eight years after participants' enrollment in AmeriCorps. On just about every other research study, early outcomes have quickly diminished over time.”

JoAnn Jastrzab, Principal Investigator of the “Still Serving: Measuring the Eight-Year Impact of AmeriCorps on Alumni” report from Abt Associates, Inc.

“Our experience reflects what the study has found as well and that is that many in our community are also finding that not only is AmeriCorps rewarding, but they're also seeing this as future careers for themselves in public service. We have a leadership deficit, a talent deficit, when it comes to replacing so many who are running these community based organizations right now. I can't think of a better pipeline to engage these folks and to expose them initially to public service and then to let them learn about the business of nonprofits, to let them learn about putting their values and their mission at work for the community.

-Janet Murguía, President and CEO, National Council of La Raza

“We see examples everyday of AmeriCorps alums as leaders in their communities and are so pleased that there is now a study proving this. Alums are managing local AmeriCorps Alums chapters, they are leading nonprofit organizations and in public service positions, and are taking the charge of advocating for national service.

-- *Amity Tripp, Executive Director, AmeriCorps Alums, a nonprofit entity mobilizing and supporting AmeriCorps alumni that offers a online community and online job bank at www.americorpsalums.org.*