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Serve Wisconsin Announces \$7.3 Million in AmeriCorps funding for Wisconsin as program year kicks off at Opening Ceremony

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[Madison, WI] – Serve Wisconsin proudly announced that Wisconsin has received \$7.3 million in federal funding to support AmeriCorps programming and celebrated the kickoff of the AmeriCorps program year on October 30 at a virtual Opening Ceremony.

At the Opening Ceremony, Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes inspired the new AmeriCorps members, saying “As we continue to weather this crisis, you'll be doing even more important work than ever before to improve the lives of people all across Wisconsin. We have far too many gaps in our health, education, and economic systems, and COVID-19 has only made that more abundantly clear. That's exactly why your service work is so critical. As we work to close those gaps and eventually rebuild those systems to be more equitable and sustainable, we need people on the ground helping those who can't meet their needs.”

Reflecting on her own service as an AmeriCorps VISTA alumna, Congresswoman Gwen Moore described the impact of her own service to the AmeriCorps members and spoke about their upcoming service, stating that “this year, you will be dedicating the next year to your service. It won't be easy under these circumstances, you're going to face challenges, but what you will do will be meaningful to your local communities and to yourselves. I encourage you to take this experience and use it develop a lifetime of commitment to making a difference for others and to our nation.”

“This funding will put 900 AmeriCorps members on the ground to make meaningful impacts on local communities, which will be invaluable this year as our state continues to grapple with the effects of COVID-19,” said Jeanne Duffy, Executive Director of Serve Wisconsin. “The AmeriCorps members will continue and expand upon the service of previous AmeriCorps members who have already served well over 200,000 hours in response to the pandemic and will make a difference for communities and families throughout Wisconsin.”

“We are looking forward to the impact of the AmeriCorps members serving this year and are grateful for the \$7.3 million in federal funding to support AmeriCorps programs in Wisconsin over the next year as they provide assistance with local recovery efforts and help tackle some of the toughest problems in Wisconsin, many of which have been exacerbated in recent months, including the opioid epidemic, the academic achievement gap, healthcare access, and housing shortages for low-income families,” Duffy stated.

The funding will support the following Wisconsin AmeriCorps programs:

Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee AmeriCorps - Academic & Career Planning 23 AmeriCorps members provide college preparation and career readiness programming, including academic tutoring, assistance with college exploration and application, and job readiness and financial literacy education to low-income high school students.

Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee - ClubCorps 104 AmeriCorps members provide targeted programming for youth (ages 5-18) in one of five core areas: Education, Arts, Social-Emotional Development, Leadership & Service, and Sports, Recreation & Environmental Education. AmeriCorps members will provide in-school or after-school academic enrichment for children in a small group or individualized format, including as early literacy instructors for the SPARK Early Literacy Program. They will develop, manage, and implement a comprehensive art program and serve youth in visual and performing arts through after-school and summer programming. They will also provide social emotional development through after-school based small group social-emotional instruction as part of the INSPIRE HOPE initiative. Additionally, AmeriCorps members will lead youth in programming that promotes responsibility and community service, provide environmental education activities at Camp Whitcomb-Mason, and provide sport-specific after school programming to local youth.

College Possible Milwaukee 42 AmeriCorps members provide intensive coaching and support to low-income high school and college students in order to make college admission and success possible.

Dane County Department of Human Services - Partners for After School Success (PASS) 49 AmeriCorps members are placed in predominately low-income or resource scarce communities in order to enhance the academic achievement and school engagement of middle and high school youth through positive relationships, literacy tutoring, extended learning programs and volunteer service.

Easterseals Wisconsin 43 AmeriCorps members provide intensive personal care and lead or facilitate therapeutic recreation activities for individuals with disabilities and their families at Camp Wawbeek and Respite Camp. AmeriCorps members also provide therapeutic recreation activities for veterans and their family members at Veteran Family Camps.

Marian University This program is being developed through a planning grant. The program will increase engagement of undergraduate students at Marian University in volunteer service to addresses health, psychosocial, and economic needs of vulnerable populations in Fond du Lac and surrounding areas by having AmeriCorps members develop and implement social engagement curriculum to facilitate service-learning opportunities for all first-year undergraduate students.



Marquette University - 414 Fellows 30 AmeriCorps members will engage low-income children ages 0-3 in one-on-one and group literacy and language building activities to increase school readiness through gains in language and literacy skills.

Marshfield Clinic AmeriCorps - Afterschool 25 AmeriCorps members provide support to afterschool programs through promoting academic success, personal/social development and healthy active living for youth ages 8-18.

Marshfield Clinic AmeriCorps - Recovery Corps 15 AmeriCorps members will be trained as recovery coaches to help people recover from opioid and other substance addiction and provide community education about substance use disorders and recovery resources.

Marshfield Clinic AmeriCorps - Volunteer Wisconsin 35 AmeriCorps members are placed in non-profits across the state to increase their capacity to effectively engage and utilize volunteers.

Milwaukee Christian Center, Inc. - YouthBuild 23 AmeriCorps members make a tangible impact on their community through the construction of affordable, energy-efficient housing and accessible home modifications, while gaining job and leadership skills, improving their education and developing community through service.

Milwaukee Public Library This program is being developed through a planning grant. The program will increase K-12 student access to library resources and literacy-based activities by having AmeriCorps members provide support to students at local schools during the day, provide after-school programming and support at the library branch closest to these school, and summer reading outreach programming.

North Central Community Action Program 31 AmeriCorps members provide direct services to youth and their families as mentors and tutors during and after school. Members serve elementary, middle school, high school and adult learners.

Partners for Community Development This program is being developed through a planning grant. The program will boost enrollment of minority students in Wisconsin technical colleges by having AmeriCorps members provide mentorship, workshops, job shadowing opportunities, and additional support to high school students and their families

Public Allies Milwaukee 45 AmeriCorps members work to enhance and expand the capacity of nonprofit organizations to deliver critical direct services to Milwaukee residents.

Public Allies Milwaukee - Racine and Kenosha Counties This program is being developed through a planning grant. The program will expand the ability of nonprofit organizations to deliver critical direct services to Racine and Kenosha residents by having AmeriCorps members develop programming to enhance and expand the capacity of these organizations to serve the public.

Racine Zoo AmeriCorps Program 15 AmeriCorps members will provide environmental education programming to elementary, middle school, and high school students to reinforce grade-level science curriculum through inquiry and research activities, environmental presentations, and programming for participating classes at the zoo.



Renewal Unlimited, Inc. Fresh Start Program 25 AmeriCorps members construct two single family homes that are sold to low- and moderate-income families. While working on the houses, they develop educational skills, pre-employment skills, job skills, independent living skills and leadership skills.

Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers 13 AmeriCorps members will expand the delivery of medical, behavioral, environmental health, and social services programming to individuals from low-income families and areas with shortages of medical professional care. AmeriCorps members serve as health resource navigators and enhance educational programming for women's health, obesity, chronic illness, inclusive care for the elderly, and other medical needs.

Teach For America 46 AmeriCorps members lead classrooms across the city of Milwaukee while growing and strengthening the movement for educational equality and excellence.

United Way of Dane County - Achievement Connections 18 AmeriCorps members tutor high school students in math and leverage additional volunteers to provide tutoring with the goal of increasing the number of students who pass Algebra by 10th grade.

United Way of Dane County - Schools of Hope AmeriCorps Project 16 AmeriCorps members serve as literacy tutors and tutor coordinators in high-need elementary schools where they work with staff to increase the literacy skills of students in kindergarten through fifth grade.

United Way Fox Cities – Be Well Fox Valley 13 AmeriCorps members will deliver Health Education sessions and programming, with a focus on physical activity and/or healthy eating, as part of a multi-dimensional approach towards obesity prevention in Calumet, Outagamie, and Winnebago counties.

UW-Eau Claire - Blugold Beginnings 55 AmeriCorps members will engage youth in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) through robotics and coding afterschool clubs, STEM day and overnight camps, tutoring and mentoring in northwestern Wisconsin.

UW-Eau Claire - ECLIPSE 45 AmeriCorps members provide one-on-one interventions to 3-5 year old children who are at risk and/or from low income families in order to help them grow in the areas of language, literacy, social interaction and initiative skills.

Western Dairyland EOC, Inc. - Chippewa Fresh Start YouthBuild 48 AmeriCorps members construct new homes for income-eligible families in the local community while working on achieving high school diplomas/HSEDs, developing career goals, improving self-esteem and alleviating barriers to economic self-sufficiency.

Wisconsin Association for Homeless and Runaway Services 24 AmeriCorps members provide street outreach services to homeless youth and respond to referrals from police departments, schools and other youth-serving agencies.

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Farm to School 21 AmeriCorps members leverage community volunteers to implement farm to school strategies in a variety of high-need Wisconsin communities to provide students healthy local foods.



Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association Wisconsin HealthCorps 18 AmeriCorps members are placed in community health centers, public health departments and health focused non-profits in order to serve as patient navigators, health educators and community outreach specialists.

WisCorps 56 AmeriCorps members will complete high priority conservation projects across the state of Wisconsin. Members will be responsible for improving public land, planting trees, establishing firebreaks at homes, establishing or maintaining trails, installing or restoring rain gardens, and engaging individuals in environmental education programs.

YMCA of Metro Milwaukee 10 AmeriCorps members will work with PreK-6th grade students improve academic success and promote social emotional development through tutoring, coaching, and additional classroom support in before and after school programs and assisting in summer learning activities as wellness coordinators during summer day camps.

AmeriCorps' unique model means the Wisconsin AmeriCorps programs will leverage an additional \$6.3 million from the private sector, foundations, and other sources - further increasing the return on the federal investment for Wisconsin communities.

AmeriCorps members make a critical difference through their service by educating students for the 21st century workforce, supporting veterans and military families, completing conservation projects, tackling the opioid epidemic, promoting economic opportunity in our communities, helping people to live healthier lives, and through several other projects to make their local communities stronger. Additionally, they have played a critical role helping communities throughout the United States recover from flooding, hurricanes, wildfires, and other national disasters, including several disaster relief projects throughout Wisconsin over the past year.

After completing a full term of service, AmeriCorps members receive an award of approximately \$6,000 that they can use to pay for college or to pay off student loans, resulting in an additional \$3.3 million in Segal AmeriCorps Education Award funding for the 900 Wisconsin AmeriCorps members that will be serving this program year.

Since 1994, AmeriCorps members have provided more than 1.6 billion hours of service and earned nearly \$4 billion in education awards to pay for college or pay back student loans. Included within those numbers are the more than 27,000 Wisconsin residents who have served approximately 42 million hours through AmeriCorps, earning Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards totaling more than \$105.6 million.

The federal funding for these programs and education awards is provided by AmeriCorps, formally known as the Corporation for National and Community Service, the federal agency for volunteering, civic engagement, and national service programs. For more than 25 years, more than 1 million dedicated Americans have joined AmeriCorps and pledged to 'get things done.' This year, the 75,000 AmeriCorps members serving in schools, nonprofits, community and faith-based organizations, will do the same as they rebuild communities, support veterans, fight the opioid epidemic, prepare students for success, foster economic opportunity, and more. Those interested in serving can learn more at AmeriCorps.gov/join.

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Serve Wisconsin works with AmeriCorps programs throughout the state of Wisconsin to address human, educational, environmental, public safety and homeland security needs. AmeriCorps members are given the opportunity to enrich the lives of the people and communities they serve and their own lives through professional and personal development. Serve Wisconsin is governed by 21-member citizen body appointed by Governor Evers. For more information visit <https://servewisconsin.wi.gov>.

Federal funding is administered by AmeriCorps, formally known as the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency that engages millions of Americans in service through its AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Senior programs and leads the nation's volunteer and service efforts.

