

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



SERVE COLORADO
GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON
COMMUNITY SERVICE





COLORADO

Lt. Gov. Dianne Primavera

Dear Friends in Service and Volunteering,

It is my distinct honor to house Serve Colorado in the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, especially on this momentous 25th year of AmeriCorps and National Service. Serve Colorado empowers community-based organizations to meet locally identified needs through service and volunteerism.

By harnessing the power of AmeriCorps, over 1,200 members served at 150+ service locations, with nearly 20 community-based organizations across the state in the past year. Not only did these members address community challenges in areas ranging from education to the environment, but they gained countless personal and professional skills and earned nearly \$4 million in Segal Education Awards. I know these members will go on to be leaders in Colorado communities for years to come.



It's been thrilling to witness and participate in this service firsthand. Touring around the state to visit AmeriCorps service sites, I saw the selfless commitment and support that AmeriCorps members are providing to communities and the passionate individuals that are providing that service. It has also been my honor to join Serve Colorado in their Days of Service and give back to the state my family calls home.

As I reflect on what Serve Colorado and National Service have accomplished over the past 25 years, and look forward to the next 25 years, I am incredibly inspired and hopeful. This year, Serve Colorado garnered \$5.8 million in federal funds, the most ever awarded in a single year, to support AmeriCorps in their vital work across the state. Serve Colorado continues to be a national leader in collaboration with their partners in national service, AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps, and AmeriCorps Volunteers in Service to America.

Thank you for all the ways you support the Serve Colorado mission of empowering community-based organizations to meet locally identified needs through service and volunteerism. As we close the page on 2019, and usher in a new decade, I look forward to seeing all we will accomplish together in the years to come!

With Warm Regards,

Dianne Primavera
Lieutenant Governor

Lieutenant Governor Dianne Primavera is a leading patient advocate who has spent three decades fighting for every Coloradan's access to quality, affordable health care. Before becoming Lieutenant Governor, Dianne served as a state legislator and the CEO of Susan G. Komen Colorado, one of the largest organizations in the country dedicated to breast cancer prevention, treatment, research, and education.



A message from:
Executive Director Antonio A. Mendez and Commission Chair Maria Fabula

It is our distinct privilege to circulate Serve Colorado's 2019 Annual Report. We would like to begin by thanking staff members, Emily Worm and Danny Fisher, for their hard work and effort to make this vision a reality. We would also like to thank the Governor's Commission on Community Service. Our commissioners are comprised of incredible local leaders who are our advocates for national service in our state. Finally, we want to thank Lieutenant Governor Primavera and her entire staff for all the support they give Serve Colorado. 2019 was an incredible year for Serve Colorado.

Our 2018 education efforts to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) led to the opening of the Mountain Region office in Colorado in October 2019, one of eight regional CNCS offices. Our colleagues at the Southwest Region Campus of AmeriCorps NCCC received the CNCS CEO's award for their collaboration with the Mountain Region office and Serve Colorado on the "1A Initiative" – borne from our State Service Plan and meant to address the state's housing shortage.

AmeriCorps is in the midst of celebrating its 25th anniversary. That's twenty-five years of ordinary citizens performing extraordinary acts of service, solving local problems and strengthening civil society. In that time, parents have served as Corps members and passed that tradition of service to their children, creating generations of service. Twenty-five years is a milestone anniversary that we would not have reached without your support, without your advocacy for our mission, without your belief in community service and volunteerism. Serve Colorado thanks you for being part of this national movement and we look forward to the next 25 years. We know that, together, we will see incredible successes as our Corps members take on the country's greatest challenges.

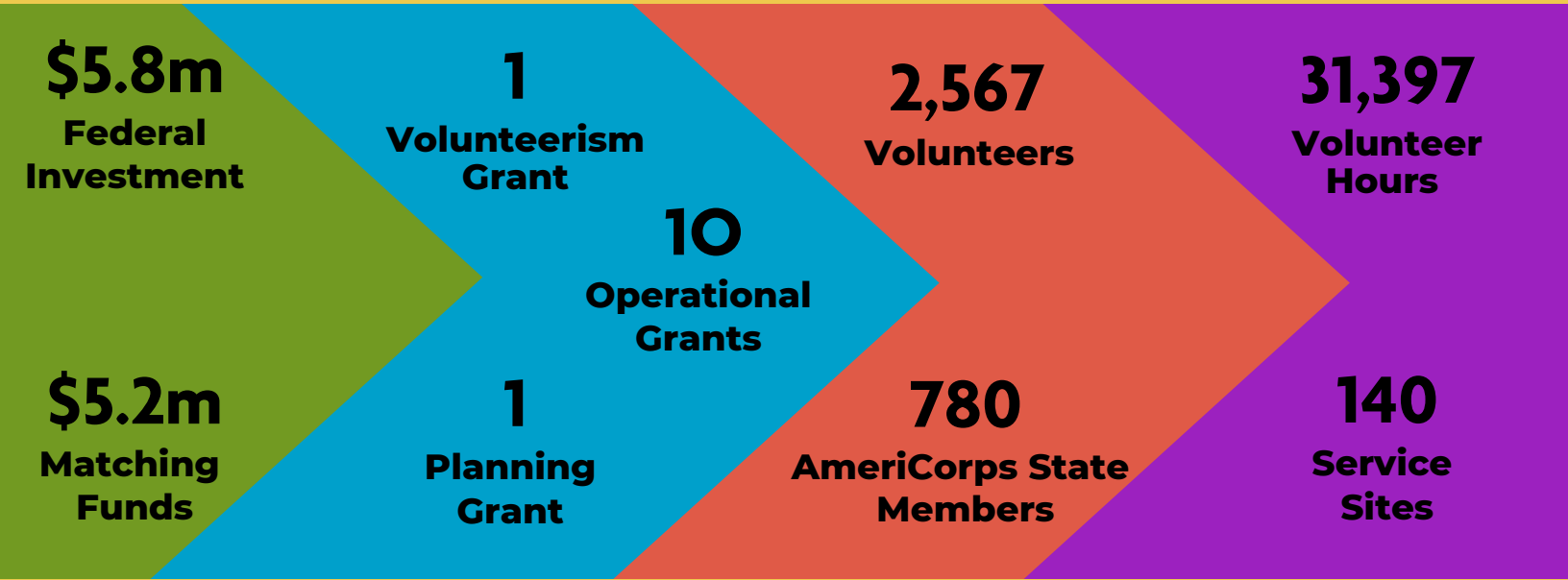


Antonio A. Mendez, Executive Director
Serve Colorado



Maria Fabula, Chair
Governor's Commission on Community Service

2019 at a Glance



AmeriCorps Program Portfolio



Education



**Healthy
Futures**

FOCUS AREAS



**Environmental
Stewardship**



**Economic
Opportunity**

Alpine Achievers Initiative



Alpine Achievers Initiative provides programs designed to support and nurture economically disadvantaged K-12 students in rural south-central Colorado. In 2019, this program placed 23 AmeriCorps members in schools to provide math and literacy tutoring and out-of-school time programming. AmeriCorps members served 707 students, and as a result these students have shown an improvement in academic engagement. Additionally, the AmeriCorps members leveraged 23 community volunteers to increase the number of youth being served and established a foundation for long-term community support.

Counties Served: Alamosa, Chaffee, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, and Saguache

City Year Denver



City Year Denver partners with Denver Public Schools to provide individual support to students in need of extra care and attention. In 2019, the program placed 85 members, aged 17 to 25, in three schools to provide full-day academic and school engagement services to students. AmeriCorps members provided the following services:

- Support to 800+ students in English and math classrooms;
- Individualized services and student progress monitoring to improve English, math, and/or attendance for 176 students;
- Extended-day activities; and
- Improved school climate.

Additionally, City Year has four members participating in a teacher residency program.

County Served: Denver



Colorado HIPPYCorps



Colorado HIPPYCorps, a program of Parent Possible, delivers the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) curriculum. In 2019, members provided weekly visits to families with children ages 2-5 years to ensure school readiness. During each visit, the member role-played an activity packet with the parent, so the parent could then complete the activity with their child throughout the week. AmeriCorps members were responsible for ensuring 417 children demonstrated gains in literacy skills. Additionally, the AmeriCorps members leveraged 36 volunteers to engage in supporting monthly group meetings.

Counties Served: Adams, Alamosa, Costilla, Crowley, Denver, El Paso, Mesa, Mineral, Otero, Pueblo, Saguache, and Weld

Colorado Reading Corps



Colorado Reading Corps, a program of Colorado Youth for a Change, improves literacy rates of K-3 students in schools across Denver and Northern Colorado. In 2019, this program placed 76 AmeriCorps members in schools to provide one-on-one reading interventions with students who are reading below grade level during the school day and additional support to enrichment programs before and after school. AmeriCorps members were responsible for increasing the reading proficiency of 748 students.

Counties Served: Adams, Arapahoe, Jefferson, Larimer, and Weld



Corps for a Change



Corps for a Change, a program of Colorado Youth for a Change, provides attendance and engagement support to off-track, disengaged high school students to reduce the dropout rate and increase the graduation rate. In 2019, this program placed 25 members in schools to assist students who are only attending school 70-90% of the time through home visits, phone calls, tutoring, and connecting students to outside resources. In 2019, the AmeriCorps members helped 180 students improve their academic engagement through increased attendance.

Counties Served: Adams, Arapahoe, Denver, Jefferson, and Larimer

CSU Extension 4-H STEM Initiative



Colorado State University Extension 4-H STEM Initiative provides underserved and at-risk youth aged 8-18 years with science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programming in out-of-school time settings. In 2019, this program placed 22 AmeriCorps members to help youth develop 21st-century workforce skills; graduate from high school; and consider STEM fields in academic and career choices. AmeriCorps members helped all participating students complete at least six hours of STEM education.

Additionally, the AmeriCorps members leveraged 26 volunteers who delivered STEM education to youth participants; supported family-based STEM education activities; and coordinated community-based service learning activities.

Counties Served: Archuleta, Broomfield, Denver, Dolores, El Paso, Garfield, Jefferson, Larimer, Mesa, Montezuma, Morgan, Park, and Weld



Mountain Roots Healthy Futures, a program of Mountain Roots Food Project, is a rural intermediary focused on community food security by creating synergies among education initiatives, nutrition and food access programs, public health and human services, and agricultural/conservation programs. The program placed 20 AmeriCorps members to provide education and outreach to underserved audiences to address capacity issues around food insecurity in southwest Colorado. The AmeriCorps members contributed to positive behavioral changes in 12,500 rural Coloradans. Additionally, the AmeriCorps members leveraged 460 volunteers to engage in health and nutrition education, community gardening, and food access.

Counties Served: Chaffee, Delta, Gunnison, Mesa, Montezuma, and Montrose

Rural Alliance for Dignity



Rural Alliance for Dignity, a program of La Puente Home, is a consortium of community-based organizations serving severely under-resourced, geographically diverse, rural communities. In 2019, this program placed 56 AmeriCorps members in 14 locations to address individuals' unmet needs. Members performed the following services:

- Housing support for 1,880 people experiencing homelessness or who were on the verge of it;
- Emergency food assistance to 11,000 food-insecure individuals;
- Garden science and nutrition education to 2,500 economically disadvantaged K-12 students;
- Education for 40 low-income families on skills for healthy family meals, including nutrition and cooking, and family social skills;
- Academic support for 320 economically disadvantaged K-12 students; and
- Social, emotional, and academic support for 40 elementary students who were experiencing neglect, abuse, or homelessness.

Counties Served: Alamosa, Chaffee, Conejos, Costilla, La Plata, Las Animas, Mineral, Montezuma, Park, Rio Grande, and Saguache

TeamUP AmeriCorps



TeamUP AmeriCorps, a program of United Way of Southwest Colorado, helps improve child and family wellbeing through activities like coaching families on early literacy, development, providing food to those who need it, and mentoring children during their out-of-school time. In 2019, this program placed 11 AmeriCorps members to increase kindergarten readiness, particularly related to language use among children ages 0-3.

Counties Served: Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, and Montezuma





Youth Corps for Colorado, a program of the Colorado Youth Corps Association, placed 414 AmeriCorps members in five conservation corps across 38 counties in Colorado. Conservation corps perform disaster relief and proactive mitigation activities, protect and strengthen outdoor recreation infrastructure, and install energy efficiency measures in low-income homes in rural and urban communities.

AmeriCorps members improved 2,146 acres of public lands and 235 miles of trails and waterways. Additional members weatherized or retrofitted 1,564 housing units to improve energy efficiency.

Counties Served: Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Crowley, Custer, Delta, Denver, Douglas, Eagle, El Paso, Elbert, Fremont, Garfield, Gilpin, Grand, Gunnison, Huerfano, Jackson, Jefferson, Kit Carson, Lake, Larimer, Las Animas, Lincoln, Mesa, Moffat, Montrose, Morgan, Otero, Pitkin, Pueblo, Rio Blanco, Routt, Summit, Teller, Weld, and Yuma



Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education



The Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education (CAEE) is participating in a 1-year planning grant to develop an AmeriCorps program that would increase Pre-K - 12 students' environmental knowledge.

CAEE seeks to create an Environmental Education Leadership Corps that will serve throughout the state to help implement the Colorado Environmental Education Plan (Colorado Department of Education, 2012).

Volunteer Generation Fund Grant

Spark the Change Colorado

The Volunteer Generation Fund (VGF) boosts the impact of volunteers in addressing critical community needs through volunteer management practices that increase both volunteer recruitment and retention. It supports efforts that build the career skills of volunteers, expanding opportunities for the unemployed, veterans, and disadvantaged youth.

Spark the Change Colorado is using the VGF grant to expand its existing pro-bono mental-health counseling programs in Pueblo county by having licensed professionals provide free services to low-income individuals and families. Additional counselors for the professional volunteer network are being recruited to support expansion in the county, especially in middle schools.

Annual Days of Service



Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

Celebrated the third Monday in January, Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service empowers individuals to strengthen communities, overcome barriers, create solutions to social problems, and move us closer to Dr. King's vision of a "Beloved Community."

The MLK Day of Service started with the annual Parade, where AmeriCorps programs and Serve Colorado staff marched from City Park to the Capitol to remember Dr. King's commitment to non-violence and justice. Following the Parade, programs continued their service with organizations, such as the Denver Rescue Mission and Habitat for Humanity Metro Denver.

Cesar Chavez Day of Service

Honoring the legacy of civil rights leader Cesar Chavez, we celebrate his birthday, March 31, with a Day of Service.

Serve Colorado was joined by the Governor's team to serve on two food-based projects in Metro Denver. At the Action Center in Lakewood, volunteers learned about its services for community members; cleaned and restocked the self-select grocery; and cleaned other areas of the building. At the Food Bank of the Rockies, volunteers processed and sorted donated items.



September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance

September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance promotes community service on 9/11 as a tribute to those who lost their lives that day or who rose in service as a result of that tragedy.

Members from La Puente Home's Rural Alliance for Dignity, based in Alamosa, cleaned farm produce to donate to the local Veterans Association that cooks weekly dinners for veterans in the San Luis Valley. Members met the people they were feeding, seeing the impact of the donated food firsthand.



Disaster Services

In 2019, Serve Colorado launched its disaster services efforts supporting the State Service Plan's fourth strategic goal, which includes the following objective:

Define Serve Colorado's role in a disaster, build systems for efficient deployment of AmeriCorps members, and find ways to work to prepare for and prevent harm from disasters.

Serve Colorado joined the Colorado Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (COVOAD). It will collaborate with COVOAD partners to harness the power of AmeriCorps to meet the unique challenges from emergencies. Serve Colorado is also partnering with the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) to meet needs identified by DHSEM during disaster recovery, such as, donation management.

Staff will participate in training on emergency management, including continuity of operations planning and FEMA's Incident Command System. Starting in 2020, Serve Colorado is incorporating emergency management into training with AmeriCorps program staff and members.

Outreach

Strategic statewide outreach enables Serve Colorado to connect with community leaders regarding AmeriCorps opportunities. It also addresses one of the issues raised by the 2017 Needs Assessment, which found that only 37% of survey respondents knew about Serve Colorado and its role in AmeriCorps. To remedy this statistic, the team planned outreach activities throughout the state during 2019.

Serve Colorado completed 20+ outreach events around the state in 2019, meeting with representatives from nonprofit organizations and government agencies. Participants shared stories about local ideas and new initiatives to address local concerns.

Serve Colorado, joined by representatives from AmeriCorps NCCC and VISTA, participated in the Rural Philanthropy Days (RPD) for the Western Slope in June and for the San Luis Valley in September. RPD, which occurs in two of eight Colorado regions each year, brings together grantmakers and small nonprofit organizations to increase access to funding and other resources for rural communities. This work will continue in 2020 with the Northeast and Heart of Colorado conferences.

Collaboration

Serve Colorado, the CNCS Mountain Region office, and the NCCC Southwest Region lead this award-winning approach to community outreach and strategic planning that has improved collective impact on national service.

One Book Colorado

One Book Colorado is a pre-school version of a community book club. The public selects a pre-school book through an online voting process and a special edition of the book is printed for 75,000 four-year-olds across the state. The book chosen for 2019 was **Penguinaut!**, written by Marcie Colleen and illustrated by Emma Yarlett. Special readings, events, and author visits were held in conjunction with the mass giveaway in April.



Training

Serve Colorado leads training for AmeriCorps programs to ensure that they are prepared to meet all requirements of their grants. Through events like Training Summit in January and the AmeriCorps Grant Management Institute (ACGMI) in July, program staff connected with each other and Serve Colorado to learn about fiscal and programmatic topics of importance. October's Member Retreat brought together over 270 members and staff to learn about effective service and share ideas for improvement to the member experience.

In 2019, Serve Colorado contracted Vantage Evaluation to conduct a Training Event Needs Assessment, supporting Serve Colorado's commitment to data-informed planning. Researchers created a survey and led a focus group to guide Serve Colorado in the following areas:

1. Structure of training events;
2. Sub-grantee voice and input; and
3. Training topics.

The report, delivered in June, has shown Serve Colorado ways in which the team has improved and opportunities for additional change. The team began using the results immediately, altering the structure and content for ACGMI in July and Member Retreat in October. The report will continue to influence the training portfolio as needs and interests evolve.



Executive Directors Event

In September, Serve Colorado hosted the first gathering of executive directors from its portfolio for a roundtable and training. The event empowered participants to share stories, resources, and a vision for national service in Colorado.

2018-2020 State Service Plan

Serve Colorado's 2018 – 2020 State Service Plan serves as the roadmap in helping Colorado communities find sustainable solutions to their growing and diverse needs through national and community service. It aligns with the current Corporation for National & Community Service Strategic Plan and the 2009 Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act. A statewide needs assessment in 2017 informed the plan to guide the Commission in its work through 2020. The following four strategic goals focus the efforts of Serve Colorado into measurable and meaningful outcomes.

BECOME THE STATEWIDE CATALYST FOR VOLUNTEERISM

- Awarded a Volunteer Generation Fund sub-grant to Spark the Change Colorado, which focused on engaging pro-bono volunteers for mental health services and training on volunteer management
- Launched its disaster services efforts to support Colorado emergency managers and volunteers
- Formed an ad-hoc committee within the Commission to address housing availability and affordability for AmeriCorps members

MAKE AMERICORPS A HOUSEHOLD NAME

- Completed 20+ outreach events throughout the state
- Participated in both Rural Philanthropy Days (Western Slope and San Luis Valley) to connect with rural nonprofit organizations and local governments
- With support from AmeriCorps VISTA and AmeriCorps NCCC, created three public service announcements with Governor Polis and Lt. Governor Primavera that aired on Comcast channels throughout the state

EARN MORE DOLLARS FOR COLORADO COMMUNITIES

- Achieved goal of at least 20% of programs funded directly by the federal government, which gives Colorado more money for new programs
- Completed the supplemental Financial Handbook
- Supported program staff with peer-training opportunities

ADDRESS COLORADO'S MOST PRESSING NEEDS WITH NATIONAL SERVICE

- Exceeded goal of 50% of new programs addressing at least one funding priority
- Provided targeted outreach in rural and mountainous communities, connecting with organizations that can benefit from an intermediary AmeriCorps program
- Collaborated with AmeriCorps NCCC Southwest Region and Habitat for Humanity on the State Service Plan's 1A initiative, which addresses housing affordability for Coloradans

National Service Bus Tour

3 Days | 1,007 Miles

In June, Serve Colorado staff, Commissioners, Lt. Governor Primavera, and representatives from the AmeriCorps NCCC Southwest Region office completed a three-day national-service tour of Colorado. The tour included experiential site visits, Commissioner bonding, and a celebration of AmeriCorps and volunteerism across the state.



Day 1:

- Fort Collins: Built and launched model rockets used in Colorado State University Extension 4-H STEM Initiative's afterschool programs.
- State Forest State Park: Hiked trails pristinely maintained by Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, part of Youth Corps for Colorado, and spoke with members about their service.

Day 2:

- Paonia: Attended Rural Philanthropy Days, where grant seekers from across the Western Slope networked and shared the needs of their communities with funders from around the state.
- Montrose: Met with the AmeriCorps NCCC team supporting the city and Habitat for Humanity of the San Juans. This partnership is part of the collaborative effort to address the affordable housing crisis.



Day 3:

- Saguache: Visited Mountain Valley School where Alpine Achievers' members help fill in the gaps of a 4-day school week by providing out-of-school programming.
- Alamosa: Visited with La Puente Home, Inc.'s Food Bank Network of the San Luis Valley and learned how their Rural Alliance for Dignity program uses an intermediary model to address the needs of the region.

Governor's Service Awards

The Governor's Service Awards are presented by Serve Colorado in recognition and appreciation of individuals and community leaders for their outstanding contributions to volunteerism and service throughout Colorado. Governors, current and past, recognize the importance of all Coloradans in solving statewide issues, and for the past 20 years have honored volunteers who have made a profound impact in their communities.



2019 Recipients of the Governor's Service Awards

Maryhannah Throm (Garfield County)
2019 Outstanding Volunteer Award

Clifford Boxley (Prowers County)
2019 Outstanding Veteran Volunteer Award

Melanie Zhou (Douglas County)
2019 Outstanding Teen Volunteer Award

Troy Grimes (Denver County)
2019 Outstanding Community Leader Award

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colorado
2019 Outstanding Nonprofit Organization Award

Sarah Duprey (Alamosa County)
2019 Outstanding AmeriCorps State & National Member Award

Megan Carter (Denver County)
2019 Outstanding AmeriCorps VISTA Member Award

Earth Team 7 (La Plata County & Metro Denver)
2019 Outstanding AmeriCorps NCCC Team Award

Nelly Rubinov (Denver County)
2019 Outstanding Senior Corps Volunteer Award

Jamina Abillar (Boulder County)
2019 Outstanding National Service Alumni Award

Governor's Commission on Community Service



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Chair



Summer Gathercole
Vice Chair



Matt Brady



Floyd Cobb, Ph.D.



Marc Dettenreider



Mickey Freeman



Sarah Hamilton



Kristy Judd



Denise King



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Jackie Rader
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Governor's Commission
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