



Governor's Commission on Community Service

Office of Lt. Governor Barbara O'Brien



AmeriCorps State Programs

2008 Mid-Year Report

"Building a culture of citizenship, service, and responsibility in Colorado."



Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor of Colorado

Barbara O'Brien
Lt. Governor of Colorado

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Community Service
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AmeriCorps State Programs

AmeriCorps members address community needs in four areas: education, public safety, human services and the environment. Colorado has AmeriCorps State and National Programs serving communities located throughout the State. The Governor's Commission on Community Service administratively guides and supervises the AmeriCorps State Programs. These programs recruit members for a variety of service projects in several locations around the state.

AmeriCorps members receive a modest living allowance or stipend, health coverage, and child care assistance for those who qualify.

Full-time members serving 1,700 hours are eligible for an educational award of \$4,725 at the end of their term of service. This award can be used for tuition or past educational loans. Half-time members serving 900 hours are eligible for an educational award of \$2,362 at the end of their term of service.

Each program is responsible for recruiting its own members and each program has its own application process and timeline.

AmeriCorps does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, gender, marital status, religion, ancestry, age, or on the basis of disability, if an applicant is otherwise qualified. This document can be made available in alternative formats upon request.

2008 AmeriCorps State Programs

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Commerce City, CO
720.322.8113
- Colorado HIPPY AmeriCorps
Statewide
303.860.6000
- Colorado Youth Corps Assoc.
Statewide
303.863.0600
- Community Building Partnerships
for Youth in Transition
Denver, CO
720.944.1006
- Healthy Lifestyles Mentoring,
Steamboat Springs, CO
970.879.2135
- Mesa College AmeriCorps Program
Grand Junction, CO
970.248.1874
- Mile High Youth Corps
Statewide
303.433.1206
- Operation Jump Start
Denver, CO
303.308.1420, Ext. 123
- Saguache United Methodist
Church AmeriCorps Program
Center, CO
719.256.4662
- Weld County Youth Conservation Corps
Greeley, CO
970.353.8300, Ext. 3400

Dear Volunteers and Community Partners,

It is a great pleasure to review the many accomplishments of the AmeriCorps State Programs in this 2008 Mid-Year Report. The work that AmeriCorps Members do is vital to helping communities across the State of Colorado.

The Mid-Year Report shows that this year has been a productive and enriching time thus far. Our 10 AmeriCorps State programs have recruited many volunteers that have focused on restoring our environment, mentoring youth, assisting elderly, and preparing for disaster relief.

I am overjoyed to see the commitment that our State's Programs have given and I encourage not only our AmeriCorps Members, but all Coloradans to continue to make Colorado a better place to live by serving one another.

With Sincere Appreciation,



Barbara O'Brien
Lt. Governor
State of Colorado



Dear Partners in Service:

On behalf of the Commissioners, I would like to send my congratulations to the AmeriCorps State Programs during this review of the 2008 Mid-Year Report.

The efforts that our AmeriCorps Members have put forth are tremendous and inspiring. So far this year these members have committed a great deal of time and energy and I have had the pleasure of seeing their enthusiasm first hand. Their work displays pride and a sense of investment in this state and their communities.

The members of the Governor's Commission on Community Service are very grateful for this diligence and proud to share in their triumphs.

My special thanks to all of you,



Christine Benero
Chair
Governor's Commission on Community Service



Barbara O'Brien
Lt. Governor



Christine Benero
Chair

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Early Childhood Education

AmeriCorps programs provide a quality and affordable learning environment for children whose parents normally cannot afford to send their kids to childcare or pre-school. AmeriCorps members assisted teachers in classrooms and worked with families to ensure that the children were receiving the highest quality education possible. AmeriCorps members who provided classroom assistance, mentoring, lessons, supervision, and case management, served thousands of children and youth, ages zero to seventeen years old. So far this year, AmeriCorps members have...

- Increased literacy levels of students in Adams County School District 14 (ACSD 14).
- Improved test results demonstrating that HIPPY Corps children far exceeded a 10% improvement in school readiness. In fact, as the report shows in more detail, there was a significant gain in the categories of Story Recall, Oral Comprehension, Sound Awareness and Picture Vocabulary and a 90% gain in the categories of Understanding Directions and Letter/Word Identification.
- Promoted homework assignments that Involve Parental Participation. The HIPPY Corps curriculum is designed to promote daily family interaction on language development, problem solving, and perceptual discrimination skills.
- Recorded that parents spent over 1.25 hours on HIPPY Corps activities weekly with their children, for to-date total of 24,554.75 hours program wide.
- Educated 1,806 parents attending meetings over the course of the program year. 5,805 calendars were distributed to those parents, and 32.8 % of parents served by HIPPY Coprs attended the monthly meetings.



Youth Development

- State Programs helped approximately 92 youth enroll in school or in a GED course.
- The young Corps members on these crews are given job training, team building, and service learning in a positive peer environment. Several of these young Corps members are considered at-risk youth since SCC hires individuals from Denver Youth Services. Through peer mentoring from AmeriCorps members, many youth return to participate in more challenging programs that allow them to further their work and leadership skills.
- Tutored incarcerated youth to prepare for their GED.
- The Leadership and Conservation Program encompass an intentional and purposeful education and job readiness component. Members facilitate the Service Learning Curriculum and in summer, members take on leadership roles on their crews. In addition, designated Education Mentors act as mentors to younger Corps members, creating an overall positive peer environment.
- Mentored 162 disadvantaged youth. In addition to being role models for these youth, the AmeriCorps members help the youth obtain housing, employment, and learn the life skills needed to be independent.
- Taught independent living classes to approximately 502 youth. These independent living classes help build skills related to budgeting, employment, education, conflict management, and hygiene.
- Held 55 fishing clinics for 2,500 youth and constructed 4,500 fishing poles
- Taken over 50 youth to community education fairs.
- AmeriCorps members have assumed leadership positions. Leadership and Conservation Program mentors are trained to become Crew Leaders through a series of trainings and skill development challenges. Half of the members are in a year-long program called the Education and Outreach Program (EOP) while the other six are enrolled in a six month Crew Leader Development Program (CLDP). The EOP members are trained to be Education Mentors as well as Crew Leaders and the CLDP members are trained to lead a variety of Conservation Crews. EOP members become Crew Leaders for SCC's Community Corps Program, which hires about 50 Corps members ages 14 and 15 for four weeklong projects in five municipalities within the Four Corners region.



Higher Education

- At the AmeriCorps Week Kick Off, the State of Colorado was presented a check for \$22,251,240.20 representing the amount of AmeriCorps Education Awards paid to Colorado Schools since 1995.
- Colorado Youth Corps Association has secured nine college credits for Members from Trinidad State Junior College (Trinidad Campus) and Front Range Community College (Larimer Campus). And is working with institutions and the state's eleven youth corps to increase the number of youth corps members who enroll in higher education. Youth corps staff is also working to create similar partnerships with other community colleges around the state.
- Youth corps is working with their local school districts to secure dual high school/college credit. The Larimer County Youth Conservation Corps has secured dual credits from one of its two school districts thus far.
- Three former Focus Points HIPPYCorps Members graduated this spring from the Early Child Education Program at the Community College of Denver.



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Health Care Initiatives

AmeriCorps members provided health related lessons to disadvantaged children and youth. So far this year, AmeriCorps members have...

- Created and supervised a Health Fair in the Sunnyside Neighborhood of Denver. Over 300 children and parents enjoyed the health related fun and informational activities throughout the day at Rude Recreation Center.
- Provided over 400 lessons to children and youth in the areas of fitness, nutrition, tobacco prevention, stranger safety, violence prevention, weather safety, hygiene and more.
- Volunteered at 9Health Fairs, an annual event sponsored by the local NBC affiliate.
- Compiled a pamphlet of community health resources.
- Planned an all day youth health seminar. Representatives from the Colorado Department of Health and Environment's Office of Health Disparities came and spoke with the youth. 40 teens learned the importance of staying healthy.
- Set up a healthy relationship class for students at a local High School.
- Assisted 6 youth who are pregnant in obtaining health care and access to health care facilities. They have continued to meet with the youth once they gave birth and continue to connect them to different community resources.
- Ensured that 100% of the children they serve are fully immunized. In Adams County HIPPY, children who were previously not up to date on immunizations were able to participate in an immunization clinic free of charge. Jeffco HIPPY distributed information to families on the MCPN Clinic Information, Jeffco Health Department Immunization Clinic.
- Distributed resource folders with flyers and brochures detailing the importance of immunizations from the La Casa/Quigg Newton Clinic to all families. All materials are available in English and Spanish
- Assisted in the drug and alcohol prevention programs at local high school and middle school.
- All full-time AmeriCorps members have access to health care.



Seniors

Colorado AmeriCorps members assist seniors in poverty. These programs help bridge the gap for our seniors when it comes to their health, safety, and mobility. Members also serve as a valuable resource for helping seniors give back to their communities. So far this year, AmeriCorps members have...

- Provided lessons to seniors at Mulroy Senior Center.
- Planted a community garden at a local apartment complex. The garden will serve as a local resource of fresh produce to the senior residents, as well as an opportunity for seniors and youth in the apartment complex to serve side-by-side as they care for and maintain the garden. The surplus produce will be taken to the local food bank, which serves a large number of seniors in our community.
- Delivered presents to elderly individuals.
- Provided outside community service to seniors in their community by cooking meals, shopping and providing transportation.



Public Safety

Colorado AmeriCorps programs provide public awareness around the prevention of and protection from events that could endanger the safety of the general public due to significant danger, injury, or damages from things such as crimes or disasters. So far this year, AmeriCorps members have...

- Worked with the Salvation Army in Windsor, Colorado to serve victims of the tornado that devastated that community in May, 2008.
- Mentored 162 youth. They serve as role models for these youth and work one-one with them. By being a mentor and a positive role model, our members are decreasing the chance of these youth committing crimes and engaging in early substance abuse.
- Connected youth to various community support and resources. The youth learn where they can go when they need assistance.
- Worked with youth on anger management. The members lead life skills classes, and anger management is always a main subject. Additionally, for those youth who need extra guidance, the members will enroll the youth in anger management classes.
- Served as a link for disadvantaged and isolated families to reach outside resources and information in times of crisis and disaster. Home Visitors are continually trained in how to access of their local community resources so they can share them with their families and all Home
- Trained in American Red Cross CPR and first aid.
- Added an anti-bullying module to mentoring programs. Girls learn how to stand up for each other and take the power away from the bully.



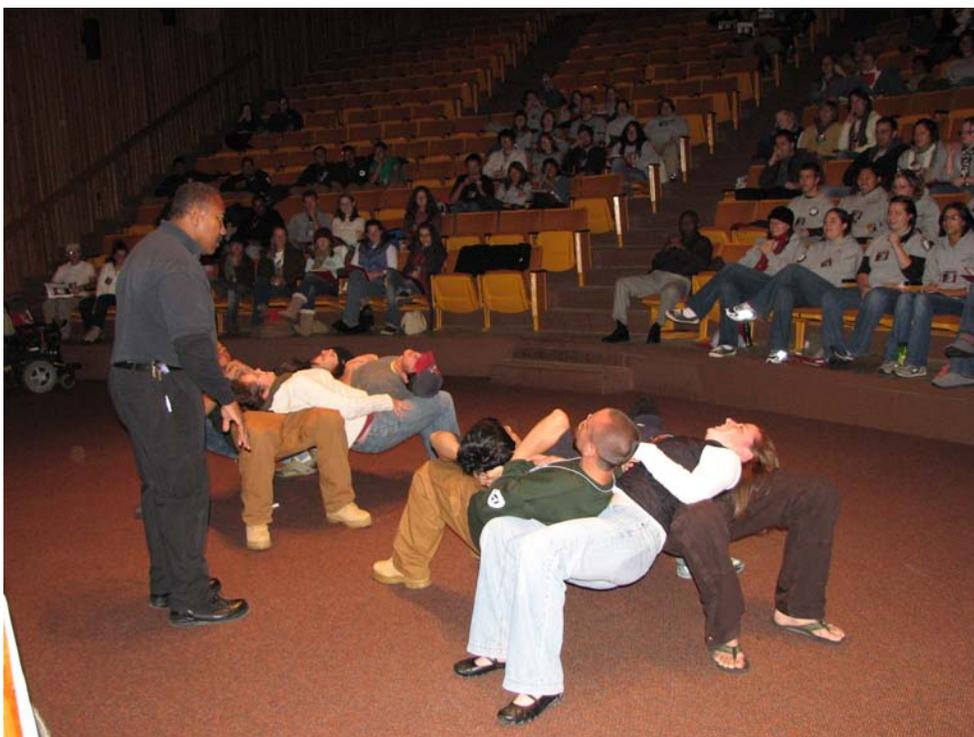
Energy / Conservation / Water Efficiency

AmeriCorps members are providing a unique program in which they provide direct service to low-income, elderly and disabled residents of Colorado. In addition to installations, AmeriCorps members checked thermostats and provided additional education materials describing further measures households can take to reduce their energy costs. So far this year AmeriCorps members have...

- Installed 9,038 compact fluorescent bulbs saving 322,337 kilowatts, which translates to a savings of \$394,155.86 over the life cycle of the energy measures.
- Installed 679 low flow shower heads
- Installed 1,444 Colorado households received energy-saving measures, which help clients save money on their energy bills.
- Installed 569 carbon monoxide detectors
- Installed 677 high efficiency toilets
- Installed 1,067 aerators
- Several Gabion structures were erected
- Planted Willows for stream development
- Maintained State campground
- Improved 3 miles of trail
- Constructed 1,800 feet of fence, maintained 1,770 feet of fence, removed 7.16 miles of fence
- removed tamarisk (invasive species) from 50 acres of land
- Cleaned up a local wetland serving as habitat for numerous plant and animal species
- Picked up trash in City Park and the surrounding areas.
- Cleaned up the Epworth Family to Family site in the Five-points area.
- Weeded a one acre garden and prepared for planting
- Planted over 300 native Front Range plant species and two acres of land reseeded
- Constructed and maintained community gardens.
- Planted trees through the Curtis Park Neighborhood for HGTV's "Change the World" program.
- Encouraged members to ride the bus and members have taught youth how to ride the bus and use it as a resource.

Economic Development

- Served as assistants and leaders in after-school enrichment clubs. The clubs were enjoyable, educational opportunities that allowed students to get an introductory look at several topics that could develop into a career. Examples of clubs held throughout the year include School Store (business and economics), Open Fairways Golf Program (life skills and golf-related careers), Movie Makers Club (film and media production), Creative Arts (writing and working with artistic media, etc.), Cooking, Technology, Girls Are Great (leadership), and Community Outreach (investing in local service opportunities).
- Engaged youth and young adults in workforce development activities including job skills and training.
- 108 youth have obtained employment or are currently in the process of filling out applications and applying to a variety of jobs.
- Planned a college fair for over 50 high school graduates. These 50 graduates are current foster care youth in the Colorado community.
- Smarter State Budget-Maximizing Federal Dollars AmeriCorps is a valued added program that has allowed state programs to leverage significant additional private and public funding. Many outside stakeholders have analyzed the public return on investment for high quality early childhood programs.
- Members in Saguache, CO, an area with high unemployment, received full time jobs with the USFS through the volunteer work that had been done before the position were created.
- The Leadership and Conservation Program instill in its members a strong work ethic and are rooted in the concept of service and community involvement. Throughout their term of service, members take on additional responsibilities such as project management, volunteer coordination, outreach and recruitment of youth participants, facilitating service learning and other skill-building activities. They also receive job placement assistance and guidance from youth corps staff, all of which promotes the necessary skills to become productive and quality candidates for the workforce.



Volunteerism



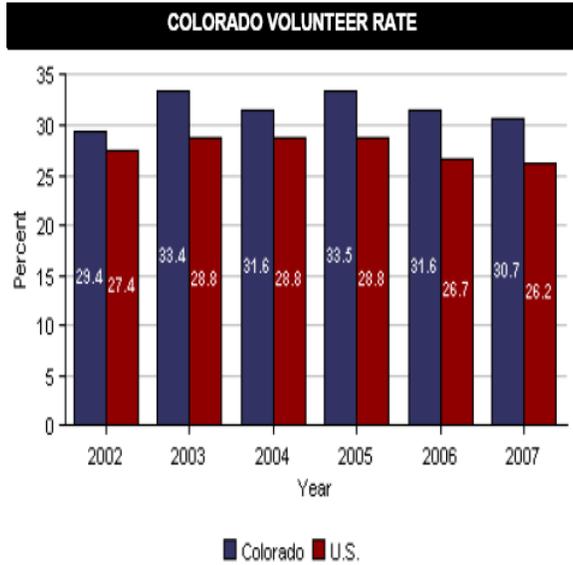
- Engaged approximately 177 volunteers working in a community garden and their Commons Building.
- Members served as winter naturalists for the Durango Nature Studies. For this event, members were trained in winter ecology and hands-on learning techniques. They were then responsible for leading nature walks to approximately 100 school children from area schools.
- All four Metro Area HIPPYCorps programs participated in the MLK Marade in Denver. Each HIPPYCorps Home Visitor worked with children and parents to learn about and reflect on the work of Dr. King, and then create parent and child Dream squares for site Dream Quilts. Each program then marched in the MLK day Marade with the Dream Quilts.
- San Luis Vally HIPPYCorps site made and served lunch to approximately 70 people at La Puente homeless shelter in Alamosa for MLK Day
- Nearly 500 members participated in the National AmeriCorps Week Red Rocks Service project and celebration.
- Volunteered at the Head Start Fatherhood BBQ and worked with the children and families to create banners to be delivered to Children’s Hospital
- Partnered with Brady Exploration School Student Council and Ready, Set, Cheer, a youth cheerleading program, on a food drive that raised 300 pounds of food for the Jeffco Action Center.
- Helped families fill out applications for a variety of public and private services
- Translating for families in a variety of settings
- Community presentations to residents of DHA’s North Lincoln Homes
- HIPPYCorps sites engaged and mobilized volunteers in a variety of meaningful ways. Some of these included: • Facilitated Parent Meeting Topics • Assisted with Parent Meeting/Family Night setup and children’s activities
- Organized a book library for the Read to Me Book Program
- Assisted with the Children’s Performance of the NCJW Traveling Theater
- Assisted with Field Trips
- Participated in Policy Governance and Advisory Council Meetings
- 150 citizens joined forces to clean a wetland, plant a community garden, build a local Habitat for Humanity home, and create thank you cards for local public servants.
- Trained in the American Red Cross “Masters of Disaster” curriculum, which uses lesson plans and activities to educate students (kindergarten – high school) on types of natural disasters and how to be prepared in advance of a disaster. The materials also address the emotional and physical responses likely to be experienced by children after a disaster, which helps both the children and adults cope with the aftereffects.
- Received certification in First Aid and CPR.
- Held a 9-11 Remembrance Day this event on in Grand Junction. Flags were placed at the City Hall, 6 volunteers spoke, with about 70 people in attendance.
- Helped to put on a Halloween Haunted House for the community. AmeriCorps members and 18 volunteers do everything from construction of walls, props, and spend 6 evenings in costume scaring people.
- Members encourage the youth they work with to volunteer and become involved in the Denver community.

**COLORADO
TRENDS & HIGHLIGHTS**

On average, Colorado's 1.2 million volunteers dedicated 160.7 million hours of service per year (between 2005 and 2007). The estimated economic contribution of the volunteer hours served is \$3.1 billion annually.

In Colorado, more than 60,000 people participate in national service each year through 141 projects and programs. This year, the Corporation will commit more than \$17.6 million to support Colorado's Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America programs.

For more information, go to <http://www.VolunteeringinAmerica.gov>.



Dear Service Community,

It is a pleasure to present Colorado's AmeriCorps State Program Mid-Year Report for 2008. The achievements that our AmeriCorps Programs and members have made are far-reaching and highly valuable.

State AmeriCorps Programs have helped members of their communities from all age groups, income levels, and backgrounds. The Programs have not only met their charge thus far of civic engagement, environmental repair, youth development, poverty fighting, and disaster preparedness, but they are well on their way to exceeding our expectations.

The AmeriCorps Members are proving through their hard work that they are up for the task. The spirit in which they work is commendable and genuine. Even more exciting is that they are not only enriching the lives of their fellow citizens, but they themselves are learning valuable lessons in leadership, civic responsibility, cooperation, and integrity.

My thanks and congratulations goes to the AmeriCorps State Programs and Members. Your hard work is recognized, valued and encouraged. Keep up the great work!

Sincerely,

Toya M. Nelson
Executive Director
Governor's Commission on Community Service



Toya M. Nelson
Executive Director

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