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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Volunteer Tennessee Board Announces \$4.1 Million in AmeriCorps Grants to 19 Tennessee Organizations**

*919 AmeriCorps members to meet state and local needs*

**NASHVILLE, TN** – Volunteer Tennessee, Tennessee’s governor-appointed commission on volunteerism and service, today announced that Tennessee has received more than \$4 million in AmeriCorps funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).

These grants will support 919 AmeriCorps members across the state to serve with 17 organizations. AmeriCorps members will tackle critical challenges in Tennessee, including tutoring and mentoring children, supporting veterans and military families, providing health services, restoring the environment, responding to disasters, increasing economic opportunities, and recruiting and managing volunteers. Two organizations were awarded AmeriCorps planning grants, which will be utilized over the next year to develop high quality AmeriCorps programs to serve additional communities in Tennessee.

“National service is an essential part of the solution to many of the challenges facing our state,” said Greg Lyles, Board Chair of Volunteer Tennessee. “These AmeriCorps members will meet pressing local needs and strengthen communities as they develop civic and leadership skills to last a lifetime. I congratulate these outstanding organizations and thank all those who serve their communities through AmeriCorps.”

Of the \$532 million awarded nationally, more than \$4 million will be granted to Volunteer Tennessee, which in turn will award grants to nonprofit organizations and public agencies across the state. The law creating AmeriCorps gave a key role to states in determining how national service resources are used and promoting service and volunteering to meet community needs.

CNCS will make available more than \$4.4 million in Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards for the AmeriCorps members funded by these grants. After completing a full term of service, AmeriCorps members receive an award of \$5,815 that they can use to pay for college or to pay off student loans.

The current year’s AmeriCorps grant cycle was highly competitive, due to the strong demand by organizations seeking AmeriCorps resources. The 2017 competition prioritized investments in economic opportunity, education, environmental stewardship, veterans and military families, and disaster services.

AmeriCorps engages more than 80,000 members in intensive service annually to serve through nonprofit, faith-based, and community organizations at 21,600 unique sites across the country. These members help communities tackle pressing problems while mobilizing millions of volunteers for the organizations they serve.



Since 1994, more than 1 million Americans have provided more than 1.4 billion hours of service addressing critical challenges from poverty and hunger to disasters and the dropout crisis. In Tennessee, more than 12,000 AmeriCorps members have served more than 24 million hours and earned more than \$42.9 million in education scholarships.

Below is a listing of 2017 AmeriCorps grants in Tennessee:

### **CHATTANOOGA**

- **AmeriCorps\*Building Futures – AIM Center**

Funding Awarded: \$25,210

Total Members: 3

AIM Center AmeriCorps members will help address the stigma of mental illness while serving at the AIM Center. Members will holistically address the basic human needs for meaningful relationships, self-sufficiency and community reintegration for people in the greater Chattanooga area with a psychiatric diagnosis.

**Contact:** Rhonda Jacks Moore, (423) 702-8012, [rhondajacks@aimcenterinc.org](mailto:rhondajacks@aimcenterinc.org)

- **Project Inspire – Public Education Foundation**

Funding Awarded: \$189,962

Total Members: 23

Project Inspire is a teacher residency that attracts and prepares aspiring teachers through a year-long, real-world experience in the classroom. Members will serve 5 days a week throughout the entire school year at select host sites, and members will also earn a graduate degree (M.A.T.) through the 14-month program at Lee University.

**Contact:** Mark Neal, (423) 668-2437, [mneal@projectinspiretn.org](mailto:mneal@projectinspiretn.org)

### **JACKSON**

- **One Child At A Time – Exchange Club Carl Perkins Center**

Funding Awarded: \$169,847

Total Members: 17

One Child At A Time AmeriCorps members help prevent child abuse and provide assistance to abused children and their families in West Tennessee. Members are mentors and role models to children, recruit new volunteers, and provide educational and emergency assistance.

**Contact:** Carla Mills, (731) 668-4000, [CMills@carlperkinscenter.org](mailto:CMills@carlperkinscenter.org)

### **JOHNSON CITY**

- **Appalachian Regional Coalition of Homelessness**

Planning Grant Funding Awarded: \$74,419

Appalachian Regional Coalition of Homelessness is planning for the integration of AmeriCorps members into a program that aims to reduce homelessness by providing a combination of housing and social services in the Appalachia region of east Tennessee.

**Contact:** Anne Cooper, (423) 218-4090, [anne@appalachianhomeless.org](mailto:anne@appalachianhomeless.org)

### **KNOXVILLE**

- **CAC AmeriCorps – Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee**

Funding Awarded: \$377,910

Total Members: 34



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CAC AmeriCorps is Tennessee's only environmental corps. CAC AmeriCorps members work to improve public lands, streams, and greenways; educate the public; meet immediate human needs through disaster response; and build the volunteer capacity of partner organizations.

**Contact:** Jason Scott, (865) 546-3500, [jason.scott@knoxcac.org](mailto:jason.scott@knoxcac.org)

- **T.E.A.M. – Emerald Youth Foundation**

Funding Awarded: \$192,114

Total Members: 59

T.E.A.M. AmeriCorps members serve urban young people by leading structured afterschool and summer day camp activities (academic, enrichment, leadership, health activities, and mentoring) alongside the staff of a faith-based organization. The goal is to see young people become contributing leaders and live a full life.

**Contact:** Rachel Davis, (865) 637-3227 x112, [rdavis@emeraldyouth.org](mailto:rdavis@emeraldyouth.org)

## MEMPHIS

- **Artesian Community School**

Planning Grant Funding Awarded: \$60,221

Artesian Community School is planning for the integration of AmeriCorps members into an education program that will deliver services primarily in the economically distressed Frayser community in Memphis, allowing students who might not otherwise finish high school to obtain a diploma, and possibly an Associate Degree.

**Contact:** Ashley Smith, (678) 485-8858, [asmith@artesianmemphis.com](mailto:asmith@artesianmemphis.com)

- **Aspire University**

Funding Awarded: \$6,400

Total Members: 8

Aspire University (Aspire U) is a teacher residency program in which AmeriCorps members co-teach in K-8 classrooms in underserved public schools in Memphis. Aspire U provides a rigorous and supportive teacher training program that recruits and trains individuals of all ages and backgrounds to become highly-effective teachers. Our mission is to create opportunity and cultivate success for every student by recruiting and educating excellent teachers and leaders who reflect our school communities.

Contact: Thomas McGrail, 323-401-8244, [Thomas.mcgrail@aspirepublicschools.org](mailto:Thomas.mcgrail@aspirepublicschools.org)

- **Bridge Builders Expansion – BRIDGES USA, Inc.**

Funding Awarded: \$148,092

Total Members: 35

BRIDGES' mission is to unite and inspire diverse youth to become confident and courageous leaders committed to community transformation. Bridge Builders Expansion addresses key needs facing Memphis area youth in grades 6-12 through experiential learning and the facilitation of our Bridge Builders curriculum that targets low academic performance and graduation rates, low rates of cultural competency, and low rates of opportunity for meaningful civic engagement.

**Contact:** Dana Wilson, (901) 260-3790, [dwilson@bridgesusa.org](mailto:dwilson@bridgesusa.org)



- **City Year Memphis**

Funding Awarded: \$605,000

Total Members: 50

City Year Memphis works to bridge the gap in high-poverty communities between the support that students actually need and what their schools are designed and resourced to provide. In doing so, the program aims to increase graduation rates and change the lives of their students. City Year Memphis AmeriCorps members will be responsible for providing whole school services to approximately 1,500 students and individualized services to 420 students in five Memphis public schools.

**Contact:** Megan Heron, 901-308-5893, [mheron10@cityyear.org](mailto:mheron10@cityyear.org)

- **Generations – Porter-Leath**

Funding Awarded: \$322,320

Total Members: 24

Generations AmeriCorps members will increase school readiness by providing educational enrichment activities for Porter-Leath Early Childhood students in the agency's Head Start centers in Memphis and Shelby County. The AmeriCorps members will also leverage over 120 additional volunteers that will be engaged in literacy initiatives throughout the same centers.

**Contact:** Judy Rautine, (901) 577-2500 x1128, [jrautine@porterleath.org](mailto:jrautine@porterleath.org)

- **Memphis Teacher Residency**

Funding Awarded: \$393,900

Total Members: 30

MTR recruits outstanding leaders as co-teachers for Memphis' most academically-challenged public schools. Our mission is to positively impact student achievement in Memphis urban schools by recruiting, training and supporting outstanding teachers. All members are placed in Memphis' Title I schools that have an enrollment that is more than 50% Free or Reduced Price Lunch assisted.

**Contact:** Suzanne Oates, 901-937-4683, [Suzanne@memphistr.org](mailto:Suzanne@memphistr.org)

- **Teach for America, Memphis**

Funding Awarded: 125,000

Total Members: 250

Teach For America believes that all children deserve the opportunity to attain an excellent education. They recruit, train and place outstanding teacher leaders into classrooms serving low-income children throughout Memphis and Shelby County.

**Contact:** Saranya Subramanian, 319-321-2509, [Saranya.subramanian@teachforamerica.org](mailto:Saranya.subramanian@teachforamerica.org)

## **MEMPHIS/NASHVILLE**

- **The Relay New Teacher Pathway – Relay Graduate School of Education: Nashville & Memphis**

Funding Awarded: \$0 (no-cost grant)

Total Members: 80

AmeriCorps members participate in the innovative teacher preparation program, the Relay New Teacher Pathway (RNTP), in Nashville and Memphis. At the end of the first program year, the AmeriCorps members will be prepared and certified to serve as full-time teachers of record, and



the approximately 2,400 economically disadvantaged K-12 students they teach will demonstrate improved academic performance, better attitudes about school, and improved behavior and classroom engagement.

**Contact:** Alessandra Echeverria, (678)-783-3811, [aecheverria@relay.edu](mailto:aecheverria@relay.edu)

## **MORRISTOWN/VARIOUS SITES ACROSS TENNESSEE**

- **Community Cares – Tennessee’s Community Assistance Corporation**

Funding Awarded: \$329,431

Total Members: 54

AmeriCorps Members assist frail seniors and persons with disabilities through direct, in-home assistance so that the residents can remain living independently in their own homes for as long as possible.

**Contact:** Shandi Hill, (423) 586-7636 x304, [shandi@tcac1.org](mailto:shandi@tcac1.org)

- **Making Veterans Priority (MVP) – Tennessee’s Community Assistance Corporation**

Funding Awarded: \$207,842

Total Members: 40

MVP AmeriCorps members will provide a wide array of services for veterans and their families that are homeless or on the verge of becoming homeless due to lack of income, physical and/or mental health issues, disabilities, trauma, substance abuse, and weak social networks. The goal is to allow them to improve their quality of life, while giving them the resources, respect and encouragement they deserve to live a more productive and fulfilling life.

**Contact:** Shandi Hill, (423) 586-7636 x304, [shandi@tcac1.org](mailto:shandi@tcac1.org)

## **NASHVILLE**

- **Hands On Nashville**

Funding Awarded: \$66,224

Total Members: 5

HON AmeriCorps members address a wide array of critical social issues by providing capacity building services to community partners and helping them to carry out their missions in a more efficient manner. Activities range from conducting volunteer management training and creating volunteer leader programs to supporting educational curriculum and facilitating neighborhood-based collective impact.

**Contact:** Leah Holt, (615) 298-1108 ext. 419, [leah@hon.org](mailto:leah@hon.org)

- **Teach for America, Greater Nashville**

Funding Awarded: \$107,865

Total Members: 135

Teach For America believes that all children deserve the opportunity to attain an excellent education. They recruit, train and place outstanding teacher leaders into classrooms serving low-income children throughout Cheatham and Davidson County.

**Contact:** Rachel Tompkins, (615) 242-6263 x40137, [rachel.tompkins@teachforamerica.org](mailto:rachel.tompkins@teachforamerica.org)

- **THRIVE – Martha O’Bryan Center**

Funding Awarded: \$205,566

Total Members: 17



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AmeriCorps members serve at Martha O'Bryan Center in the youth development program, THRIVE. Members will help young people change their futures by mentoring youth in local schools assisting the youth to succeed in school. AmeriCorps members also participate in after school tutorials, generate excitement about learning and community service and work to encourage parent participation. Members also work with adult GED students.

**Contact:** Peter Martino, 615-254-1791, [pmartino@marthaobryan.org](mailto:pmartino@marthaobryan.org)

## **RUTLEDGE/GREENVILLE AREA**

- **Appalachia CARES – Clinch-Powell RC & DC**

Funding Awarded: \$475,363

Total Members: 55

The Appalachia CARES program is a community-based service-learning program. Our AmeriCorps members provide direct service to local communities through primary focus areas of energy efficiency, conservation, and housing services throughout the state. As a secondary focus, they also expand the organizational capacity of participating agencies by expanding services, increasing outreach, and recruiting and/or managing community.

**Contact:** Trena Brown, (423) 620-3456, [appalachiacares@clinchpowell.net](mailto:appalachiacares@clinchpowell.net)

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Volunteer Tennessee is the Governor's commission on volunteerism and service. Its mission is to encourage volunteerism and community service. Annually, Volunteer Tennessee provides more than \$4.5 million in AmeriCorps grants and volunteer center grants to local agencies throughout the state so they can engage volunteers to meet community needs in education, environment, public safety, human needs, and homeland security. The commission consists of a 25-member, bi-partisan volunteer citizen board appointed by the Governor and eleven State Government ex-officio positions.

More than 5,377 people of all ages and backgrounds are helping meet local needs, strengthen communities, and increase civic engagement at more than 1,029 national service locations across Tennessee. Serving with national and local nonprofits, schools, faith-based organizations and other groups, these citizens tutor and mentor children, coordinate after-school programs, build homes, conduct neighborhood patrols, restore the environment, respond to disasters, build nonprofit capacity, and recruit and manage volunteers. For more information, visit [www.volunteertennessee.net](http://www.volunteertennessee.net) or visit us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#).

AmeriCorps is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency that engages more than five million Americans in service through AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, the Social Innovation Fund, and the Volunteer Generation Fund, and leads volunteer initiatives for the nation. For more information, visit [www.NationalService.gov](http://www.NationalService.gov).