

SERVE WASHINGTON

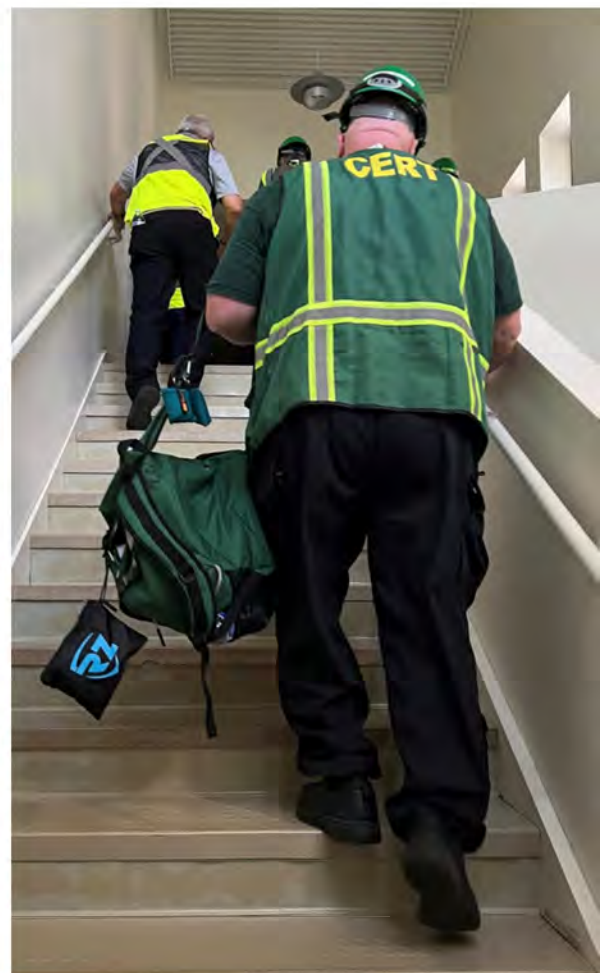


2023-2024

ANNUAL REPORT

Table of Contents

<u>Director's message</u>	03
<u>Who we are</u>	04
<u>Mission and vision</u>	05
<u>AmeriCorps</u>	06
<u>CERT</u>	11
<u>Washington Climate Corps Network</u>	16
<u>Washington State Volunteer Service Awards</u>	18
<u>Our Milestones</u>	19
<u>Contact Us</u>	21



A message from our Executive Director



Dear Serve Washington Supporters,

As you hold this annual report in your hands, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your support of Serve Washington. This report highlights the significant

accomplishments we've achieved together over the past year. It showcases the power service and volunteerism can have in transforming communities and lives across our great state.

At Serve Washington, we are dedicated to making service a vital part of the lives of all Washingtonians. Whether it's through supporting local organizations, fostering civic engagement, or inspiring the next generation of volunteers, our mission remains steadfast.

Thank you for being an integral part of this journey. Together, we are building stronger, more connected communities--one act of service at a time.

With appreciation,

Trish Almond



Who we are



Serve Washington is a direct result of the National and Community Trust Act of 1993, which requires each state to establish a service commission as a condition to receive federal funds for national service efforts. Serve Washington, also known as the Washington Commission for National and Community Service, was created in 1994 to administer grants from the Corporation for National and Community Service - now operating as AmeriCorps - to improve national service and volunteer opportunities statewide. We award grants to local organizations so they can run AmeriCorps programs in their eligible communities.

In addition to being a grantmaking partner of AmeriCorps, Serve Washington supports service programs such as FEMA's Community Emergency Response Team and the Washington Climate Corps Network.

Serve Washington uplifts local service efforts through volunteer recognition , sponsoring community training workshops and operating a statewide volunteer opportunities database. Learn more about our programs and initiatives at <https://servewashington.wa.gov/>

Mission and Vision

→ Mission

To advance national service, volunteerism, and civic engagement to improve lives; expand opportunity to meet local critical needs of the people of Washington; and strengthen community capacity while creating healthy and resilient communities.

→ Vision

National service, volunteerism and civic engagement are the foundation for caring communities and a thriving Washington.



AmeriCorps

Launched in 1993, the AmeriCorps program brings people together to tackle some of the country's greatest challenges through national service and volunteerism. AmeriCorps members serve with organizations dedicated to the improvement of communities. Serve Washington administers grants to support AmeriCorps programs in local communities.

Upon successful completion of service, AmeriCorps members receive a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award to pay for higher education expenses or apply toward student loans.

Funding sources: Federal, state, private

Focus Areas of AmeriCorps service

Disaster
services

Economic
opportunity

Education

Environmental
stewardship

Healthy
futures

Veterans &
military
families



SERVE WASHINGTON



Subgrantees 2023-2024

<p>AmeriCorps of Chelan-Douglas Community Action Council \$575,000 25 members</p>	<p>City Year Seattle-King County \$2,148,200 94 members</p>	<p>CivicSpark CivicWell \$530,000 20 members</p>
<p>College Possible WA \$648,000 30 members</p>	<p>College & Career Coaches College Success Foundation \$286,000 11 members</p>	<p>Common Threads Farm \$704,346 60 members</p>
<p>Earth Corps \$840,000 40 members</p>	<p>Girl Scouts of Western Washington \$520,000 20 members</p>	<p>Tay AmeriCorps iFoster \$395,000 30 members</p>
<p>Spokane Service Team Northeastern School District 101 team \$451,250 64 members</p>	<p>Serve Tri-Cities \$694,969 30 members</p>	<p>Port Angeles School District \$333,456 12 members</p>
<p>Imagine Justice Tacoma Boat Builders \$576,000 20 members</p>	<p>Sea Mar Community Health Centers \$523,000 20 members</p>	<p>Salvation Army \$233,867 9 members</p>
<p>United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties \$330,388 20 members</p>	<p>United Way of King County \$1,360,800 60 members</p>	<p>Public Health AmeriCorps WA Employment Security Dept \$225,137 8 members</p>
<p>Vet Corps WA Dept of Veterans Affairs \$286,000 11 members</p>	<p>Washington Association of Child Advocate Programs \$344,646 15 members</p>	<p>Washington Dept. Ecology Washington Conservation Corps \$2,201,437 15 members</p>
<p>Washington Reading Corps WA Employment Security Dept \$2,178,350 125 members</p>	<p>Student Conservation Association \$239,660 420 members</p>	<p>Washington Employment Security Department Washington Service Corps \$6,594,300 450 members</p>
<p>Folk Education Association of America Living Tradition Corps \$75,000 Planning grant</p>	<p>Phoenix Conservancy \$46,233 Planning grant</p>	<p>Washington Service Corps WA Employment Security Dept \$75,000 Planning grant</p>
<p>The Moore Wright Group \$76,949 Planning grant</p>	<p>Your Money Matters \$74,490 Planning grant</p>	<p>Note: Planning grants do not support placement of AmeriCorps members. It helps pay for technical assistance for organizations developing new AmeriCorps programs.</p>

\$24.1. million
Total AmeriCorps portfolio

\$38.2. million
Local match leveraged

1,502 AmeriCorps
Members

\$344,672
Planning grants

Impacting WA communities



During the 2023-2024 service year, **1,502** people served in **24** AmeriCorps state programs across Washington. These programs spanned **421** service locations among **30** counties.

Here's a look at some of the ways AmeriCorps members strengthened their communities through service.



6,879

acres of public land supported



238

individuals impacted by disasters served



255

individuals received independent living services



27,325

children and youth received services including academic support and mentoring



228

job seekers received employment training or job placement services



95 veterans

336 military & veteran received peer support and resources to help transition from military to civilian life

Connecting youth and the environment through service

By Joan Feiser, Washington Service Corps member



BELFAIR--"What kind of fish are you going to put in there?" a little girl asks, pointing to the aquarium my supervisor and I are setting up in the hallway of Quilcene Elementary School. "Goldfish?"

Between her innocent inquiry and my excitement for the answer, I crack a smile.

"Salmon!" I tell her, delighted by my first interaction with a *Salmon in the Classroom* student.

A slightly confused but eager smile spreads across her face. In that moment, I see a tiny difference being made. Here is one child, curious for one moment about salmon, a fish with deep history and profound importance here in Washington.

Indeed, these fish are the impetus for my sponsor organization, the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group, HCESG, which is located at The Salmon Center. This tiny difference--a smile, a moment of curiosity--makes me wonder what difference could unfold over the course of my service term.

So far, it's consisted of many things: weeding the Salmon Center's organic U-Pick garden; monitoring threatened summer chum in the Union River; contributing to the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, DEI, committee; hosting a *Healthy Habits and Habitats* workshop for kids; and integrating *Since Time Immemorial* concepts into educational programming. Above all, the core program I help run is *Salmon in the Classroom*.

My fellow AmeriCorps environmental educators and I have given three *Salmon in the Classroom* presentations to 205 elementary students around Hood Canal.

A few weeks after setting up the tank, my supervisor and I return to Quilcene to deliver salmon eggs. A chorus of kindergarten children's voices cues me to sprinkle the eggs into the tank.

"Five! Four! Three! Two! One!"

I gingerly tip the container over the tank, allowing the pinkish orange orbs to tumble into the cool, clean water. We watch them land delicately on the bed of gravel. The next time my team visits Quilcene, the eggs will have hatched into alevins (juvenile salmon), already starting to absorb their plump yolk sacs.

Eventually, the kids will release the young fish into a nearby stream. These school visits allow me to share my passion about our relationship with our planet.

Recently, I gave what I think has been my best presentation yet to a class of third graders. The kids' excellent listening and engagement encouraged me to lean into the storytelling of it all. I left their classroom refreshed in my decision to be an AmeriCorps member with the HCSEG.

I am here because I want people (kids and grown-ups, too!) to know that they belong in this fascinating world and we all have a responsibility to take care of it.

I want to instill hope and encourage connection between humans and our environment. I am grateful to say that, so far, the Salmon Center has been an opportune place to do this service.



AmeriCorps
Washington

CERT

The Community Emergency Response Team, CERT, program is a national volunteer program that teaches community members how to prepare for hazards that can occur where they live.

CERT members are volunteers who learn disaster preparedness and response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue and medical operations. During disasters, CERT volunteers can use the skills they are trained in to help respond in their neighborhoods so professional first responders may focus on more complex tasks.

Serve Washington's role: All CERT programs are run at the local level. However, we help ensure local CERT programs meet credentialing requirements for volunteers and disaster workers. We help connect interested community members to CERT programs and activities in their area.

CERT is one of several volunteer programs under FEMA's Citizen Corps. As part of this program, we also provide support at Citizen Corps events and trainings.

Funding sources: Federal



WACERT 2023-2024

553

Certified 553 community members in CERT basic disaster response skills

157

Delivered advanced instruction to 157 people in topics like traffic and crowd control, radio communications, administering NARCAN and firefighter rehab

104

Gave 104 people the skills to instruct CERT courses

70

Trained 70 people in CERT program management

285

Taught 285 people basic life support skills including CPR/First aid and STOP THE BLEED courses

Did you know?

- The CERT program has 673 teams in Washington
- All four-year colleges in Washington have campus CERT teams
- 200 high schools have CERT programs
- 23 tribal nations have trained CERT instructors

"We joined CERT to make a difference in our rural community, where building relationships is all about trust."

**Michael Ervick,
Paradise Valley Community
Association CERT**



Learning to do good for the greatest number of people

27 community members complete CERT Basic class at Tacoma Community College

TACOMA-Elena Howard lay in the bathroom with a head injury with her service dog by her side just after the "earthquake" hit.

Though her injuries weren't real, she was relieved when CERT volunteers found her, and eight others who volunteered to play disaster survivors during a drill May 11 at Tacoma Community College.



"It was interesting when they found me," the special education teacher said. "They were really quick getting me into position, but I didn't realize how hard it would be to keep my neck from moving."

Twenty-seven new CERT volunteers practiced navigating pretend debris, exposed electrical wires and other hazards to find survivors with mock injuries like broken legs and necks, spinal fractures, bruised ribs and open head wounds. They practiced stabilizing the survivors' injuries and moving them to a designated spot. They also practiced relaying information to other CERT teams using radio communications.

Any adult can volunteer to be on a CERT and teens can volunteer with parental permission. No medical training or prior experience in emergency management is necessary; just a desire to help prepare your community for a disaster.



Volunteering during a disaster is not for the faint-of-heart, according to Celso Rangel, Serve Washington's CERT coordinator, who is also a CERT instructor. Responding to any type of disaster can put CERT volunteers face-to-face in a stressful situation.

But for those that do, the satisfaction of being able to handle that situation while helping others is worth it.

Meeting people and seeing their willingness to learn not only how to take care of themselves, but their families and their community in the time of a disaster or in any incident and watch their faces light up as they learn new skills," Rangel said. "I truly love my job, the endless contributions of volunteers and knowing I helped train them. I can honestly lay my head on my pillow every night knowing I have done some good."

Howard completed a CERT training 15 years ago and decided to volunteer as a survivor with her 5 ½ year old golden retriever, Rey. She's training Rey to be a therapy dog who can provide comfort and stress relief to people who experience trauma and wanted Rey to get exposed to sights and sounds that might happen during an emergency.

Over the years she's volunteered with Rey and another therapy dog in schools, churches and other community groups. She says volunteers can improve community resilience to disasters.

"It's amazing knowing we have people like this who are ready to help," Howard said. "If it's in a disaster situation or any situation, the more people who give their time and talents, if everyone does a little bit it, we'll have more for the greater good."

Larry Quintana, an enrolled member of the Nisqually Tribe, took the training to be able to prepare his community. He says it's not uncommon for many people--especially elders--to live in rural areas with limited access to technology and in communities with buildings that may be structurally vulnerable during a large earthquake like the one the CERT drill simulated.

"Our community is a rural community," Quintana said. "It's being able to protect and save students and elders and community members. It's part of being able to make sure everyone is safe."



Washington Climate Corps Network



In 2023, the Washington State Legislature approved the creation of the Washington Climate Corps Network, WCCN.

The WCCN is a network of organizations, supported by community and state allies working to address climate change in Washington through investments in climate-related service opportunities. Members serving with WCCN-affiliated programs help build climate resilient communities, economies and ecosystems while receiving training, education and career pathway exposure. WCCN emphasizes supporting climate-related service opportunities in “overburdened communities,” areas where populations face combined, multiple environmental harms and health impacts.

The WCCN is supported by funding from the Climate Commitment Act, CCA. This act supports Washington’s climate action efforts by putting cap-and-invest dollars to work reducing climate pollution, creating jobs and improving public health. Information about the CCA is available at www.climate.gov.

Funding source: state



WCCN year 1 accomplishments

- Serve Washington awarded \$1.37 million to four organizations to become part of the WCCN. CivicSpark, EarthCorps, The Student Conservation Association and Washington Conservation Corps.
- In its first year, 334 WCCN members received 11,462 hours of professional development training and hands-on experience.
- WCCN developed a grantmaking program with specialized application assistance tools for first-time grantees and small organizations in rural and environmentally overburdened communities.
- WCCN staff performed in-person outreach to 17 counties in eastern and rural Washington.
- Received applications from 11 organizations, nine of which had never received previous funding from Serve Washington.

WCCN member accomplishments

Community engagement: A WCCN member serving with the City of Bothell led an open house to collect community ideas and feedback on climate goals. City officials are using information gathered from this event to shape their comprehensive plan.

Heat pump installation: A WCCN member conducted an audit of the city of Bellevue's heat pump installation program, which offers incentives to households that replace their gas furnaces with energy-efficient heat pumps. The data the member collected will help the city expand its program.

Native plant installation: WCCN members led a monthlong restoration project at Tukwila park, which provides storm water filtration and noise buffers for the neighboring communities. They removed 2.5 acres of invasive English ivy and planted more than 500 native plants and trees.

Washington State Volunteer Service Awards

A new vision for service recognition

Serve Washington is tasked with making service part of the lives of all Washingtonians (per the Governor's Executive Order 24-07). Volunteer recognition is part of this duty.

In 2023, we reimagined our annual volunteer recognition program, with pro-equity and anti-racism as guiding principles.

The re-launched Washington State Volunteer Service awards encompasses formal and non-formal service, to allow *all* types of volunteerism to be eligible for recognition.

We also followed NAWA and 501 Commons' defined nine geographic regions of Washington to ensure award recipients will have equal representation in eastern and western Washington. The award ceremonies were held exclusively at the Executive Mansion in Olympia. The new award structure eliminated this and emphasizes recognizing volunteers in their local community, thereby removing barriers for awardees such as time and costs associated with travel.



Results

- 64 Nominations
- 13 in-person award presentations
- 14 awards
 - 3 Groups
 - 3 Programs
 - 8 Individuals

Our Milestones

Celebrating the pearl anniversary: 2023 marked the 30th anniversary of the AmeriCorps national service program. Serve Washington held a virtual celebration that included a Q&A panel and a keynote speaker of AmeriCorps alums in which 337 AmeriCorps members and program leaders registered to attend live. The event was streamed on TVW. We received dozens of service stories from current AmeriCorps members and published them on our volunteer story [blog](#).

VIP visits: During AmeriCorps Week in 2023, Gov. Inslee visited AmeriCorps members at the Mill Creek flood control channel to view salmon habitat restoration projects and visited AmeriCorps members serving at the GRACE community garden in Kitsap County. The governor also made a visit in fall 2024 to view a restoration project Washington Climate Corps Network members completed with The Green Tukwila Partnership.



Milestones (continued)

In August 2024, AmeriCorps CEO Michael D. Smith and U.S. Rep. Derek Kilmer toured AmeriCorps service sites in Washington's 6th congressional district, highlighting AmeriCorps members' service supporting affordable housing, food insecurities and tackling climate change.

During their visits, the AmeriCorps agency honored seven Washington AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers with the President's Volunteer Service Award. These awards celebrate Americans who dedicate their time and skills to serving their communities through volunteerism.

Community training: Between 2023 and 2024, Serve Washington conducted five free, public online trainings on various topics including helping people with access and functional needs during emergencies, disaster preparedness and providing behavioral health support skills development which had 359 live participants.





Questions? Contact us!

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