



# Serve Washington

Changing Communities. Changing Lives.

## COVID-19 Response Efforts

**Serve Washington**, the state service commission, is focused on supporting local community and partner efforts during COVID-19. Serve Washington issued guidance for volunteers and volunteer engaging programs to support ongoing, safe engagement during COVID.

Additionally, we launched a [statewide volunteer landing page](#) to support and elevate the efforts of volunteer centers and counties without a volunteer center across the state. Serve Washington has supported its locally based AmeriCorps programs statewide during this time of transition to ensure they continue to provide essential services and pivot to meet COVID-19 response needs identified by their local communities. Serve Washington partnered with the Schultz Family Foundation to launch the [Washington COVID Response Corps](#) leveraging federal AmeriCorps funding with philanthropy to support response to food insecurity across the state. We participate on the **State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Committee for Volunteer and Donations Management** and jointly with the United Ways of the Pacific Northwest, were key partners for the **Lt. Governor's Mask Challenge**.

Many **AmeriCorps Washington** members are engaged in a wide variety of COVID-19 related emergency relief activities such as food distribution/security, educational support/enrichment, volunteer management, and senior services as described below:

- **Washington Conservation Corps** partnered with King County Emergency Management for AmeriCorps members to **set up sites for 290 people to isolate** while recovering from COVID-19 and assembled **COVID test kits** for state distribution.
- **Washington Conservation Corps** produced **31,262 test kits** that **supported testing for 156,310 Washingtonians**.
- **Washington Vet Corps** has been providing virtual mentoring and service projects, support to Veterans Homes and supported foodbanks and food delivery, thanks to their AmeriCorps members who are **veterans helping other veterans**.
- **United Way King County's AmeriCorps** members have already connected more than **10,000 Washingtonians** to resources such as **meal assistance, financial stability, housing support** and are **delivering meals, snack packs, and hygiene materials** - over 1,000 people each day. The organization has also launched a new **COVID Response Hunger Corps** to utilize AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Associates in its summer response efforts.
- Across Washington, 13 AmeriCorps State programs, 2 VISTA programs, and 1 AmeriCorps National program have all re-assigned their AmeriCorps members to support **food access/hunger response** during COVID-19. Members are supporting **food packing/distribution at food banks**, managing **meal distribution at school sites**, providing food access to **college students and veterans**, and growing and **harvesting fresh fruits and vegetables** for **community gardens and food banks**. Approximately 249 AmeriCorps members across the state have supported food access efforts during COVID-19 response.

- **Chelan Douglas Community Action Council** increased its AmeriCorps members support at the local Food Distribution Center. The center supports 20 sites and over 10,000 individuals each month via food pantries, senior centers, meal sites, and low-income apartments. A normal year would average 1-2 million pounds of food distributed; during 2020 and the pandemic, over 3 million pounds of food was distributed.
- **United Way of Thurston County's AmeriCorps VISTA** members are mobilizing emergency response volunteers from the **Medical Reserve Corps** and coordinating with the **National Guard** to distribute food at a local food bank.
- The **Kitsap Community Resources AmeriCorps** team supported **2-1-1 call centers** during COVID response.
- **College Possible AmeriCorps** members provided **virtual mentoring** to make sure that their high school students stayed on track with the college application and enrollment processes.
- **HungerCorps** AmeriCorps has been focusing on **home delivery of meals for youth in affordable housing communities**. AmeriCorps members are currently delivering meals directly to residents' homes in 18 affordable housing communities in King County, reaching more than 2,000 youth daily. 100 HungerCorps AmeriCorps members are serving with 24 different non-profit partners across the Puget Sound, including food banks, meals providers, homeless shelters, community farms, and school districts. More than 30,000 youth across King County are currently accessing meals daily through the **Free Summer Meals** program. About one-third of the Summer Meals sites in King County are supported by HungerCorps members and are sites that **would not be able to operate without the support of AmeriCorps members**.
- **Port Angeles School District AmeriCorps** members prepared weekend food boxes for school families and others in need, served school lunches at local school sites while schools were closed and supported delivery of lunches to remote sites.

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