

# IMPACT REPORT

## AmeriCorps' FY 2025 Grantmaking

March 31, 2026





# IMPACT REPORT: FY 25 GRANTMAKING EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AmeriCorps OIG plays a crucial role in protecting the integrity of national and community service. Pursuant to our oversight authority under the Inspector General Act of 1978, et. sec, and our dual reporting requirements to the Legislative and Executive branches, AmeriCorps OIG prepared this report to examine the impact of AmeriCorps' April 2025 staff and funding reductions on AmeriCorps' programs and operations. This report examines AmeriCorps' ability to make FY 2025 grant awards. This report is part of a series.

## THE IMPACT



**OPERATIONS:** On April 29, 2025, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) did not approve AmeriCorps' use of approximately \$197 million of their total appropriated funds. This resulted in a funding gap and delays in processing some planned FY 2025 grants. OMB ultimately approved the use of funds and AmeriCorps awarded all grants by the end of the fiscal year.

In addition, in April 2025, AmeriCorps initiated a large-scale RIF that significantly reduced the number of staff to support the agency's grantmaking operations. As a result, AmeriCorps had to make changes to its grantmaking procedures and timelines to finalize FY 2025 grants. AmeriCorps' staffing changes have also impacted the process and timeline for FY 2026 grants.



**COMMUNITIES:** The approximately \$197 million of appropriated funds initially withheld by OMB were designated primarily for FY 2025 grants. Some ASN and FGP grantee organizations that did not receive awards when expected decided to relinquish their AmeriCorps grants. This resulted in the discontinuation of vital AmeriCorps programs, depriving communities across the country of the critical benefits that AmeriCorps programs provide. AmeriCorps' delays also forced some grantees to lay off their staff due to lack of funding.

Ultimately, the delays in AmeriCorps' grantmaking process, affected American communities nationwide due to the loss of AmeriCorps programming nationwide.

**SCOPE** AmeriCorps OIG initiated a series of special reviews to assess the impact of the April 2025 AmeriCorps staff and funding reductions across AmeriCorps programs and operations. This report examines the impact of staff and funding reductions on AmeriCorps' ability to award their FY 2025 grants.

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# Introduction

## About This Report

In May 2025, under our authority in the Inspector General Act of 1978, and consistent with our dual reporting obligations to the Legislative and Executive branches, the AmeriCorps Office of Inspector General (AmeriCorps OIG) began a series of reviews to assess the effects of the AmeriCorps’ April 2025 staff reductions on costs, members, communities, and agency programs and operations. To carry out this work, AmeriCorps OIG divided the effort into multiple reports. This report examines the impacts of budget delays and staff reductions on AmeriCorps’ ability to award grants in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 using FY 2025 funds. For more information about our Scope and Methodology, see Appendix A.

## AmeriCorps<sup>1</sup>

AmeriCorps is a government corporation that administers the programs and activities established under the national service laws.<sup>2</sup> AmeriCorps is the nation’s largest issuer of grants for community service and volunteering, plays a critical role in strengthening the United States’ non-profit sector, and addresses the nation’s challenges through community service and volunteering. AmeriCorps awards grants and cooperative agreements to State commissions, nonprofit entities, and tribes and territories to assist in the creation of full-time and part-time national and community service programs. Through these grantees and other service initiatives, AmeriCorps provides services to meet educational, human, environmental, and public safety needs throughout the nation. In many cases, AmeriCorps’ funding addresses gaps in communities across the country that private resources do not reach.

Pursuant to statutory authority, AmeriCorps operates various grant programs and service initiatives, including AmeriCorps State and National (ASN), the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), and AmeriCorps Seniors programs. AmeriCorps also operates the National Service Trust, a fund established by the National and Community Service Act of 1993 to pay for Segal Education Awards for those who have



<sup>1</sup> In September 2020, the Corporation for National and Community Service began doing business as AmeriCorps.

<sup>2</sup> 42 U.S.C. § 12651; see 45 C.F.R. § 2500.2(a).

successfully completed approved terms of national service.<sup>3</sup> In FY 2025, AmeriCorps employed over 700 individuals across the country.<sup>4</sup>

## AmeriCorps Programs

### **AmeriCorps State and National**

ASN is AmeriCorps' largest grant program. AmeriCorps administers and distributes grants to States, subdivisions of States, territories, Indian tribes, and public or private nonprofit organizations to carry out the service program. Individuals participating in full- or part-time community service for finite service terms are responsible for carrying out ASN program activities. ASN members engage in activities such as tutoring at-risk youth, staffing food pantries, and building low-income housing. In exchange for their service, ASN members may receive a living allowance to cover basic living expenses. At the successful conclusion of their service terms ASN members may receive a Segal Education Award to use for educational expenses at higher education institutions. The Segal Education Awards were valued at \$7,395 in FY 2025.

### **AmeriCorps Volunteers in Service to America**

VISTA is one of AmeriCorps' longest-running programs, established in 1973 as part of America's "War on Poverty." This full-time volunteer service initiative is dedicated to enhancing efforts to eliminate and alleviate poverty across the nation. VISTA partners with organizations to deploy members across the country to build the capacity of those organizations, which focus on serving low-income communities. VISTA is also a grant program, but AmeriCorps primarily manages the eligibility, onboarding, and exiting of VISTA members. VISTA members are placed in non-profit organizations or state and local government agencies. In exchange for their service, VISTA members receive a living allowance to cover their basic expenses. At the successful conclusion of their full-time service terms, VISTA members may receive a Segal Education Award.

### **AmeriCorps Seniors**

AmeriCorps Seniors is a network of volunteer grant programs for Americans 55 years and older. Seniors' volunteers serve across American communities providing academic tutoring and mentoring, elderly care, disaster relief, and more. In calendar year 2025, there were more than 200,000 volunteers serving across hundreds of programs nationwide. AmeriCorps Seniors is comprised of three distinct programs: Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Foster Grandparent Program (FGP), and Senior Companion Program (SCP).

RSVP seeks to provide service opportunities for Americans 55 and older. RSVP, the most flexible of the programs, allows participants to choose how and when they serve. The program's goals

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<sup>3</sup> The Segal Education Award is available to individuals who have successfully completed an AmeriCorps term of service. The award may be used to repay qualified student loans, and to pay current educational expenses at eligible institutions of higher education and training programs.

<sup>4</sup> AmeriCorps' total FY 2025 agency appropriations, depicted above, do not include funds appropriated to AmeriCorps OIG.

are varied, and may include job training, tutoring at-risk youth, building homes, relief services, and stocking food pantries.

FGP enables Americans 55 and older to interact with and support the youngest members of our communities, thus acting as foster grandparents. FGP volunteers provide emotional support to victims of abuse and tutor, mentor, and care for children with disabilities. For their service, FGP volunteers may receive a nominal hourly stipend. The current stipend rate is \$4.00 per hour of service. FGP volunteers must meet specific income eligibility criteria to be eligible for a stipend.

SCP volunteers help American citizens who need extra assistance to live independently, such as adults with disabilities or those with terminal illnesses and their caregivers. SCP volunteers provide emotional and physical support by assisting with simple house chores, providing transportation, or offering companionship. For their service, SCP volunteers may receive a nominal hourly stipend. The current stipend rate is \$4.00 per hour of service. SCP volunteers must meet specific income eligibility criteria to be eligible for a stipend.

## Timeline of April 2025 AmeriCorps Staff and Funding Reductions

During FY 2025, AmeriCorps experienced significant changes to its staffing, structure, and grantmaking.

In February 2025, the President signed the Executive Order “Implementing the President’s ‘Department of Government Efficiency’ Workforce Optimization Initiative,” which ordered a transformation of the Federal government, to include plans for reductions in force (RIF) across Federal agencies and requiring consultation with a Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) Team. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) then provided guidance to the Federal agencies on how to implement the President’s Executive Order.



In April 2025, AmeriCorps conducted a large-scale staffing reduction in response to the Executive Order and DOGE Team directives.

*April 7.* AmeriCorps offered a second round of the President’s Deferred Resignation Program (DRP) with an acceptance deadline of April 14.<sup>5</sup>

*April 8.* The Interim Agency Head emailed all staff that a DOGE Team had been assigned to AmeriCorps and was being welcomed that day at AmeriCorps headquarters. AmeriCorps’ DOGE Team was comprised of four individuals. One primary DOGE Team member acted as the primary contact to AmeriCorps’ senior officials. Later that same day, the Interim Agency Head sent an email to all staff stating that AmeriCorps was complying with the President’s Executive Order on workforce optimization, and that a RIF “of up to 50 percent or more” of staff would be executed.<sup>6</sup>

*April 15.* AmeriCorps ordered a demobilization of all NCCC members. As part of this order, project sponsors and NCCC members were notified that all projects would end, and members would return to their campuses before being sent home, effective immediately.

*April 16.* AmeriCorps notified just under 600 AmeriCorps employees that they would be placed on administrative leave. Of those, about half were AmeriCorps employees who had elected to take the second-round DRP. Almost 85 percent of AmeriCorps staff were placed on administrative leave.

<sup>5</sup> Per OPM, the DRP was a February 2025 voluntary retirement program that provided government employees with eight months of paid leave. AmeriCorps first offered the DRP when it was originally announced by OPM on February 3, 2025.

<sup>6</sup> Email from Interim Agency Head, to All AmeriCorps Staff, “Update on Agency Realignment Plan and Deferred Resignation Program,” (Apr. 8, 2025).

*April 18.* AmeriCorps cancelled 102 government contracts pursuant to guidance from the DOGE Team.

*April 24.* AmeriCorps issued RIF notices to 322 of the employees who were placed on administrative leave.

*April 25.* AmeriCorps terminated 1,031 grants across all of AmeriCorps programs totaling \$396,509,876 in Federal funds and suspended the service of 30,393 ASN and VISTA members. This amount represents the full grant award amounts of the terminated grants. However, since some of the grant funds had already been expended, this figure does not represent the value of federal funds retained by the AmeriCorps.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Most grants were terminated at the subrecipient level. AmeriCorps does not have data on expenditures by subrecipient, so neither AmeriCorps nor the OIG can accurately determine amounts already expended.

# Impact on Operations

AmeriCorps faced significant operational hurdles in 2025 that directly affected its grantmaking capabilities. The delayed release of part of AmeriCorps' appropriations, together with large-scale staff cuts in April 2025, caused an operational pause that required adjustments to the agency's grantmaking processes and timelines. Ultimately, AmeriCorps issued all of its grant awards by September 30, 2025, the end of FY 2025. However, the staffing reductions and changes in multiple offices that occurred throughout FY 2025 will impact future grantmaking initiatives for FY 2026, including delayed timelines and harm to AmeriCorps' brand.

## Initial Withholding of \$197 Million of FY 2025 Appropriations

### The Apportionment Process

Congress appropriates funds to the Federal government through spending bills, approving specific amounts of money for specific purposes and a particular time period. Once a spending bill is approved by Congress, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is responsible for apportioning the funds to federal agencies—limiting the obligations an agency can incur for specified time periods, programs, activities, projects, objects, or any combination thereof.<sup>8</sup> The apportionment process is crucial for ensuring that agencies do not allocate funds for unintended purposes. Federal agencies must submit formal spend plans to OMB for the apportionment of their budget authority and wait until OMB formally apportions their respective budgets to begin spending their appropriated funds.

### AmeriCorps' Grantmaking Process

AmeriCorps' grantmaking processes begin at various times throughout the fiscal year, depending on the type of grant or program. To begin the process, AmeriCorps announces a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO). This notice provides current and prospective grantee organizations the opportunity to apply for AmeriCorps program funding. Organizations submit applications to AmeriCorps, detailing proposed program budgets for how they intend to use a grant. AmeriCorps then takes several months to review and evaluate all of the applications to determine the feasibility and merit of the grant applications.

AmeriCorps sends the selected grant applications to the applicable AmeriCorps program office (*e.g.* ASN, AmeriCorps Seniors, VISTA) for further review. The program offices prepare and submit a draft funding recommendation package to AmeriCorps' Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and other senior leadership detailing the specific grant applications to be funded. The CEO and leadership then make a final funding decision and document their recommendations for funding or declining each package.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> An apportionment is an OMB-approved plan to use budgetary resources. 31 U.S.C. 1513(b); Executive Order 11541. See also OMB Circular A-11, 120 Apportionment Process.

<sup>9</sup> The process generally described in this section applies to AmeriCorps' competitive grants. However, AmeriCorps also makes formula grants, which are prescribed by statute and are non-competitive grants that go through a different process than competitive grants.

The CEO or other designated senior official provides final approval to fund a grant application by certifying the final funding package—the Approved Funding Certification Package. Program office, budget, financial, and other officials then conduct a series of required activities documenting the grant award decision.

After AmeriCorps completes the necessary activities, the grant awards are issued to the grantees through the execution of Notices of Grant Award (NGA), which specify the terms and conditions of the program and grant.

### **OMB’s April 2025 Actions**

Prior to April 2025 staff reductions, AmeriCorps was prepared to receive its full appropriation from the March 15, 2025 Continuing Resolution.<sup>10</sup> AmeriCorps planned to award the FY 2025 grant awards to its grantmaking programs: ASN, VISTA, AmeriCorps Seniors, and Days of Service Initiatives.<sup>11</sup> After receiving its appropriation, AmeriCorps submitted the spend plan to OMB for approval and apportionment of funding.

However, on April 29, 2025, OMB apportioned the funds with a footnote explaining it would only release certain funds, which was less than the full amount in AmeriCorps’ requested spend plan. OMB did not release approximately \$197 million from AmeriCorps’ \$1.255 billion appropriation. OMB’s apportionment included a footnote providing instructions for how AmeriCorps could request the unreleased funding from OMB. This was the first time OMB required AmeriCorps to follow such a process.

#### OMB Footnote:

“Amounts apportioned on this line, but not yet obligated as of the date of this reapportionment, are available for obligations consistent with the latest agreed-upon spending plan for Fiscal Year 2025 between the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS, dba AmeriCorps) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Any revisions or additions to such spending plan shall be proposed to OMB in writing no later than five business days before the anticipated obligation of funds based on such revisions or additions. If OMB agrees to such revision or addition, the latest agreed-upon spend plan shall include such revision or addition. In the absence of an agreed-upon spend plan between CNCS and OMB, CNCS may obligate funds on this line only as necessary for Federal salary and payroll expenses or payments otherwise required by law. [Rationale: An agency spend plan or other documentation is necessary to better understand how the agency intends to obligate some or all of the apportioned funds.]”

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<sup>10</sup> Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act of 2025 (P.L. 119-4).

<sup>11</sup> AmeriCorps grants do not necessarily operate on or follow the federal fiscal year schedule—October to September. For example, many ASN grants typically start in July, August, or September instead of the start of the fiscal year. Also, many AmeriCorps grants are three-year grants rather than a single year. Multi-year grants may result in unused funds from a particular fiscal year carrying over to the next year. As it relates to the FY 2025 unreleased, many grantees were able to use some funding available from grants awarded in prior years where the period of performance had not expired.

Following OMB's guidance, AmeriCorps submitted two requests for approval to utilize the remaining funds. In May 2025, AmeriCorps requested approval to use \$68 million of the unreleased funding for certain ASN and Seniors grants and for Information Technology (IT) usage. OMB released \$7.4 million in funding for IT, but denied AmeriCorps' request to release funds related to ASN and Seniors grants. According to an AmeriCorps budget official, OMB later informed AmeriCorps that it would not release any of the remaining funds for grant funding. Between June and August 2025, AmeriCorps continued to engage with OMB on the release of the remaining funds.

On August 28, 2025, OMB ultimately approved AmeriCorps' full spend plan and released the roughly \$190 million funds remaining. As of September 30, 2025, AmeriCorps obligated the full amount of the previously unreleased funds, despite the delay and constrained timeline.

## Impact of Delays and Changes in AmeriCorps' FY 2025 Grantmaking Process

AmeriCorps' primary function is to provide national service grants across the country. At the beginning of FY 2025, AmeriCorps had over 700 employees, a large portion of which were involved in grantmaking or grants management activities. The grantmaking process typically includes staff from several of AmeriCorps' offices: Office of Grants Administration (OGA), program offices, Office of Budget, and Office of Regional Operations (ORO).<sup>12</sup> Additionally, AmeriCorps contracts with external reviewers as part of the grant approval process to provide an independent evaluation of grant applications.

In April 2025, AmeriCorps implemented a staffing reduction in alignment with the President's Executive Order and directives from the DOGE Team. This decision led to staff reductions in several crucial grantmaking and grant-related offices, as shown in Table 1. After the initial staff reductions, several staff were brought back to help with certain functions, including grant making.

*Table 1: Staffing Changes in AmeriCorps Grantmaking Offices*

Office	# of Staff Prior to April 2025 <sup>13</sup>	# of Staff as of May 15, 2025	Staff Reduction
ORO	178	24	154
OGA	22	1	21
ASN	11	3	8
Seniors	15	3	12
VISTA	35	4	31

Source: *OIG Analysis of AmeriCorps staffing data*

<sup>12</sup> The program offices, including ASN and Seniors, include employees whose duties focus on grantmaking and approval.

<sup>13</sup> Excludes vacant positions.

In May 2025, AmeriCorps officials estimated that the staff reductions and OMB's withholding of appropriations delayed the grant process one to two months. In order to fulfill its grantmaking responsibilities, AmeriCorps leadership determined it was necessary to bring back some staff who were on administrative leave. For example, a Grant Application Review Process manager, within OGA, returned from designated administrative leave to help make payments to the external reviewers supporting the grant operations. Even after having brought back staff, in order to finish the grantmaking process, AmeriCorps had to revise its grantmaking procedures to process and award the delayed FY 2025 grants. Ultimately, AmeriCorps' FY 2025 delayed grants were awarded.

### **FY 2025 Revised Grantmaking Procedures Due to Staffing Reductions**

As a result of the staffing reductions, it was necessary for AmeriCorps to revise its Grant Application Review Process. According to AmeriCorps officials and documents reviewed by AmeriCorps OIG, the changes included that:

- ORO is no longer reviewing grantees' single audits during the pre-award phase. Instead, the Office of Audit and Debt Resolution will now be the sole office to perform this function and will do so in the post-award phase.
- AmeriCorps may make awards to grantees with a late single audit or a single audit with findings. Previously, AmeriCorps would not typically issue a grant award until any late single audit reports are received.
- ORO no longer works proactively with grantees on their applications. Previously, ORO would reach out to grantees to resolve any open items identified during the application review process, such as missing or incomplete information, or correcting information that was not compliant with the NOFO or submission guidance.
- ORO no longer ensures that the budgets match the unified state plan for Commission Support grants.<sup>14</sup>

### **Target Versus Actual Award Dates**

OMB approved the release of the remaining FY 2025 Continuing Resolution funds on August 28, 2025. The reduced staff at AmeriCorps successfully finalized the processing of all planned grant awards by September 30, 2025, meeting the fiscal year deadline as mandated.

AmeriCorps OIG analyzed grant awards for some of the larger grant programs that had not been awarded prior to April 2025 staffing reductions to compare the dates on which grants were targeted to be awarded in 2025 versus their actual award dates. The results, depicted in Table 2, show that the grant awards were delayed from one month to multiple months for three out of the four programs analyzed.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> We did not evaluate the impact of changes to the grantmaking process as part of the scope of this report.

<sup>15</sup> Smaller grant programs, such as Volunteer General Fund and Days of Service awards, are not included in this analysis.

Table 2: Target Dates and Award Dates of Selected Programs

<i>Program</i>	<i>Award Target Date</i>	<i>Last Grant Awarded</i>
ASN	August 8, 2025	September 16, 2025
FGP/SCP	June 26, 2025	July 15, 2025
RSVP	May 7, 2025	September 12, 2025
State Commission Support	June 20, 2025	June 26, 2025

Source: *OIG Analysis of AmeriCorps award dates.*

Despite varying staff delays in awarding grants, AmeriCorps successfully issued the grants and obligated funds before the end of the fiscal year. According to AmeriCorps officials, this was largely attributed to the substantial work completed before April 2025 and a scaled-back focus on assisting grantees with the application process.

## Impact on Future Grantmaking

AmeriCorps' changes to its grantmaking process and reduction in staff also impacted the timeline for FY 2026. Operations were further disrupted by the government shutdown from October 1 to November 12, 2025. Typically, the process for the next fiscal year begins in the summer of the current fiscal year. AmeriCorps leadership informed the OIG in November 2025 that, due to April staffing reductions, activities that would typically have kicked off the FY 2026 grantmaking process were not able to take place in the summer of FY 2025. Those activities included creating the FY 2026 grantmaking plan and grantmaking calendar.

AmeriCorps sent FY 2026 NOFOs to OMB for approval in November 2025. OMB approved, and AmeriCorps published the FY 2026 NOFOs at the end of January 2026. For comparison, the FY 2025 NOFOs were published in August 2024, so AmeriCorps is approximately five months behind its typical schedule. Now that the NOFOs have been published, grantees can make plans for their programs' use of AmeriCorps funds, and AmeriCorps can finalize its grantmaking plan and calendar.

AmeriCorps' reduced staffing footprint requires restructuring roles and consolidating certain office functions. Given the uncertainty in AmeriCorps' restructuring plan, and the lack of a final grantmaking plan and calendar, the OIG cannot determine the full extent of potential delays for FY 2026 grantmaking. At a minimum, however, AmeriCorps will need to significantly revise its grantmaking procedures and timelines again in FY 2026 and continue to do so until AmeriCorps' staffing is stabilized and restructuring is complete.

# Impact on Communities

AmeriCorps' budget delays and staff reductions in 2025 impacted the organizations and local communities receiving AmeriCorps grants. The approximately \$197 million of withheld appropriated funds were primarily budgeted for FY 2025 ASN, AmeriCorps Seniors, VISTA, and Days of Service grants. These planned awards were designated for organizations in 40 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia.

Some ASN and FGP grantee organizations that did not receive awards in the initial grant tranche decided to relinquish their AmeriCorps grants. This resulted in the discontinuation of vital AmeriCorps programs, depriving communities across the country of the critical benefits that AmeriCorps programs provide. AmeriCorps' delays in awarding other grants in Summer 2025 also forced some grantees to lay off their staff due to a lack of funding.

## AmeriCorps' Grantmaking Programs

AmeriCorps' grantmaking programs tackle a wide range of community challenges while offering citizens valuable opportunities for civic engagement and connection with their local communities. AmeriCorps members and Seniors volunteers can serve in various capacities—full-time, part-time, or for a limited duration. Through their service, they engage in civic activities that foster trust among individuals and institutions, cultivating lasting community bonds. Additionally, the members' and volunteers' experiences help enhance essential skills in communities such as leadership, problem-solving, communication, and collaboration.

AmeriCorps states it is the leading federal agency responsible for volunteerism in America. AmeriCorps provides funding for activities such as supporting food banks and tutoring students to stay on track in school. According to a 2020 study by Voices for National Service, every dollar invested in an AmeriCorps member or volunteer brings a substantial return on investment (ROI).<sup>16</sup> For every \$1 of combined budgeted federal and match funding invested in AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors the return to society, program members, and the government is \$17.<sup>17</sup>

AmeriCorps also commissioned numerous independent ROI studies to measure program performance and help communicate the value of its programs to relevant stakeholders. For example, AmeriCorps commissioned [16 ROI studies](#) from FY 2020 to FY 2023.<sup>18</sup> AmeriCorps' various grantmaking programs provide critical benefits and value across American communities. When federal government actions cause delays and uncertainty in grant funding, American communities lose the benefits of AmeriCorps programming.

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<sup>16</sup> Voices for National Service is a diverse coalition of national service programs, state service commissions and individual champions, who work to ensure Americans of all ages and backgrounds have the opportunity to serve and volunteer in their community.

<sup>17</sup> Voices for National Service, [AmeriCorps and Senior Corps: Quantifying the Impact](#) (July 2020). The OIG has not independently confirmed this number.

<sup>18</sup> A [summary](#) of these studies can be found on AmeriCorps' website. [National Service Programs ROI Factsheet](#).

## Relinquishment of ASN Grants

By statute, ASN, the Agency’s largest and most complex grant program, follows a decentralized Federal model in which state volunteerism service commissions are responsible for sub-granting ASN funds to local organizations. AmeriCorps administers and distributes grants to States, territories, Indian tribes, and public or private nonprofit organizations to carry out the service program. The state service commissions, which in most states are state entities, then decide which local organizations should receive the money based on the needs in their local communities. ASN currently provides grants to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and American territories.<sup>19</sup>

The uncertainty with federal funding and the changes with the AmeriCorps agency has affected almost everything we do. It is difficult to build and maintain partnerships in the current environment, and some key partners have decided not to work with us as a result.

-State Service Commission

As of September 30, 2025, ASN grantees in Wisconsin, Tennessee, Iowa, Texas, South Carolina, Maryland, Hawaii, Connecticut, Massachusetts, California, and the District of Columbia had

### Spotlight – AmeriCorps State and National Grantee in Wisconsin

This ASN subgrantee provides coaching, mentorship, and encouragement to first-generation students to enroll and succeed in higher education. The subgrantee partners with high schools and colleges to simplify the path to and through college—from applications and financial aid to test prep and navigating campus life.

This subgrantee has partnered with AmeriCorps since 2000, managing over 5,000 AmeriCorps members and serving students in all 50 states.

**AmeriCorps State and National Program:** The Wisconsin subgrantee initially applied for \$749,998 in AmeriCorps funds to provide 44 AmeriCorps members to help students from low-income backgrounds demonstrate improved academic performance in literacy and math, as well as increase preparation for higher education and their futures. In addition, the AmeriCorps members would leverage volunteers who will be engaged in service projects that support the community in which the members serve.

The subgrantee decided to relinquish this grant, citing uncertainty in AmeriCorps funding. Due to the relinquishment, the targeted population of 700 individuals consisting of economically disadvantaged high school students will not receive the coaching and related services to help with their post-secondary education or training.

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<sup>19</sup> South Dakota lacks a state-level service commission but its communities receive ASN grant funds through organizations, such as nonprofits and schools, that apply directly to the Agency.

relinquished grants worth \$12,363,269. The grants were given up by both state commissions (grantees) and organizations that partner with state service commissions (sub-grantees). According to information provided by these grantees and subgrantees to AmeriCorps, their reasons for giving up grants included uncertainty with receiving AmeriCorps funding, or pivoting to apply for different, more reliable, funding sources. The relinquished ASN grants aimed to fund ASN members engaging in reading and math intervention and college preparation; invasive species removal and trail remediation; and nutrition/food support.

### **Relinquishment of FGP Grants**

Among AmeriCorps' initial unreleased funds, \$57 million was designated for AmeriCorps Seniors grants, including FGP. FGP provides grants to organizations to engage low-income Americans aged 55 and older in providing one-on-one mentoring and academic support to children with special or exceptional needs.

FGP grantees in Pennsylvania, Missouri, New York, and Florida chose to relinquish grants following the delays in funding. For example, one FGP grantee informed AmeriCorps OIG that the uncertainty in whether the grantee would be funded at all made it difficult to hire for a position crucial to the program and ultimately led to the grantee relinquishing the grant. As a result, over 200 Foster Grandparents from Pennsylvania, Missouri, New York, and Florida were not able to serve young people with special or exceptional needs this year.

#### **Spotlight – Foster Grandparent Program Grantee in Pennsylvania**

AmeriCorps' FGP is just one Federal program that the grantee hosts. This FGP grantee provides comprehensive, integrated services that offer resources and support for individuals and families to move toward economic self-sufficiency. The grantee aims to address both short- and long-term needs for low and moderate-income families and individuals.

**Foster Grandparent Program:** The grantee initially applied for \$306,868 in AmeriCorps funds to support 44 Foster Grandparents to provide mentoring and one-on-one tutoring to children in reading, math, and English. The relinquishment of this grant reduced Pennsylvania's ability to place volunteers in pre-schools in local communities to conduct the mentoring and tutoring; thereby, reducing children's readiness for school, especially those in Head Start programs, which cater to economically disadvantaged children.

### **Effects on Grantees that Continued their AmeriCorps Programs**

For grantees that continued with their AmeriCorps funding, the delays in FY 2025 funding impacted their operations and ability to serve their communities. Grantees reported that the uncertainty of the funding resulted in the need to lay off staff due to lack of funding. Additionally, grantees with programs that were scheduled to begin in the Summer of 2025

needed to be postponed or canceled, directly affecting the services provided to communities and beneficiaries.

Ultimately, the delays in AmeriCorps' grantmaking process, resulting both from staff and funding reductions and OMB's withholding of funds, affected American communities nationwide due to loss of programming.

# Appendix A: Scope and Methodology

## Scope

In May 2025, the AmeriCorps Office of Inspector General (AmeriCorps OIG) initiated a series of special reviews to assess the impact of the April 2025 AmeriCorps staff and funding reductions across AmeriCorps programs and operations. To conduct our review, AmeriCorps OIG divided the work into a series of reports. This report is part of the series. Each report in the series will review the impact that AmeriCorps' staff and funding reductions have had on AmeriCorps' costs, operations, AmeriCorps members, and American communities. This report examines the impact of staff and funding reductions on AmeriCorps' ability to award their FY 2025 grants.

## Methodology

AmeriCorps OIG conducted interviews with AmeriCorps employees to discuss AmeriCorps' grantmaking and budgeting processes and reviewed survey responses from AmeriCorps grantees. The overall methods we used to achieve the objectives included reviewing AmeriCorps policies, procedures, and AmeriCorps records and communications. We also reviewed grant funding documents and other budgetary documents.

## Standards

AmeriCorps OIG prepared this report in accordance with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency's (CIGIE's) Quality Standards for Federal Offices of Inspector General (Silver Book) and internal AmeriCorps OIG guidance, policies, and procedures. These standards required that we obtain sufficient and appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our insights and conclusions. This work was completed between May 2025 and February 2026.