

IMPACT REPORT

AmeriCorps' Office of Monitoring

April 27, 2026





IMPACT REPORT: MONITORING 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 reductions on AmeriCorps' programs and operations. This report examines AmeriCorps' ability to monitor their grants. This report is part of a series.

THE IMPACT



OPERATIONS: The April 2025 staffing reduction strained the agency's capacity to complete its necessary grant monitoring activities, which raises concerns about the accountability and effectiveness of its substantial investment exceeding \$1 billion in federal grants per year. The staffing reduction left AmeriCorps unable to complete the planned FY 2025 monitoring of 81 grantees receiving approximately \$78.1 million grant dollars. In addition, \$846 million in grants that the agency did not plan to monitor remained at risk due to the agency's inability to determine the effectiveness of the grant programs or whether the money was spent correctly.

AmeriCorps will continue to face significant challenges in monitoring grantees due to its significantly decreased staff size. In a significant organizational shift soon after the staff reduction, the agency merged its Offices of Monitoring, Chief Risk Officer, and Audit and Debt Resolution, with only four employees dedicated to monitoring--a reduction from 20 employees. With a reduced monitoring staff footprint, AmeriCorps officials conveyed that the FY 2026 monitoring plan will be more flexible and allow for changes in how the agency plans to monitor going forward. For the first half of FY 2026, AmeriCorps plans to monitor 25 grantees, with awards totaling \$111 million, and approximately 25 additional grants later in 2026.

SCOPE AmeriCorps OIG initiated a series of special reviews to assess the impact of the April 2025 AmeriCorps staff reductions across AmeriCorps programs and operations. This report examines the impact of staff and funding reductions on AmeriCorps' ability to monitor their over \$1 billion grant portfolio.

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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 impact of staff and funding reductions on AmeriCorps' ability to monitor its over \$1 billion portfolio of national service grants. For more information about our Scope and Methodology, see Appendix A.

AmeriCorps¹

AmeriCorps is a government corporation that administers the programs and activities established under the national service laws.² 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 successfully completed approved



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

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

terms of national service.³ In FY 2025, AmeriCorps employed over 700 individuals across the country.⁴

AmeriCorps' Office of Monitoring

AmeriCorps' Office of Monitoring (OM) is responsible for monitoring the agency's grants. OM plays a vital role in overseeing the hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars allocated for AmeriCorps grants through effective grant monitoring. AmeriCorps created OM in 2019 as part of the agency's push to centralize grant monitoring into one office.⁵ OM's grant monitoring is meant to ensure grant recipients comply with Federal rules and regulations and grant terms and conditions.⁶

OM uses an agency-wide risk assessment to establish risk scores for individual organizations and grants to select the specific grantees for monitoring. OM then develops a monitoring plan that identifies the grantees to monitor and the type of monitoring to be performed for the year. Monitoring activity types range from a comprehensive compliance assessment across all programmatic and financial elements to one or more issue-specific compliance assessments that may focus on certain elements of the grant award. Financial and programmatic monitoring support the evaluation of performance for the grant and assesses whether grant activities are consistent with program objectives, and compliant with requirements from AmeriCorps program regulations, Uniform Grant Guidance, AmeriCorps and grantee policies, and AmeriCorps grant terms and conditions.

After completing the monitoring activity on the individual grant, OM issues its compliance findings. If OM determines there is non-compliance with any aspect of the selected grant, OM works with the grantee to develop a corrective action plan and monitor the grantee's implementation and completion of the plan. In addition, if non-compliance is found, AmeriCorps may recommend cost-based disallowances to AmeriCorps' Office of Audit and Debt Resolution (OADR). Upon receiving the disallowance recommendation, OADR may establish a debt and collect it from the grantee. Per agency policy, OM also refers matters to the OIG when fraud, waste, or abuse is suspected.

³ 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.

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

⁵ Office of Monitoring Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), January 2025.

⁶ Grantees and Sponsors: Monitoring, [Monitoring | AmeriCorps](#).

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 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 14.⁷

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.⁸

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.

⁷ 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.

⁸ 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.⁹

⁹ 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

The April 2025 staffing reduction strained the agency's capacity to complete its necessary grant monitoring activities, which raises concerns about the accountability and effectiveness of its substantial investment exceeding \$1 billion in federal grants per year. AmeriCorps will continue to face significant challenges in monitoring grantees due to its significantly decreased staff size.

As stewards of federal funds, federal agencies have a responsibility to safeguard funds appropriated by Congress. AmeriCorps' Office of Monitoring (OM) played an important role in helping safeguard AmeriCorps grant funds and promoting accountability in grants management. Prior to AmeriCorps' staffing and grant reductions in April 2025, AmeriCorps awarded on average over 700 grants per year (plus thousands of subgrants to subrecipient organizations) throughout the United States, the Territories, and the Indian Tribes.

In order to engage in monitoring of these grants, OM staffed 20 active employees, including 10 Monitoring Officers and five Senior Monitoring Officers, as of the beginning of calendar year 2025. The Monitoring Officers' role focused on performing the primary grantee monitoring required of AmeriCorps, while the Senior Monitoring Officers were also required to provide oversight of the work of the Monitoring Officers. At this staffing level, OM only had the capacity to monitor about five percent of active AmeriCorps grants.

AmeriCorps' Planned FY 2025 Monitoring Was Left Incomplete

Prior to the April 2025 staff reductions, OM increased the number of grantees it monitored, with the number of grantees exceeding 100 for the first time in FY 2022. This represented approximately five percent of all active grants.

AmeriCorps Grant Funding at Risk of Being Spent Incorrectly or Ineffectively

In FY 2025, AmeriCorps awarded more than \$855 million in federal grants, roughly 72% of the agency's total budget. OM planned to complete monitoring activities for 97 grantees, totaling approximately 5 percent of all active grants. The April 2025 staff reductions reduced the overall size and capacity of OM. Nineteen out of the 20 employees in OM were placed on administrative leave in April. The Acting Chief Risk Officer was the sole remaining employee formerly part of OM. The Acting Chief Risk Officer became the sole individual responsible for all the roles within OM, and for managing and closing the FY 2025 monitoring plan.

Prior to the reduction, OM had completed FY 2025 monitoring activities for 16 of the 97 grantees, with grants totaling \$9.7 million. The staffing reduction left AmeriCorps unable to complete the planned monitoring of the remaining 81 grantees, which were awarded \$78.1 million grant dollars. In addition, \$846 million in grants not part of the agency's monitoring plans remained at risk due to the agency's inability to determine the effectiveness of the grant programs or whether the money was spent correctly.

The staff cuts exacerbated OM's already strained capacity to monitor grantees, putting more pressure on AmeriCorps' ability to fulfill its oversight responsibilities and raises concerns about

the effectiveness and accountability of its grant programs. The agency's strained monitoring capability also increased the burden on the OIG to provide additional oversight, due to increased risks of fraud and misuse of funds.

Further, since the reduced staff could not perform all of its planned monitoring, the agency is at risk of failing to detect grantees non-compliance with AmeriCorps' grant terms and conditions and Federal laws and regulations, ultimately allowing grantees to use AmeriCorps funds inappropriately. Although OM, at full capacity, was only able to monitor five percent of active grants and disallow only one percent of the amount of grants monitored,¹⁰ the reduction eliminated AmeriCorps' ability to recover any grant funds through proactive oversight.

Reduction in OM Staff Changes Expectations for How Future Monitoring Will Be Conducted

The staff reductions not only affect current monitoring efforts but also pose significant challenges for future monitoring plans. This situation creates uncertainties that jeopardize the agency's capacity to uphold accountability and effectiveness in overseeing its grantees.

In a significant organizational shift soon after the staff reductions in April, the agency merged OM, Office of the Chief Risk Officer (OCRO), and OADR into a single office. In August 2025, due to ongoing litigation and a court order mandating the reinstatement of union members, AmeriCorps brought back over 300 employees previously on administrative leave. Of those employees, only three were former OM staffers: two Monitoring Officers and a Criminal History Check Program Manager. One additional staff member who was brought back has been detailed as a Senior Monitoring Officer to help with monitoring activities. This staff member was not formerly part of OM.

With limited personnel dedicated to monitoring, AmeriCorps officials communicated to the OIG their intention to approach future grantee monitoring by leveraging existing work and data from other agency offices and functions.

AmeriCorps plans to leverage the following existing sources to support grant monitoring:

1. Payment integrity work,
2. Single audit review and audit resolution process,
3. Indirect cost rate reviews,
4. Risk assessment data,
5. Internal referrals from field staff, and
6. Fraud Analytics (e.g. using data to search for potential "ghost members").

¹⁰ The agency disallowed approximately \$327,000 in FY 2022 as a result of monitoring activities, the last year we were able to obtain total disallowance figures.

According to AmeriCorps, it will utilize these sources while developing additional workflows and processes to enhance grant monitoring efforts. Monitoring will be integrated as an additional function alongside the existing work carried out through these sources. A monitoring framework will be developed based on commonly identified issues within these sources. Each individual office will handle the additional monitoring tasks when specific issues arise within their respective areas. For example, a common payment integrity issue is reconciliation between reported grant costs and actual grant expenditures. Reviewing the financial records and identifying an issue in the reconciliation of funds would lead to a monitoring activity for the Payment Integrity Team. Once the issue is identified, the monitoring activity may require grantees to provide details of the root cause of the reconciliation discrepancy and also inform the Payment Integrity Team of how the grantee will solve the issue by the end of the payment integrity assessment period. Following through on understanding the root cause of the reconciliation discrepancy to learning of the grantees' efforts to resolve the reconciliation discrepancy is a new monitoring activity and work that had not previously been engaged with by the Payment Integrity Team.

In cases where the same reconciliation issues arise and a grantee is classified as high-risk according to AmeriCorps' grant risk model, the Payment Integrity Team may choose to opt for more comprehensive monitoring activities. This could involve requiring the grantee to update their financial policies and procedures, followed by a review and approval of those updates. The monitoring activities and oversight of grantee corrective actions are new responsibilities for the Payment Integrity Team. To facilitate this transition, the remaining OM staff plans to conduct training sessions for the Payment Integrity Team, equipping them with the necessary skills to effectively undertake these additional tasks.

Another example of additional activities within existing sources is the work carried out in the single audit review and audit resolution process. Single audit review and resolution is a function carried out by OADR. According to the agency, new monitoring activity for OADR may include reviewing grantees' policy updates when a common audit finding is identified. This process allows OADR to verify that the grantee has adequately addressed the audit finding at a high level. Depending on the grantee's risk level, OADR may undertake additional review and follow-up activities to ensure that the identified issues have been resolved. This verification step represents a departure from OADR's traditional role in single audit reviews. It reflects a new approach for AmeriCorps in continuing effective monitoring, ensuring that grantees not only implement necessary changes but also meet compliance requirements stemming from audit findings.

AmeriCorps will develop similar monitoring activities for the other sources. Additionally, in March 2026, AmeriCorps notified the OIG that it plans to monitor 25 grantees for the first half of FY 2026, with awards totaling \$111 million. AmeriCorps officials conveyed that the FY 2026 monitoring plan will be more flexible than previous ones to allow for changes in how the agency plans to monitor going forward. In response to our Draft Report, AmeriCorps officials stated that Phase 2 of their FY 2026 monitoring plan will be based on an updated risk assessment in June 2026 and will include approximately 25 additional grants.

Conclusion

While AmeriCorps remains committed to maintaining some level of grantee monitoring despite the loss of its OM staff, it is unlikely that the agency will be able to restore its previous monitoring level of five percent of active grants in the near future. To adequately address these challenges and detect significant instances of fraud, waste, or abuse, AmeriCorps requires additional funds specifically allocated for monitoring activities.

With additional funding, AmeriCorps should strive to monitor a significant percentage of grants, substantially more than five percent, with a focus on the most high-risk grantees, programs, and larger dollar awards. Additional monitoring should be designed to focus on higher dollar cost recoveries where grants have been misspent or are not in compliance with laws, regulations or grant terms and conditions.

Although AmeriCorps' monitoring activities have not traditionally resulted in significant amounts of disallowed costs (about one percent of the dollar amount of grants monitored), any monitoring that detects fraud or misuse of grant funds has the ability to deter opportunistic individuals. However, this limited deterrence value is not quantifiable.

In the current environment, the risk of fraud, waste, and abuse of taxpayer funds increases, jeopardizing AmeriCorps' financial oversight, especially as OIG resources are also stretched thin. If malicious actors perceive a lack of oversight, they are more likely to exploit programs and engage in fraudulent activities. Reducing monitoring at a time of heightened risk is a recipe for wasting taxpayer funds.

Appendix A: Scope and Methodology

Scope

In May 2025, 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 areas such as AmeriCorps' costs, operations, AmeriCorps members, and/or American communities. This report examines the impact of 2025 agency staff and funding reductions on AmeriCorps' ability to monitor their grants.

Methodology

AmeriCorps OIG reviewed AmeriCorps' policies, procedures, and records and communications regarding AmeriCorps' grant monitoring policies and procedures. AmeriCorps OIG also reviewed AmeriCorps' FY 2025 monitoring plan. AmeriCorps OIG conducted interviews with AmeriCorps employees to discuss the agency's grant monitoring operations and how they were affected by agency staff changes in 2025.

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 require 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 March 2026.