



Andy Beshear
GOVERNOR

CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Eric Friedlander
SECRETARY

275 East Main Street, 5W-A
Frankfort, Kentucky 40621
Phone: (502) 564-7042
Fax: (502) 564-7091

Statewide News Release

Media Contact:

Susan Dunlap

502.226.0245

susan.dunlap@ky.gov

Gov. Beshear: More than \$25.3 Million in Funds on the Way to Support Education, Basic Needs of Kentuckians

\$14.7 million in AmeriCorps grants combine with more than \$5.8 million matching funds, nearly \$4.8 million in education awards

FRANKFORT, Ky. (May 18, 2023) – Today, Gov. Andy Beshear announced that more than \$25.3 million are on the way to support the educational and social needs of Kentucky children and families.

“Team Kentucky is building a better Kentucky with the support of AmeriCorps and 20 sponsor organizations, such as nonprofits and education agencies,” Gov. Beshear said. “We thank them for their support and hard work as they help us improve the lives of our Kentucky families and communities.”

The funds include \$14.7 million in AmeriCorps federal grants, combined with \$5.8 million in private and public matching funds to provide help with housing, clothing and food to Kentuckians in need, as well as provide tutoring, teaching, and other educational services for students in all grade levels through post-secondary education. Funds also help health departments, senior centers and hospice facilities meet the basic needs of Kentuckians.

The AmeriCorps federal agency will make available nearly \$4.8 million in education awards for program participants. After completing a full term of service, AmeriCorps members are eligible for \$6,895 for college, postsecondary education or to pay back student loans. Learn more about AmeriCorps in this one-minute national [PSA](#) that was filmed in Louisville with local members and staff.

Click here to view the [AmeriCorps grant recipients](#). The funding breakdown includes:



- more than \$12.1 million in national competitive grant funding for 12 AmeriCorps programs, including two Public Health AmeriCorps programs;
- \$2.6 million in formula grant funding to support eight additional state programs;
- AmeriCorps program sponsors are also contributing \$5.8 million in local cash or in-kind match; and
- the AmeriCorps federal agency will make available nearly \$4.8 million in [education awards](#).

Examples of awardees include:

- Global Game Changers - 21 AmeriCorps members will support students in School Empowerment Zone (SEZ) Programs in association with Jefferson County Public Schools. At the end of the first program year, the AmeriCorps members will have engaged 800 students in an additional 170+ hours of enrichment and social emotional instruction, resulting in gains in social-emotional skills, power skills and academics. Additionally, the AmeriCorps members will leverage 75 volunteers who will be engaged in supporting classroom instruction during the course of the SEZ Program.
- UNITE Service Corps - 62 AmeriCorps members will tutor students in math; implement the Too Good for Drugs (TGFD) drug-prevention curriculum and sponsor UNITE drug prevention clubs in Bell, Boyd, Carter, Floyd, Harlan, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lawrence, Leslie, Letcher, Lincoln, Magoffin, Martin, Owsley, Pike, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Whitley and Wolfe counties. At the end of the first program year, AmeriCorps members will be responsible for the improved academic performance of 2,170 students in math. In addition, AmeriCorps members will leverage 310 volunteers who will be engaged in drug prevention activities.

“These new grants will increase AmeriCorps Seniors’ ability to make an impact in Covington,” said **Atalaya Sergi**, director, AmeriCorps Seniors. “Supporting these older adults will help leverage their tremendous experience and skill to help those in need. At the same time, AmeriCorps Senior volunteers will gain training and skills to support them returning to the workforce in professional and para-professional jobs that will support their financial future.”

"The Global Game Changers School Empowerment Zone program works to make a revolutionary difference in climate, culture, engagement, empowerment, and ultimately success for high needs Jefferson County Public Schools in Louisville," said Global Game Changers co-founder and board chair **Jan Helson**. "We're thrilled to continue our important partnership with AmeriCorps and Serve Kentucky so that members can support schools, students, teachers and parents in order build the relationships and lay the foundation that drive this important work forward."

“Ensuring youth have strong, fact-based drug prevention and avoidance skills is essential if we want them to stay substance free,” said **Nancy Hale**, president and CEO of Operation UNITE. “The reach of AmeriCorps members with the UNITE Service Corps extends deep into our service region. They become actively engaged within their schools by sponsoring anti-drug UNITE Clubs, by joining their UNITE Community Coalition and recruiting adult volunteers. AmeriCorps members foster relationships that broaden their impact well beyond the classroom. They are helping to change the culture across southern and eastern Kentucky.”

Through the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, [Serve Kentucky](#) currently administers 23 [AmeriCorps program grants](#) with more than \$14 million in federal funds, along with supporting other statewide community service programs.

Cabinet secretary **Eric Friedlander** praised AmeriCorps for its support. Program funding, he noted, impacts Kentucky’s quest to build more resilient communities. Friedlander said, “As Team Kentucky moves forward with building a better commonwealth following the pandemic, natural disasters and other impacts, the programs supported will play a significant role in making Kentuckians and the places they live more resilient and ready for a brighter future.”

Serve Kentucky executive director **Joe Bringardner** said that AmeriCorps funding helps provide services to aging Kentuckians, disaster relief, K-12 tutoring and mentoring, college readiness support, housing assistance, environmental education, support for public health and food support services across the commonwealth. Bringardner noted, "AmeriCorps members use their talents, their vision and their boundless energy to establish immediate and long-lasting change."

AmeriCorps grants are awarded to eligible organizations, which spur members to strengthen communities. This is done through faith-based and nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, local government entities and state agencies.

###

Information on how the state is working to improve the lives and health of our people is available at [CHFS.ky.gov](https://chfs.ky.gov). Follow the cabinet on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).