

THE VOLUNTEER STAR

a monthly newsletter from your friends at the



KANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMISSION
KANSERVE.ORG

**NOVEMBER IS NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
AND THANK YOUR MENTEE MONTH!**



**NATIVE AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH**

November is Native American Heritage Month & Thank Your Mentee Month:

Mentoring is a powerful opportunity to make a difference in the lives of young people. Still, it involves being truly mindful of the unique journeys that each mentee undertakes, recognizing how their heritage and global contexts shape their experiences. Understanding these factors allows us to create meaningful and culturally sensitive connections that foster growth and empowerment. Learning about these diverse backgrounds is essential for effective mentoring and building culturally sensitive connections, especially when it comes to supporting #nativeyouth. Learn more about how to build stronger, more inclusive communities with Mentor's resources: bit.ly/3mcSS3E
#NativeAmericanHeritageMonth #MentoringAmplifies.

Mentoring relationships truly are two-way streets, where mentors and mentees can learn and grow together! This #ThankYourMentee month, we invite all mentors to reflect on and share the invaluable lessons they've learned from their mentees. These connections often lead to profound insights and personal growth for both parties, enriching the mentoring experience in ways we might not expect. Let's celebrate the impact of these relationships and highlight the wisdom our mentees bring to the table! Join us in this meaningful conversation and learn more here: bit.ly/3B3AFwt. **#MentoringAmplifies**

- **Veterans Day: November 11**

This #VeteransDay, we take a moment to honor and express our gratitude to all those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces and the sacrifices they and their families made. We recognize the unique challenges faced by military youth, who often deal with frequent relocations and separations. Mentoring can play a crucial role in providing these young people with the support and stability they need during transitions. We can help these youth navigate their circumstances and thrive by fostering meaningful connections. Learn more about how mentoring can make a difference for military youth here: <https://bit.ly/3Ujn2UJ>. **#MentoringAmplifies**

- **2025 National Mentoring Summit Registration**

Save the date! The 2025 National #MentoringSummit is happening from Jan 29-31 in Washington DC. Register now to join fellow advocates for 3 incredible days of learning! Secure your spot at mentoring.org/summit.
#MentoringAmplifies

**THANK
YOUR
MENTEE**



**CONGRATULATIONS
VOLUNTEER GENERATION FUND SUBGRANTEES**



CONGRATULATIONS 2025 VGF SUBGRANTEES

- **CASA of Johnson & Wyandotte Counties**
- **Girl Scouts of NE Kansas and NW Missouri**
- **Harvey County United Way**
- **Rosedale Development Association**
- **United Way of Kaw Valley**
- **Urban League of Kansas**



CONGRATULATIONS MLK NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE SUBGRANTEES

Congratulations!

MLK DAY OF SERVICE SUBGRANTEES

THE KANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMISSION AWARDED ELEVEN ORGANIZATIONS
MORE THAN \$30,000.00 TOWARDS MLK NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE PROJECTS.

- ELIZABETH B. BALLARD CENTER
- CHILDREN'S 1ST CEO KANSAS, INC.
- FOUR COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER, INC.
- KANSAS HEALTH SCIENCE UNIVERSITY
- HANDS-ON K-STATE
- LAWRENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY
- MASTERS AND MENTORS YES
- PEACE CONNECTIONS, INC.
- RCCG VICTORY HOUSE
- UNITED WAY OF KAW VALLEY
- URBAN LEAGUE OF KANSAS, INC.



Congratulations to our MLK National Day of Service Subgrantees!

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'"

This mini-grant offers eligible entities grant funding to recruit and engage volunteers in meaningful service activities or deliver a service-learning activity related to Dr. King. A service-learning activity is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.

Resources for MLK Day at AmeriCorps.gov: [MLK Day Resources | AmeriCorps](#)
Share Your Project with AmeriCorps here: [MLK Day Project Registration](#)

**KANSAS RANKS 5th IN THE NATION
FOR FORMAL VOLUNTEERING**

Kansas Gives Back.



In 2023, more than **903,000** residents volunteered through an organization.



This volunteering contributed **\$1.6 billion** in economic value.



More than **1.3 million** residents helped their neighbors informally.



AmeriCorps, the federal agency for national service and volunteerism, has named Kansas as the fifth ranking state for formal volunteering in the nation as highlighted in the latest [Volunteering and Civic Life in America research](#).

Kansas's formal volunteering rate has increased by eight percentage points in just two years. In 2023, 902,960 state residents volunteered through an organization, contributing \$1.6 billion dollars in economic value.

Other Kansas highlights:

- 96.7 percent of residents talked to or spent time with friends or family.
- 58.4 percent of residents informally helped others by exchanging favors with their neighbors.
- 71.0 percent of residents had a conversation or spent time with their neighbors.
- 34.5 percent of residents belonged to an organization.
- 54.4 percent of residents donated \$25 or more to charity.

“Kansas represents the best of America. Kansans should feel proud to know that their neighbors and friends are looking out for their community, providing invaluable support by serving those in need,” said Michael D. Smith, CEO, AmeriCorps “We can all learn a thing or two from Kansans.”

“The Kansas motto ‘ad astra per aspera,’ to the stars through difficulties, represents a feeling deeply rooted in each of us who call Kansas home. Across the state, we see communities harnessing the power of volunteerism to overcome hardships and meet critical community needs,” said Dr. Jessica Dorsey, Kansas Volunteer Commission Executive Director. “We look forward to seeing the many positive ways that Kansans continue to rise to the challenge and serve in their communities.”

Every two years, AmeriCorps partners with the US Census Bureau to conduct the most robust survey about civic engagement across the United States and over time. The data informs AmeriCorps' Volunteering and Civic Life in America research, a comprehensive look at how Americans make a difference in their communities and promote the common good. The latest research examines trends in formal volunteering, informal helping, and other civic behaviors.

The national volunteering rate has increased more than 22 percent in just two years. This is the largest expansion of formal volunteering AmeriCorps has ever recorded and truly showcases the spirit of volunteerism is on the rise in America.

Formal volunteering involves helping others through organizations. Through local nonprofit and community-based organizations, Americans are afforded new ways to engage with their communities and foster a sense of constructive action, civic participation and belonging. Volunteers support American schools and shelters, hospitals and hotlines, food banks, and civic, nonprofit, tribal and faith-based organizations across the country.

Volunteering doesn't always need to be formal. More than 137.5 million people – or 54 percent of Americans – helped their neighbors informally with tasks like running errands or watching each other's children between September 2022 and 2023. This represents a meaningful three percentage point increase from previous years.

AMERICORPS KANSAS NOFO



AmeriCorps Kansas

AmeriCorps Kansas has two applications available for the 2025 - 2026 grant period. Read the descriptions below to learn which grant opportunity is right for your organization. Click on the link to access the application materials:

- **AmeriCorps Kansas Operational Grant:** This grant is for organizations interested in operating an AmeriCorps program in Kansas. This grant DOES require matching funds. Applicants must request a minimum of three Member Service Years (MSY). **Due date:** December 13, 2024 for staff review OR January 31, 2025 for Final Applications
- **AmeriCorps Kansas Planning Grant:** This grant is for organizations interested

in a 12-month planning period to develop an operational AmeriCorps program in Kansas. This grant DOES require matching funds. Due date: January 31, 2025.

Questions? Email: americorps@ksde.org



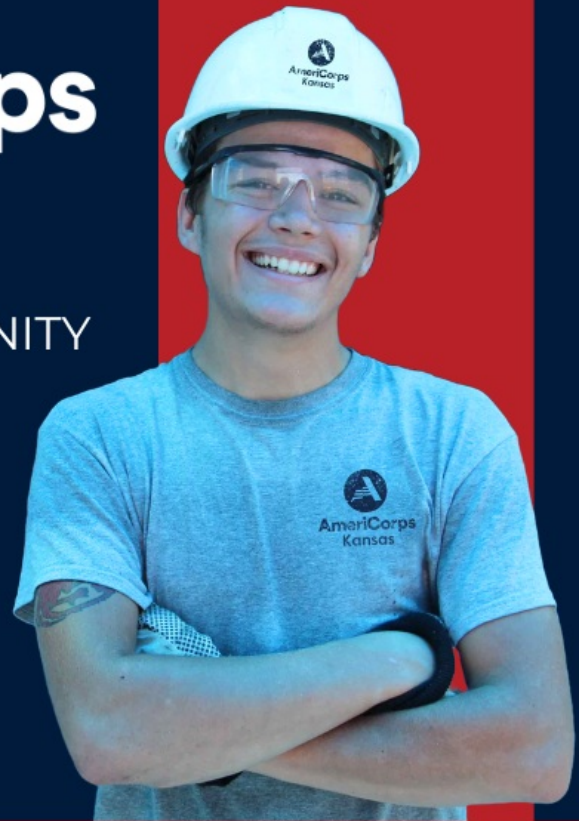
AmeriCorps Kansas

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

APPLY TODAY!

OPERATIONAL OR PLANNING

KANSERVE.ORG



KANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMISSION
KAN SERVE . ORG

**BRING ON THE PEOPLE POWER TO
ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF YOUR
COMMUNITY TODAY & TOMORROW**

NCCC NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS



AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps Southwest Region

AmeriCorps Request For Applications 2024-2025

AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) Southwest Region is requesting applications for team-based community service projects in Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wyoming. AmeriCorps NCCC is seeking projects that engage members in service for 40-45 hours per week for 6-13 weeks while living in the communities they are serving.

Who and How NCCC Can Serve

AmeriCorps NCCC teams can provide direct service to non-profits, community and faith-based organizations, schools, local municipalities, state and federal entities, and tribal governments. Teams can help strengthen communities through a wide variety of tasks within six program areas. Some examples include:



Education: Tutoring and mentoring youth during school, after school, or in summer programs



Environment: Habitat restoration, trail building, or interpretative programming



Healthy Futures: Community gardening, food security initiatives, nutrition and wellness programming



Economic Opportunity: Affordable housing construction, tax preparation, or community revitalization



Disaster Recovery: Deconstruction and rebuilding of homes, debris removal, or sorting donations after natural or other disasters



Veterans and Military Families: Building facilities or structures to support veteran services and programming

AN AMERICORPS NCCC TEAM

NCCC members are young adults, 18-26 years old, who participate in a residential 10-month service term, and represent a wide variety of socioeconomic, cultural, geographic, and educational backgrounds.

Team sizes vary and can range from 6-12 Corps Members. Corps Members receive on-the-ground supervision from an NCCC Team Leader.

Each team is assigned to a unit that is led by a full-time, professional staff member called a Unit Leader. The Unit Leader oversees the team's project performance and member development.

Each team is provided with one 15-passenger van and fuel is covered by NCCC. Each team is also allocated funds for food and laundry. All members are background checked and fully insured by the Federal Tort Claims Act and Federal Employees Coverage Act.

SPONSOR REQUIREMENTS

- Provide on-site support including technical oversight, training, supplies, equipment, and a minimum of 20 hours of supervision per week
- Secure housing for the team for the duration of the project to include a bathroom, kitchen, sleeping quarters, separate quarantine quarters, and parking for one 15-passenger van
- Housing examples include churches, community centers, vacant apartments or houses, college dorms, park cabins, and military facilities
- Lend service-learning support to help the team understand the community's needs and the organization's work
- Meet the NCCC project criteria necessary to be awarded a team; there are additional considerations that make an application more competitive

Contact Us:



Arkansas, Colorado and Kansas- Ka Vang, Phone: (202) 914-8429, Email: kvang@americorps.gov

New Mexico, Texas and Wyoming - Catherine Trumpis, Phone: (202) 729-0176, Email: ctrumpis@americorps.gov

Arizona, Missouri and Oklahoma - Nicole Cozzi, Phone: (202) 913-6157, Email: ncozzi@americorps.gov

2024-2025 SERVICE TIMELINE

Service Dates	Concept Form Deadline	Application Deadline	Award Notification
Nov. 8 - Dec. 15, 2024*	Jun. 14th, 2024	Aug. 9th, 2024	Week of Sep. 9th, 2024
Jan. 9 - Apr. 13, 2025*	Sep. 6th, 2024	Oct. 11th, 2024	Week of Nov. 11th, 2024
Apr. 19 - Jul. 13, 2025*	Dec. 13th, 2024	Jan. 31st, 2025	Week of Mar. 3rd, 2025

*NCCC may accommodate requests for shorter projects within these date ranges

Please note: Service dates are subject to change due to evolving coronavirus policies and safety measures

COVID-19

AmeriCorps NCCC is taking measures to support the health and safety of members and sponsors during the coronavirus pandemic. All members are required to be vaccinated against COVID-19. Protocols regarding the use of facial coverings, social distancing, health screenings, testing, housing, quarantining, and isolating have been developed based on guidance from the CDC and other experts. For more information please contact regional campus staff.

How to Request an AmeriCorps NCCC Team



Application Process

Email your documents to your state's NCCC staff member (contact information on previous page) or fax to 303.844.7410.

1

Complete and submit a NCCC Project Concept Form. This four-page document provides a brief overview of the applying organization and their tentative project plan for the team. This document is required for all organizations to be able to proceed with the full application.

2

Upon review of the Project Concept Form, NCCC will invite the organization to submit a full application or request additional information.

3

Complete and submit a NCCC Project Application with required supporting documentation.

4

Applications are reviewed by a panel and awarded with consideration to compelling need, geographic distribution, availability of teams, and costs related to team deployment, in addition to the evaluation criteria listed in the application instructions.



AmeriCorps

Mission: To strengthen communities and develop leaders through direct, team-based national and community service.

AmeriCorps NCCC Southwest Region
15001 E. Oxford Ave. Suite B Aurora, CO 80014

Sponsor Resources ~ www.americorps.gov/partner/how-it-works/ameri-corps-nccc

Follow us on Facebook ~ AmeriCorps NCCC Southwest Region



AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps Summer of Service 2025 Request for Applications

AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) is requesting applications for team-based community service projects from organizations in the following states: **Arkansas, Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wyoming.** Projects should engage members in service projects 40 hours per week from **June 20 - August 1, 2025.** Exact project start and end dates may vary slightly, depending on travel time between the team training site and the project location.

Who and How NCCC Can Serve

AmeriCorps NCCC teams provide direct service to non-profits, community and faith-based organizations, schools, local municipalities, state and federal entities, and tribal governments. Teams in our Summer of Service program will strengthen communities through projects addressing the areas outlined below:



Disaster response or recovery: Sheltering, feeding, damage assessments, donation management, mucking and gutting, temporary roof repair, hazard tree and debris removal, emergency mold suppression, rebuilding of homes, re-clearing of trails, and restoration of other structures or environmental features lost or damaged in a disaster.



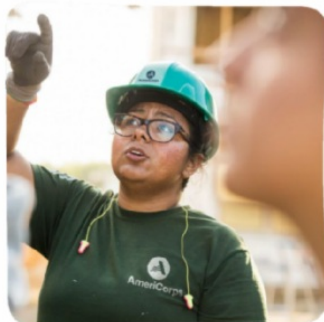
Affordable Housing: Renovating and/or constructing homes, including hardwall installation and flooring installation.



Environmental Stewardship and/or Climate Mitigation: Energy efficiency, agriculture and food systems, or environmental stewardship/education.



Other: Energy Conservation, Infrastructure Improvement, Urban and Rural Development or other priorities identified by your organization.



AN AMERICORPS NCCC TEAM

AmeriCorps NCCC Summer of Service members are young adults, 18-26 years old, who participate in a 2-month service term, and represent a wide variety of socioeconomic, cultural, geographic, and educational backgrounds.

Team sizes vary and can range from 8-12 members. Members receive on-the-ground supervision from an AmeriCorps NCCC Team Leader.

Each team is assigned to a unit that is led by a full-time, professional staff member called a Unit Leader. The Unit Leader oversees the team's project performance and member development.

Each team is provided with one 15-passenger van and fuel is covered by NCCC. Each team is also allocated funds for food and laundry.

All members are background checked and fully insured by the Federal Tort Claims Act and Federal Employees Coverage Act.

SPONSOR REQUIREMENTS

Provide on-site support including technical oversight, training, supplies, equipment, and a minimum of 20 hours of supervision per week.

Secure housing for the team for the duration of the project to include a bathroom, kitchen, sleeping quarters, separate quarantine quarters, and parking for one 15-passenger van.

Housing examples include churches, community centers, vacant apartments or houses, college dorms, park cabins, and military facilities.

Lend service-learning support to help the team understand the community's needs and the organization's work.

Meet the NCCC project criteria necessary to be awarded a team; there are additional considerations that make an application more competitive.

2025 SUMMER OF SERVICE TIMELINE

Concept Form Deadline	Application Deadline	Award Notification	Service Dates
12/13/2024	1/31/2025	4/11/2025	6/20/25 – 8/1/25

How to Request an AmeriCorps NCCC Team



- 1** Complete and submit a NCCC Project Concept Form. This four-page document provides a brief overview of the applying organization and their tentative project plan for the team. This document is required for all organizations to be able to proceed with the full application.
- 2** Upon review of the Project Concept Form, NCCC will invite the organization to submit a full application or request additional information.
- 3** Complete and submit a NCCC Project Application with required supporting documentation.
- 4** Applications are reviewed by a panel and awarded with consideration to compelling need, geographic distribution, availability of teams, and costs related to team deployment, in addition to the evaluation criteria listed in the application instructions.

To apply for a 2025 Summer of Service NCCC team please contact:

Arizona, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma,
Texas, Wyoming

Catherine Trumpis
Assistant Program Director
CTrumpis@americorps.gov

Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas

Ka Vang
Assistant Program Director
KVang@americorps.gov



AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps NCCC Southwest Region
15001 E. Oxford Ave., Suite B
Aurora, CO 80014

For more information: <https://americorps.gov/partner/how-it-works/americorps-nccc>

Follow Us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/AmeriCorpsNCCCSouthwest>

AmeriCorps NCCC is taking measures to support the health and safety of members and sponsors. The Summer of Service program will adhere to all NCCC's current COVID health and safety guidance. For more information, please visit <https://americorps.gov/coronavirus/americorps-nccc-questions>

COMMISSIONER & STAFF SPOTLIGHT

KANSAS VOLUNTEER COMMISSION STAFF HALEY BREESE WEDS

Haley and Travis Breese celebrated their love on October 12, 2024, in her hometown of Crossville, Tennessee. Surrounded by friends and family, marking a tremendously joyous milestone in their lives together. Their adventure as

newlyweds continued with a honeymoon in the enchanting coastal paradise of Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic.

Please join us in wishing Haley and Travis all the very best!





2025 MINI GRANT SERIES

2025 MINI GRANT SERIES

Guidelines and Application release dates

YOUTH MENTORING

Releases: 1/03/2025

YOUTH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Releases: 2/07/2025

JUNETEENTH NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

Releases: 4/04/2025

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Releases: 5/09/2025

RURAL & INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Releases: 6/06/2025

9/11 NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

Releases: 7/03/2025

MLK NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

Releases: 10/03/2025



UPCOMING EVENTS

The Mission of Managers of Volunteer Engagement (M.O.V.E.) is to build and engage a network of volunteer managers and cultivate a volunteerism culture.

M.O.V.E.

Meets the Third Wednesday of Each Month

9:00 to 10:00 AM

To learn more, please visit www.moveks.org.

Or reach out via [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/moveks).

M.O.V.E. Kansas

Statewide-Virtual

Meets the Fourth Thursday of Each Month

9:00 to 10:00 AM

To learn more, please email

meg.carrie.pearson@gmail.com

Volunteer Managers Network

United Way of the Plains

2023 Dates T.B.D.

12:00 to 1:00 PM

To learn more, please email Abel Frederic
afrederic@unitedwayplains.org

Volunteers United: Newton

Meets the Fourth Thursday of Each Month

12:00 to 1:00 PM

To learn more, please email Dalton Black
director@harveyunitedway.org

NOTE: The above dates, times, and locations are subject to change.

CONNECT WITH OUR STAFF



Dr. Jessica Dorsey
*Commission Executive
Director*
(785) 296-3163
jdorsey@ksde.org



Tierney Kirtdoll
*Monitoring & Grants
Coordinator*
(785) 368-6211
tkirtdoll@ksde.org



Haley Matherly
*Program Development
Coordinator*
(785) 296-5712
hmatherly@ksde.org



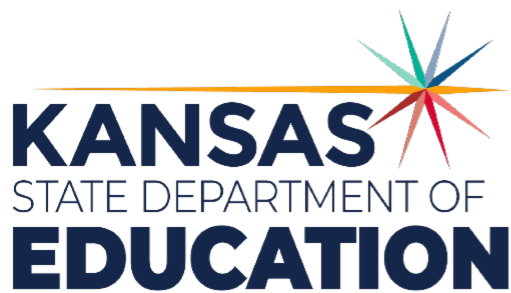
Sarah Nelson
*Training & Engagement
Coordinator*
(785) 296-7801
snelson@ksde.org

Amanda Noll
Financial Specialist
(785) 368-6207
anoll@ksde.org

Elaine Rodriguez
*Outreach & Recruitment
Coordinator*
(785) 368-6232
erodriguez@ksde.org



Kat Seeley
Administrative Specialist
(785) 368-7436
kseeley@ksde.org



[LIKE US ON FACEBOOK](#)



[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!
