



Lead For America

Lead For America is an AmeriCorps program building the next generation of leaders for our country and communities across all 50 states.

Through the Hometown Fellowship, Fellows serve in a paid, full-time capacity alongside a local leader in their hometown or home state for one year, before advancing into positions of community, state, and national leadership for decades to come.



Lead For America Fellows are dedicated to tackling the critical challenges facing the places they call home through paid, full-time service.

Our Fellowship provides the training, resources, and mentorship needed to make a difference, and serves as a launching pad for a lifetime of civic leadership to community and country.



Born into every American community are the talents and skills it needs to address its most critical challenges. But for far too many young people across the country, success has been defined as leaving home and never coming back.

We believe that building stronger communities, and a stronger America, starts by serving and leading, where you live.



AMERICAN CONNECTION

CORPS



The American Connection Corps is an initiative within Lead for America where members across the country are creating a national impact in broadband development and access by addressing the local connectivity needs in their *communities*.

The American Connection Corps (ACC) is the nation's largest fellowship program focused on bridging the digital divide. This initiative addresses broadband development and digital inclusion while equipping, empowering, and connecting a national cohort of civic leaders.



AMERICAN CONNECTION CORPS

The American Connection Corps is the nation's premier AmeriCorps service experience advancing economic prosperity in rural and emerging communities. We lead shoulder-to-shoulder with our neighbors to realize the worth of every place, person, and possibility.

LEAD FOR AMERICA



Operated by Lead for America (LFA) and supported by the American Connection Project coalition, ACC is a nationwide AmeriCorps program advancing economic prosperity and broadband access in rural and emerging communities—while connecting people to places where success is too often defined as “leaving and never coming back.” Learn more about how your organization can partner with LFA and ACC to support your community at americanconnectioncorps.org



DEDICATED LOCAL SERVICE

ACC AmeriCorps Members are placed in a paid, full-time service placement addressing local connectivity or economic prosperity needs in communities in their hometown or home state. While part-time positions are available, most Members serve for 35 hours per week, providing key capacity-building services for the Host to advance broadband development and digital inclusion efforts.



TECHNICAL & LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Members begin their service term with a five-day pre-service training in Wichita, KS; a spring training at the Land O'Lakes headquarters outside the Twin Cities, MN; graduation in Washington D.C.; and scholarships to national conferences like the National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA) annual summit. Members receive regular ongoing virtual plenaries, too, from partners such as the Benton Institute, NTCA, and Microsoft.



NATIONAL NETWORK OF PARTNERS

From creating lifelong bonds with other Members to meeting with key federal officials, corporate executives, and national digital adoption practitioners, Members bring the strength of a national network of expertise and resources to their local communities.



Members attended a briefing on the Hill and met Sen. Bozeman, Chair of the Senate Ag Committee, to discuss how the Farm Bill can advance rural broadband.



Members met with State Broadband Office directors, and federal NTIA program officers, to stay ahead of broadband and digital inclusion funding opportunities.

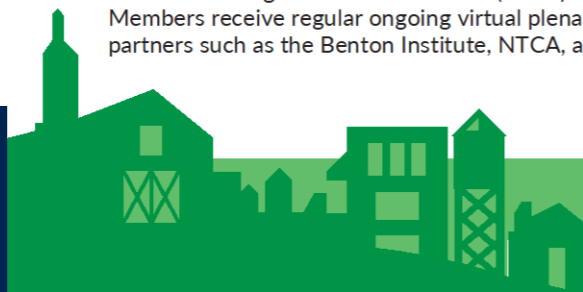


Members attended trainings at our partners' corporate headquarters, receiving support from corporate executives at Land O'Lakes, Microsoft, Mayo Clinic, and Heartland Forward.



COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

Members begin their placement with a Listening Tour to understand the local landscape of challenge and possibility. They are connected to national resources and promising models they can adapt to fit the needs of their local context. Additionally, Members are exposed to career opportunities and networks that encourage long-term retention in their local community.





Areas of Focus

Digital Access: Fellows help make internet and tech devices more affordable and help others fully participate in digital society.

Digital Adoption: Fellows help youth, elders, and working adults have the digital knowledge to access key services (like telehealth), participate in a 21st century workforce, and advance STEM education and digital economic development.

Broadband Infrastructure and Development: Fellows help get broadband infrastructure to their communities, and work with private and public officials to complete broadband projects.



Training & Support

ACC Fellows attend extensive trainings tailored specifically for their interests, communities, and personal career paths. The proposed training schedule includes

Summer ACC Orientation in Washington D.C.. The training curriculum is being designed in collaboration with the Land O'Lakes government relations team, and will include site visits to organizations deploying innovative broadband access, infrastructure, and inclusion/adoption programs locally and nationally.

Fall Retreat: LFA will plan a 3-day retreat, hosted tentatively at the Land O'Lakes headquarters, in Minneapolis, MN for all ACC Fellows to talk through and address any barriers to their work plans. Fellows will participate in an innovative digital workforce site visit, as well as workshops on best practices for digital adoption with statewide and national training partners.

Mid-March: National Digital Inclusion Conference - San Antonio, TX. LFA will cover the registration, travel, and accommodation for ACC members to attend the NDIA's Net Inclusion Summit

End of July, 2023: Lead For America Graduation in Washington D.C. All graduating ACC and National Hometown Fellows will return to Washington D.C. for their graduation, including meeting and presenting their service impact stories before key members of congress and federal agencies



The American Connection Corps is a one-year AmeriCorps national service program, meaning our Fellows become AmeriCorps members and enjoy the benefits of this incredible opportunity.

As an ACC AmeriCorps member, you will receive:

\$30k Living Allowance, an AmeriCorps Segal Education Award worth \$6,495 and available upon successful completion of your first (or second) year of service. Can be used for future schooling or to repay qualified student loans.

Student loan forbearance for qualified student loans.

Health insurance reimbursement for qualifying coverage: basic health, vision and dental coverage.

Partial childcare reimbursements.

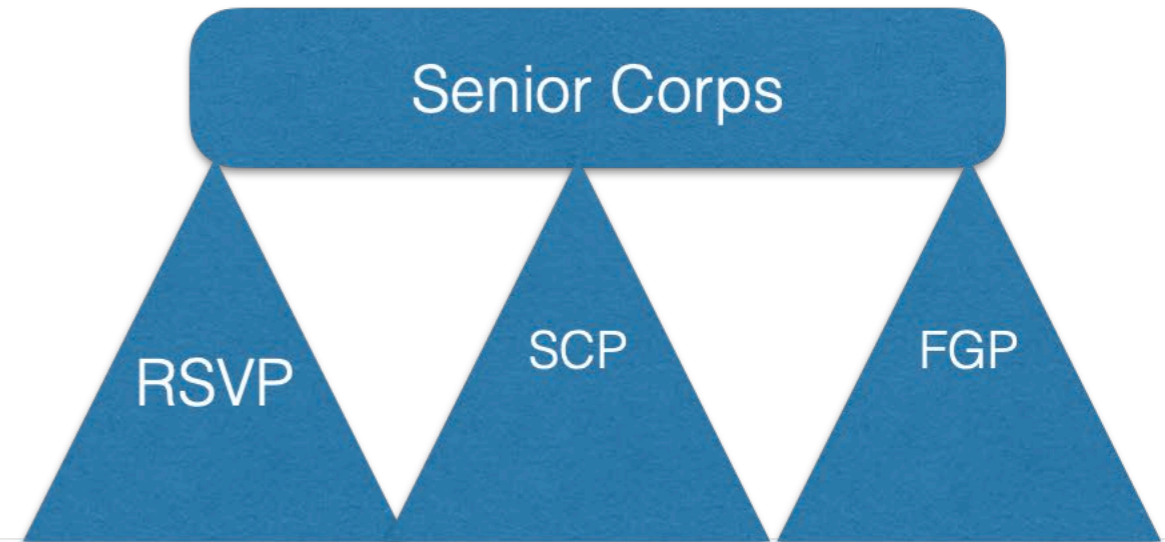
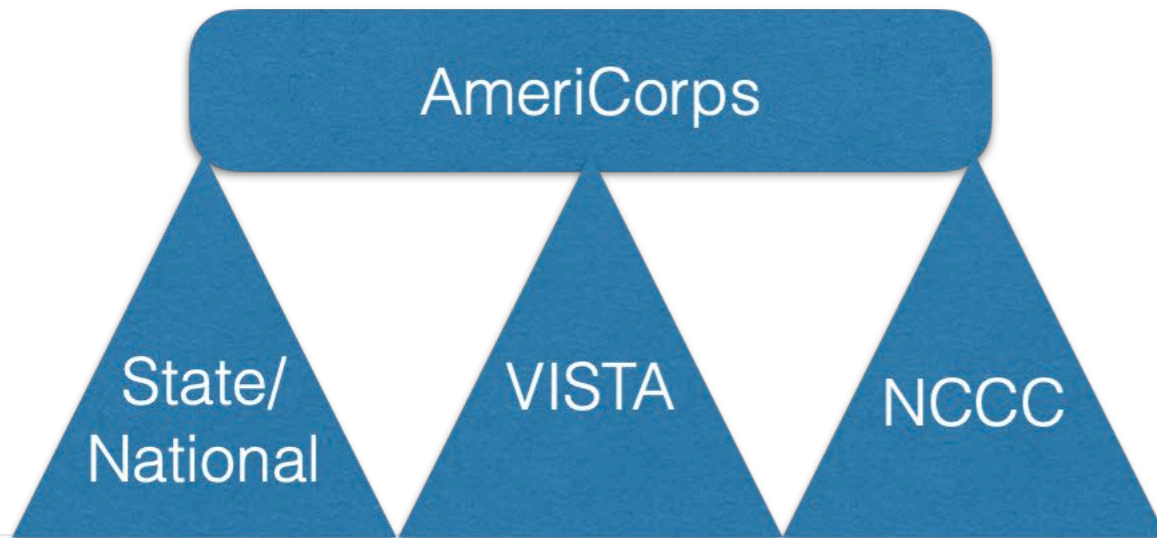


AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps is a national service program that brings together people of all ages and backgrounds to serve their communities.

AmeriCorps helps activate more than 80,000 Americans in intensive service each year at nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups across the country. Since the program's founding in 1994, over 1 million AmeriCorps members have contributed more than 1.4 billion hours in service across America while tackling pressing issues and mobilizing more than 2.3 million volunteers for the organizations they serve.

AmeriCorps Agency Programs



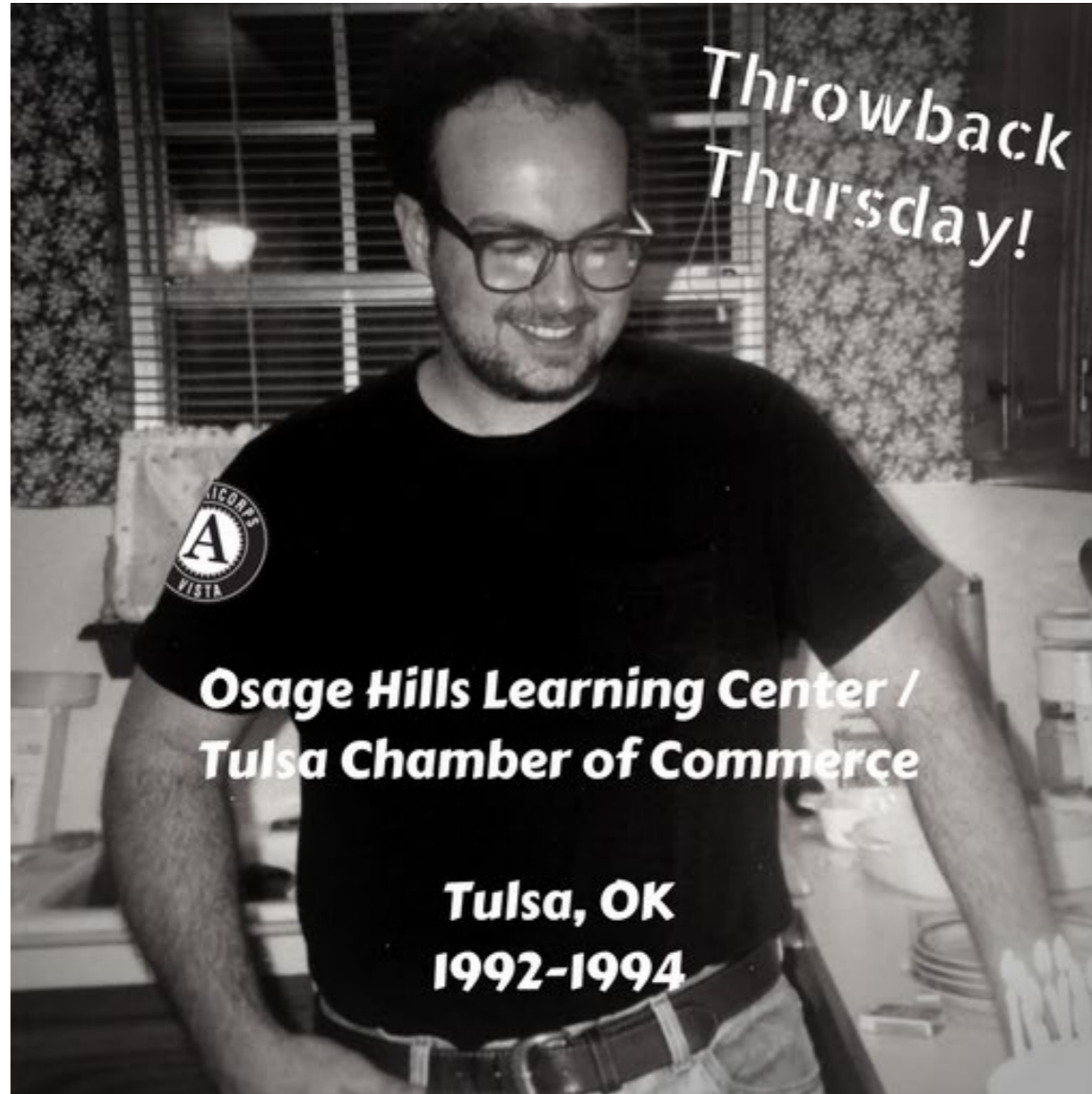
Volunteer Generation Fund

AmeriCorps VISTA

Since 1965, over 220,000 AmeriCorps members in the VISTA program have joined the fight against poverty by helping local organizations expand their capacity to make change. The VISTA program serves in each of the 50 U.S. states and in all U.S. territories.

Through capacity building activities such as fundraising, grant writing, research, and volunteer recruitment AmeriCorps members in the VISTA program serve in an office setting and gain experience and leadership skills. This opportunity prepares members for a life of service in the public, private, or nonprofit sector.

AmeriCorps VISTA



VISTA

Volunteers In Service To America

AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps

Corps Members are assigned to a regional campus to complete initial training and to receive team assignments. Diverse teams of 18-26 year-olds work under the direction of one Team Leader and complete the service term living and serving together. Corps Members are responsible for completing Corps Training Institute (CTI), earning 1700 service hours, participating in physical training and contributing to various team activities.



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