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The Environmental Justice Scorecard has been updated. Phase Two of the Environmental Justice Scorecard was released on July 24, 2024.

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AmeriCorps

13 location(s), 788 employees, and 224 new hire(s) in Fiscal Year 2023


AmeriCorps' mission is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering.

AmeriCorps is the federal agency for national service and volunteerism. AmeriCorps provides opportunities for Americans of all backgrounds to serve their country, address the nation's most pressing challenges, and improve lives and communities. In FY 2023, AmeriCorps invested more than \$140 million in climate, environmental stewardship, and disaster service


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projects that engaged more than 18,000 AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers. AmeriCorps is also taking a lead role in the American Climate Corps, establishing a Hub to ensure success of this initiative, including advancing environmental justice.

Some examples of well-known AmeriCorps offices, bureaus, or agencies are:

- National Service Programs
- Office of Regional Operations regions
- AmeriCorps NCCC regions

Progress on Advancing Environmental Justice

This section demonstrates key progress on advancing environmental justice at AmeriCorps in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

Key Highlights ([show less](#) ^)



American Climate Corps

Photo credit:

American Climate Corps

AmeriCorps serves as the Hub of the American Climate Corps, for which the agency coordinates and implements a variety of activities, such as hosting listening sessions, expanding recruitment, establishing workforce partnerships, and developing common trainings.

[Learn more](#) 

AmeriCorps' Investment in Climate Change Mitigation

In FY 2023, AmeriCorps invested more than \$140 million in climate, environmental stewardship, and disaster service projects that engaged more than 18,000 AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers.

[Learn more](#) 

AmeriCorps
The American Climate Corps will mobilize a new, diverse generation of more than 20,000 Americans – conserving and restoring our lands and waters, bolstering community resilience, deploying clean energy, implementing energy efficient technologies, and advancing environmental justice, all while creating pathways to

Improving Parks, Trails, and Waterways

AmeriCorps members and volunteers treated more than 880,000 acres of parks and public land and 30,000 miles of trails and rivers, making more equitable opportunities for access to public spaces.

AmeriCorps VISTA Focus on Anti-Poverty Initiatives

In FY 2023, AmeriCorps VISTA prioritized projects that support anti-poverty initiatives focused on environmental stewardship and climate change in disadvantaged communities. Over 50% of environmentally focused VISTA members served in disadvantaged communities as identified by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST), advancing the goal of the Justice40 Initiative.

high-quality, good-paying clean energy and climate resilience jobs in the public and private sectors.

[Learn more](#) 

AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) Projects in Disadvantaged Communities

AmeriCorps NCCC members carry out energy conservation, climate change mitigation, and environmental stewardship projects across the country. In FY 2023, 48% of environmentally focused NCCC projects served disadvantaged communities, advancing the goal of the Justice40 Initiative.

Justice40 Initiative

This section demonstrates progress on the implementation of the Justice40 Initiative at AmeriCorps in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.


Overview

With decades of experience in environmental stewardship, a vast network of partners across the country, a community-driven infrastructure, and proven pathways from service to employment, AmeriCorps is well positioned to conserve lands and waters, expand renewable energy use, and increase

What is the Justice40 Initiative?

The Justice40 Initiative set the goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain federal investments

community resilience in disadvantaged communities through the President's Justice40 Initiative.

For more information on AmeriCorps's Justice40 covered programs, please contact partnerships@cns.gov 

Justice40 Covered Programs ([show less](#) ^)

The AmeriCorps has:

- 5 Justice40 covered program(s)

Progress on the Justice40 Initiative

Through President Biden's [Investing in America](#) agenda and other sources, **AmeriCorps** has:

approximately

\$1.3 billion

in funds available to obligate (i.e., to spend) in Fiscal Years (FY) 2022 - 2027 through its Justice40 covered programs.¹

Through President Biden's [Justice40 Initiative](#), **AmeriCorps** is working to deliver benefits to disadvantaged

flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution.

[Learn more](#) 

communities. Each program that is part of the Justice40 Initiative delivers benefits in at least one of [seven investment categories](#), and many programs are delivering benefits to communities across multiple categories of investment. The **5** covered program(s) at **AmeriCorps** working to deliver benefits for communities include:

- **5** program(s) protecting communities from the impacts of climate change
- **4** program(s) advancing clean and affordable energy for communities
- **5** program(s) advancing affordable and sustainable housing
- **4** program(s) delivering training and workforce development benefits

Overall, agencies are making concrete, tangible improvements to benefit disadvantaged communities across America through the Justice40 Initiative. These investments are resulting in cleaner air and water, more affordable clean energy, good-paying jobs, and other results that people are seeing and feeling today and into the future.

¹In the Phase Two Scorecard, the Justice40 Initiative section contains information about federal investments that Congress has funded through both discretionary and mandatory appropriations, as well as supplemental appropriations, such as those that Congress made in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Pub. L. 117-58) and the Inflation Reduction Act (Pub. L. 117-169). The Phase Two Scorecard includes information on each agency's budget authority (that is, the total amount of funds that Congress has appropriated to the agency to spend on Justice40 covered programs) and the period of availability (that is, the period of time over which Congress has authorized the agency to spend the funds).

In some cases, agencies may not yet have the authority to spend the full amount indicated, such as when Congress has appropriated funds that will only become available in future Fiscal Years. Agencies provided the data presented here in spring 2024, and therefore the data does not reflect the annual appropriations for Fiscal Year 2024 that Congress made in March 2024.

Thus, the information that the Phase Two Scorecard presents in this section includes what the agency has available to spend in its Justice40 covered programs (i.e., its budget authority). These figures represent the total funding amount for all Justice40 covered programs, not only the portion that benefits disadvantaged communities.

Justice40 Covered Program Highlights ([show less ^](#))

The AmeriCorps is delivering benefits, or is projected to deliver benefits, for disadvantaged communities through grants or awards made through its Justice40 covered programs, such as:

AmeriCorps State and National: Green Jobs for Opportunity Youth

The Corps Network – the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps – was awarded 4,000 AmeriCorps member slots to promote energy efficiency in low-income housing, increase access to public lands, and establish pathways to green jobs for opportunity youth.

National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) Forest Corps

NCCC and the United States Forest Service signed a five-year agreement to establish the NCCC Forest Corps. Members will reduce wildfire risk to infrastructure and at-risk communities and make forests more resilient.

Learn more 

AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP: Weatherization and Retrofitting Homes for Low- Income Households

Rebuild Upstate was awarded 75 AmeriCorps Seniors volunteer slots to repair and weatherize owner-occupied homes in disadvantaged communities. This work helped preserve affordable housing while lowering both the carbon footprint and low-income families' utility bills.

Funding Announcements ([show less](#) ^)

The AmeriCorps has:

- **20** funding announcement(s) covered under the Justice40 Initiative
- **\$706,646,000** available through Justice40 covered program(s) funding announcements²

AmeriCorps State and National Climate Change Resiliency

In FY 2023, AmeriCorps State and National prioritized awards to projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, conserve land and water, increase renewable energy use, and improve at-risk ecosystems, especially in communities that have been under-resourced.

[Learn more](#) 

AmeriCorps VISTA Anti-Poverty Initiatives that Address Climate Change

In FY 2023, AmeriCorps VISTA prioritized projects that support anti-poverty initiatives focused on environmental stewardship and climate change in disadvantaged communities.

Learn more 

AmeriCorps Seniors Climate Change and Conservation

In FY 2023, AmeriCorps Seniors prioritized awards to Native Nations and Indigenous Elders-serving organizations that advance programming to address climate change and conservation.

Learn more 

²Further, this section also includes funding that was made available through an agency's Justice40 covered programs in FY 2023. The funding was made available through various mechanisms, like grants, loans, agreements, contracts, notices of funding opportunity, and other funding announcements. These funding announcements were from Justice40 covered programs that were funded through discretionary and mandatory appropriations, as well as supplemental appropriations, such as those enacted under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Pub. L. 117-58) and the Inflation Reduction Act (Pub. L. 117-169).

Covered Program Design or Modification ([show less ^](#))

The AmeriCorps made program or design modifications to maximize benefits and/or remove barriers or constraints for disadvantaged communities, such as:

Modernizing AmeriCorps' Grant Management System

AmeriCorps began modernizing its grant and project management system, which will reduce administrative burdens on prospective grantees. It will make the process more accessible and easier to navigate.

Modernizing AmeriCorps' Member Applicant System

AmeriCorps is also modernizing its member applicant system. This will make the application process more accessible and ensure that anyone interested in service opportunities can find and apply to programs with ease.

Increased Opportunity to Serve for People from Disadvantaged Communities

In FY 2023, AmeriCorps State and National, AmeriCorps NCCC, and AmeriCorps VISTA increased the member living allowance so that service is a viable opportunity for Americans of all backgrounds.

Justice40 In Action ([show less](#) ^)

The AmeriCorps is delivering benefits, or is projected to deliver benefits, for disadvantaged communities through the Justice40 Initiative, including:

**Environmental
Education
and Tree
Planting**

Environmental Stewardship with the Army and the Department of Public Works in Georgia

AmeriCorps NCCC teams revitalized abandoned community gardens and assisted with conservation projects at Fort Eisenhower, Georgia. Service also included maintenance on several nature trails and field work to help protect the endangered red cockaded woodpecker's ecosystem. These service activities occurred in census tracts identified as disadvantaged by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool.

AmeriCorps members serving with Our City Forest recruit, educate, train, and support residents, volunteers, students, and other partners to adopt, plant, and steward trees and shrubs in Santa Clara County's climate-vulnerable neighborhoods, including in disadvantaged communities. Through this service, 10,714 individuals received education or training in environmental

Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program

The Waccamaw River Volunteer Water Monitoring project is a community-based project. It adds to state and federal monitoring efforts. AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP volunteers help to collect high quality data. The data help to identify hot spots for land-based pollutants. The data also assist in detecting discharge and helps to document water quality improvements in the Waccamaw River Watershed over time.

stewardship
last year.

Build Capacity to Protect and Restore the Nation's Lands

Conservation Legacy enrolled 50 AmeriCorps VISTA members to help increase communities' capacity to protect, restore, and enhance our nation's lands, with a focus on disadvantaged communities that face economic disparity and environmental degradation.

Environmental and Civil Rights Protection

Federal agencies are advancing environmental justice by carrying out their responsibilities under the law to identify and address disproportionate and adverse public health and environmental, climate-related, and cumulative impacts on communities with environmental justice concerns. Agencies are working to ensure that all communities experience the protection of our country's bedrock environmental laws. The following information reflects some of the environmental and civil rights work at AmeriCorps has done in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Environmental Justice ([show less ^](#))

This section demonstrates progress on environmental protections, such as the National Environmental Policy Act, at AmeriCorps in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

To learn more about AmeriCorps' NEPA procedures, please visit the Corporation for National and Community Service, Protocol for Categorical Exclusions Under the National Environmental Policy Act for Programs Funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, [74 Fed. Reg. 34,309](#) (July 15, 2009).

What is NEPA?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to consider and disclose the environmental health and community impacts of certain decisions or actions before taking them.

[Learn more](#) 

Civil Rights and Environmental Justice ([show less](#) ^)

This section demonstrates progress on civil

rights related to environmental justice, for example, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or relevant laws other than Title VI of the Civil Rights Act at AmeriCorps in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

The Civil Rights and Employment Branch under the Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in AmeriCorps has not fielded any environmental justice-related inquiries or complaints in connection with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act, or Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.

Under the guidance and request of the Department of Justice, the Language Access Plan for AmeriCorps was updated. This plan will provide guidance to offices and programs as they write procedures on how to address meaningful and effective language access for AmeriCorps.

Title VI and Environmental Justice ([show less](#) ^)

This section demonstrates progress on civil rights related to environmental justice, such as under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, at AmeriCorps in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 applies to any individual, community,

What is Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964?

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

grantee, member, or volunteer to ensure access to AmeriCorps' programs, services, and benefits are provided free from discrimination. This includes ensuring that any engagement in federal financial assistance through contractual or other agreements, use criteria, methods, and practices that are not discriminatory.

requires that no person be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance on account of race, color, or national origin.

Centering Environmental Justice in Decision-Making

This section demonstrates progress on community engagement (e.g., partnerships with non-federal organizations, technical assistance, and public processes) and

partnership and consultation with Tribal Nations at AmeriCorps in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

Technical Assistance ([show less](#) ^)

- **23** technical assistance outreach event(s) to improve access and information about federal programs related to environmental justice

For more information on AmeriCorps's technical assistance events, please visit <https://americorps.gov/partner/funding-opportunities>

Partnership and Consultation with Tribal Nations ([show less](#) ^)

This section demonstrates progress on Tribal partnerships and consultations at AmeriCorps, including steps that that agencies take to respect Tribal sovereignty and ensure government-to-government consultation on federal policies in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

The AmeriCorps Tribal Consultation policy is inclusive of environmental justice.

For example, in June 2023, AmeriCorps convened existing and potential Tribal

partners to build a shared experience in working in partnership with AmeriCorps. The convening provided space for themes brought to the agency's attention by Tribal partners including stronger partnerships, addressing barriers, and Indigenizing service. Sessions were designed to build community, provide technical assistance, and increase cultural competency among staff members.

Training

- **10** agency training(s) on Tribal Consultation or working with Tribes and Indigenous Peoples to advance environmental justice
- **150** employees trained on Tribal Consultation or working with Tribes and Indigenous Peoples to advance environmental justice

For example, AmeriCorps is committed to honoring our obligation to federal trust responsibilities and strengthening Nation-to-Nation relationships. More than 150 AmeriCorps staff have attended Native American Cultural Competency Trainings in FY 2023. These trainings provide awareness and inform staff on the importance of acknowledging Indigenous Knowledge, culture, and sovereignty. Staff implement these learnings in their programs and workstreams. The trainings did have an environmental justice component.

Institutionalizing Environmental Justice

This section demonstrates progress to institutionalize environmental justice at AmeriCorps including to implement [Executive Order 14008](#) and [Executive Order 14096](#) , in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, which is from October 2022 to September 2023.

Overview

As part of its commitment to tackling the climate crisis, AmeriCorps has prioritized investments in disadvantaged communities and recruiting a diverse corps of members and volunteers who reflect the communities we are serving. AmeriCorps has focused on reducing or removing barriers to participating for both members and grantees, and meaningfully engaging communities in developing and supporting climate solutions. AmeriCorps has increased its member living allowance and other benefits to ensure AmeriCorps is accessible to people of all socioeconomic backgrounds, including those in low-income communities; increased investments in conservation, clean energy and energy efficiency, and climate resilience; strengthened relationships with Minority Serving Institutions and Tribal

communities; and made policy and programmatic changes to make resources more accessible to organizations working in disadvantaged and underserved communities.

- **1** staff who work on environmental justice, either in a full- or part-time capacity

Advancing Environmental Justice Policy ([show less](#) ^)

Partner with Communities to Alleviate Poverty and Advance Racial Equity

AmeriCorps has set as part of Goal 1 of its FY 2022 – FY 2026 Strategic Plan: “through broader investments in mitigating climate change, through measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and conserve land and water, and through targeted interventions that aid and empower underserved communities (e.g., improving food systems, increasing disaster preparedness and resilience, and retrofitting homes to be more energy efficient and less disaster-prone), AmeriCorps can work towards environmental justice and ensure the most vulnerable are able to adapt to climate change.”

Advancing Climate Action and Environmental Justice

To ensure that national service reflects the rich diversity of the country and the communities it serves, AmeriCorps is committed to prioritizing investments in the communities that need this most and recruiting a diverse corps of members and volunteers who reflect those who we are serving. To do so, the agency is focused on reducing or removing barriers to participating for both members and grantees, ensuring environmental justice is embedded in the work, and meaningfully engaging disadvantaged and underserved communities in developing and supporting climate solutions.

- **Has** assessed barriers and obstacles related to regulations, policies, or practices, including historical inequities

Interagency Collaboration ([show less](#) ^)

AmeriCorps worked with the following six agencies – the Departments of Commerce, the Interior, Agriculture, Labor, Energy, and the Environmental Protection Agency – to prepare to launch the first group of members of President Biden’s historic American Climate Corps. Additionally, AmeriCorps has been represented at other interagency groups like the Nature in Communities working group, the Urban Waters Federal Partnership, and the Native American Affairs Climate Subcommittee.

AmeriCorps worked side-by-side with other federal agencies to advance a whole of government approach to environmental justice, including:

EPA and AmeriCorps VISTA Partnership to Support Environmental Justice

In FY 2023, AmeriCorps collaborated with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 to launch the Midwest EPA Green Communities VISTA Project. This project aims to enhance environmental stewardship and public health programs in low-income and overburdened communities; connect disadvantaged communities to new federal funding opportunities and technical assistance resources; build the environmental leaders of the future; and assist host sites in creating impactful and sustainable projects that support the needs of their communities.

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[Whitehouse.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov)

[Freedom of Information Act
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