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Commissioner

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Department of Commerce,
Community, and
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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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Serve Alaska Awarded \$2,010,338 in AmeriCorps Funding to Organizations Across Alaska

Wednesday, August 17, 2022 (Anchorage, AK) – AmeriCorps has awarded \$2,010,338 in grants to Serve Alaska State Service Commission, matching \$1.8 million in local funding. The award will expand Serve Alaska and AmeriCorps’s presence across Alaska where sub-grantees have been receiving funding to bring much-needed support and training to communities.

AmeriCorps State and National develops and implements state-specific national service programs. These grants allow organizations to recruit, train, and supervise AmeriCorps members who are providing services to support education, disaster services, health, environmental stewardship, economic opportunity, and service to veterans and military families.

“With this funding, Serve Alaska will leverage the skills and experience of AmeriCorps members across the State to foster the ethic of service and allow members to contribute their time and talents to building strong and healthy communities across Alaska,” said **Katie Abbott, Executive Director of the Serve Alaska State Service Commission.**

“I am thrilled to see new and returning organizations participating this year,” said **Julie Sande, Commissioner of the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.** “Serve Alaska lifts up Alaskans, enhancing local resources in a manner that is community-led and results in meaningful impact – especially for our youth.”

AmeriCorps members serving at sub-grantee organizations will:

- Support indigent clients of the APDA and partner agencies with access to substance use disorder treatment, mental health services, and other essential social services.
- Reduce youth substance misuse and increase access to care, provide free, SAFE (sequenced, active, focused, and explicit), age-appropriate, culturally relevant, structured out-of-school time activities, skill-based workshops, supervised leisure time, and social and emotional learning instruction to youth grades 5-8.
- Replicate the evidence-based, data-informed Project Venture model to program fidelity, and engage primarily Alaska Native youth using experiential-based learning and cultural activities in predominantly remote, rural communities across the state of Alaska.
- Execute a program designed to aid in recovery from COVID-19 and the further impacts the pandemic has had on high Adverse Childhood Experience scores.
- Provide conservation stewardship to publicly accessible lands in Alaska.

- Provide targeted support to pre-k through 3rd-grade students and 3rd through 12th-grade students; youth residing in a domestic violence shelter, or adults accessing services at an Adult Education Center.
- Work with youth in Out-of-School-Time (OST) programs to address the loss of learning in academics and social-emotional learning due to COVID-19 with a focus on STEM.

The awarded sub-grantees include:

New Programs:

- Residential Youth Care, Inc.
- Alaska Children's Trust

Continuing Programs:

- Alaska Public Defender Agency
- Rural Alaska Community Action Program (RurAL CAP)
- Sitka School District
- Student Conservation Association
- United Way of Southeast Alaska

Planning Grants:

- Alaska Food Policy Council
- United Way of Anchorage

AmeriCorps State and National programs engage more than 65,000 Americans in intensive service each year. Full-time AmeriCorps members in the AmeriCorps State and National program receive a modest living allowance, health care, and childcare. At the successful completion of each service term, members earn a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award to repay qualified student loans and to pay current educational expenses at eligible institutions of higher education and training programs.

Most programs are now accepting applications for the 2022-23 program year. Those interested in joining AmeriCorps can learn more at servealaska.alaska.gov.

Serve Alaska promotes and supports volunteerism across the state and brings AmeriCorps programs to Alaska. It is overseen by no fewer than 15 and no more than 25 voting Commission members appointed by the Governor. The Serve Alaska sub-grantees operate in almost every region of the state, bringing much-needed support and training to rural and urban Alaska. Serve Alaska is housed within the Division for Community and Regional Affairs and the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development at the State of Alaska.

AmeriCorps, the federal agency for volunteerism and national service, provides opportunities for Americans to serve their country domestically, address the nation's most pressing challenges, improve lives and communities, and strengthen civic engagement. Each year, the agency invests more than \$800 million in grants for local nonprofit, community, tribal, and state organizations; places more than 250,000 AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers in intensive service roles; and empowers millions more to serve as long-term, short-term, or one-time volunteers. Learn more at AmeriCorps.gov.

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