

AmeriCorps SC 2025-26

Notice of Funding Opportunity

- Workshop #1: Introduction to AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps SC
- Workshop held Friday January 10, 2025 11 am-noon EST



AmeriCorps
South Carolina



United Way Association
of South Carolina

Welcome and Introductions



AmeriCorps
South Carolina



United Way Association
of South Carolina

South Carolina Commission on National and Community Service (SCCNCS)

Introduction to the commission and SCCNCs team



Mark Weller
Executive Director



**Becky Brennan
Thom**
Director of
AmeriCorps



Sky Brilliant
Program Officer



Dana Bertolino
Program Officer



Mallory Panuelo
State Lead for Civic
Engagement



AmeriCorps



What is AmeriCorps?

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, improve lives and communities, and strengthen civic engagement.

Our mission at AmeriCorps

“To improve lives, strengthen communities,
and foster civic engagement through
service and volunteering”



The AmeriCorps Pledge

I will get things done for America - to make our people safer,
smarter, and healthier.

I will bring Americans together to strengthen our communities.

Faced with apathy, I will take action.

Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground.

Faced with adversity, I will persevere.

I will carry this commitment with me this year and beyond.

I am an AmeriCorps member, and I will get things done.





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What is and isn't AmeriCorps?



AmeriCorps

IT IS NOT

IT IS

Just a workforce
development
program

Just a community
investment
vehicle

A workforce
development
program, AND;

A community
investment
vehicle, AND;

Just a way to
address
community
problems

Just a career
starter for young
folks

A way to address
community
problems, AND;

A civic career
pathway for
young folks, AND;

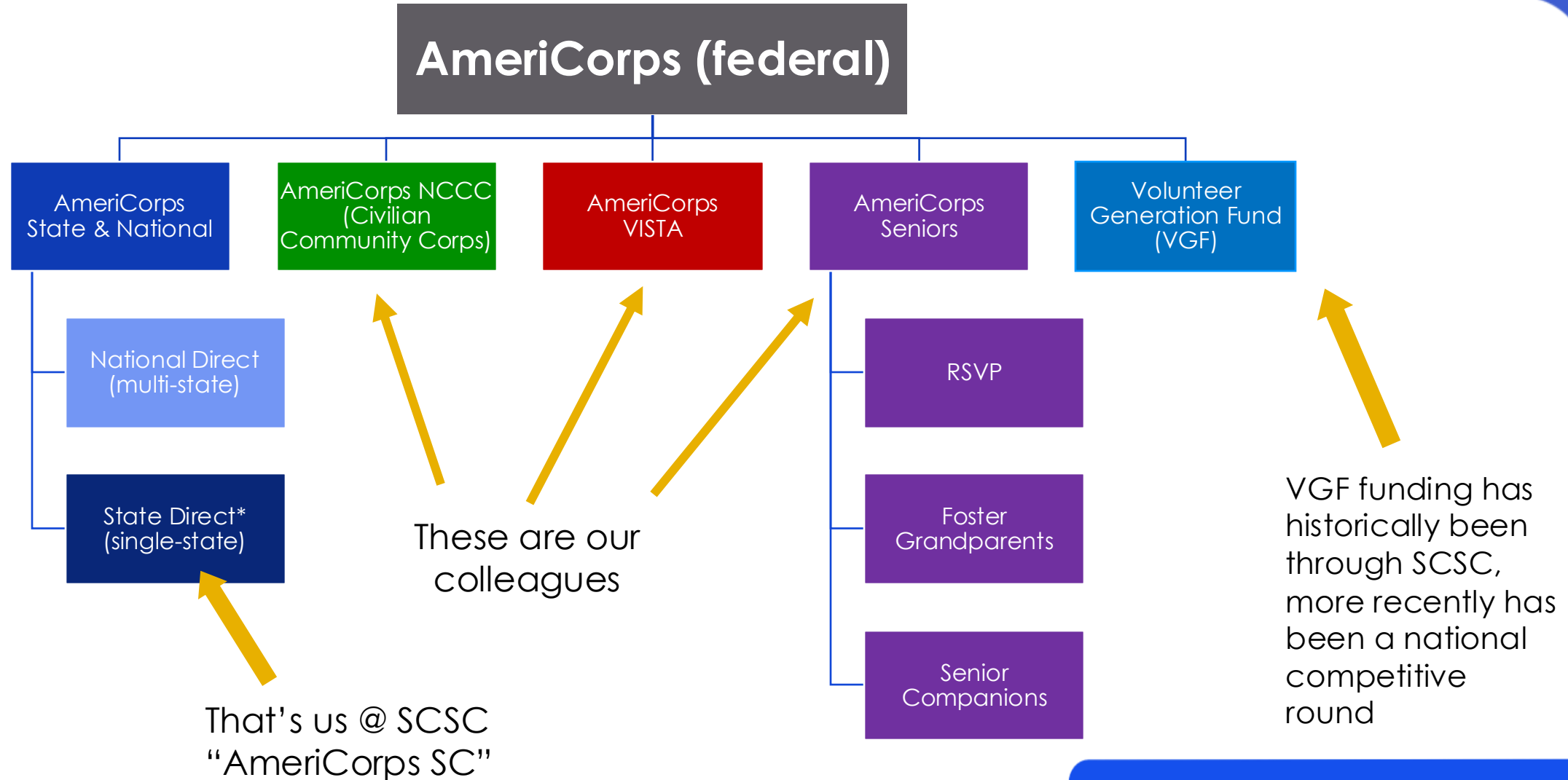
Just a way for
folks of all ages to
get involved

Just a grant

A civic leadership
incubator for all
citizens, AND;

Yes - there are
grants - too.

AmeriCorps Programs – from federal to local (helicopter view)



Streams or Channels of National Service



We empower an entire ecosystem of service.

AmeriCorps State and National

State and National is the largest of the AmeriCorps programs. Thousands of opportunities exist in locations across the country to serve in education, health, environment, economic, veterans support, and disaster relief.

AmeriCorps VISTA

VISTA connects members to various organizations to fight poverty. Through fundraising, volunteer recruitment, program development, and more, members gain skills that put them on track for a life of service in the public, private, or nonprofit sector.

AmeriCorps NCCC

NCCC is a full-time, team-based, residential program for 18–26-year-olds who travel where needed most. Members build homes for families in need or accelerate our nation’s capacity to respond to a crisis.

AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparents

Foster Grandparents engage Americans aged 55 and older in providing one-on-one mentoring and academic support to children with special or exceptional needs.

AmeriCorps Seniors Senior Companions

Senior Companions engage Americans aged 55 and older in providing supportive, individualized services to help homebound seniors and other adults maintain their dignity and independence.

AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP

RSVP engages Americans aged 55 and older in tutoring and mentoring youth, responding to natural disasters, supporting veterans and their families, and meeting other critical needs.

Focus Areas & SC by the Numbers for PY 24-25



Education

Mentor students to higher academic achievement, and keep them on track to graduate. Inspire creativity with STEM and robotics programs, or design cost-effective solutions to support teachers and tutors.



Disaster Response

Be among the first to respond when disaster strikes or help rebuild in the months following. Assist disaster survivors, and act as a force multiplier for other organizations on the ground.



Healthy Futures

Promote health and wellness. Combat the growing opioid crisis, and tackle food insecurity by building gardens and harvesting food for local families.



Environmental Stewardship

Get outdoors and restore public lands or bring environmental stewardship into classrooms.



Economic Opportunity

Build community and family stability. Build and rehabilitate affordable housing, provide financial literacy training, or connect people to jobs.



Veterans & Military Families

Connect veterans and military families to benefits, job resources, education options, and a community that understands the value of their service.

National Service in South Carolina

300

local service sites

2,400

AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers statewide.

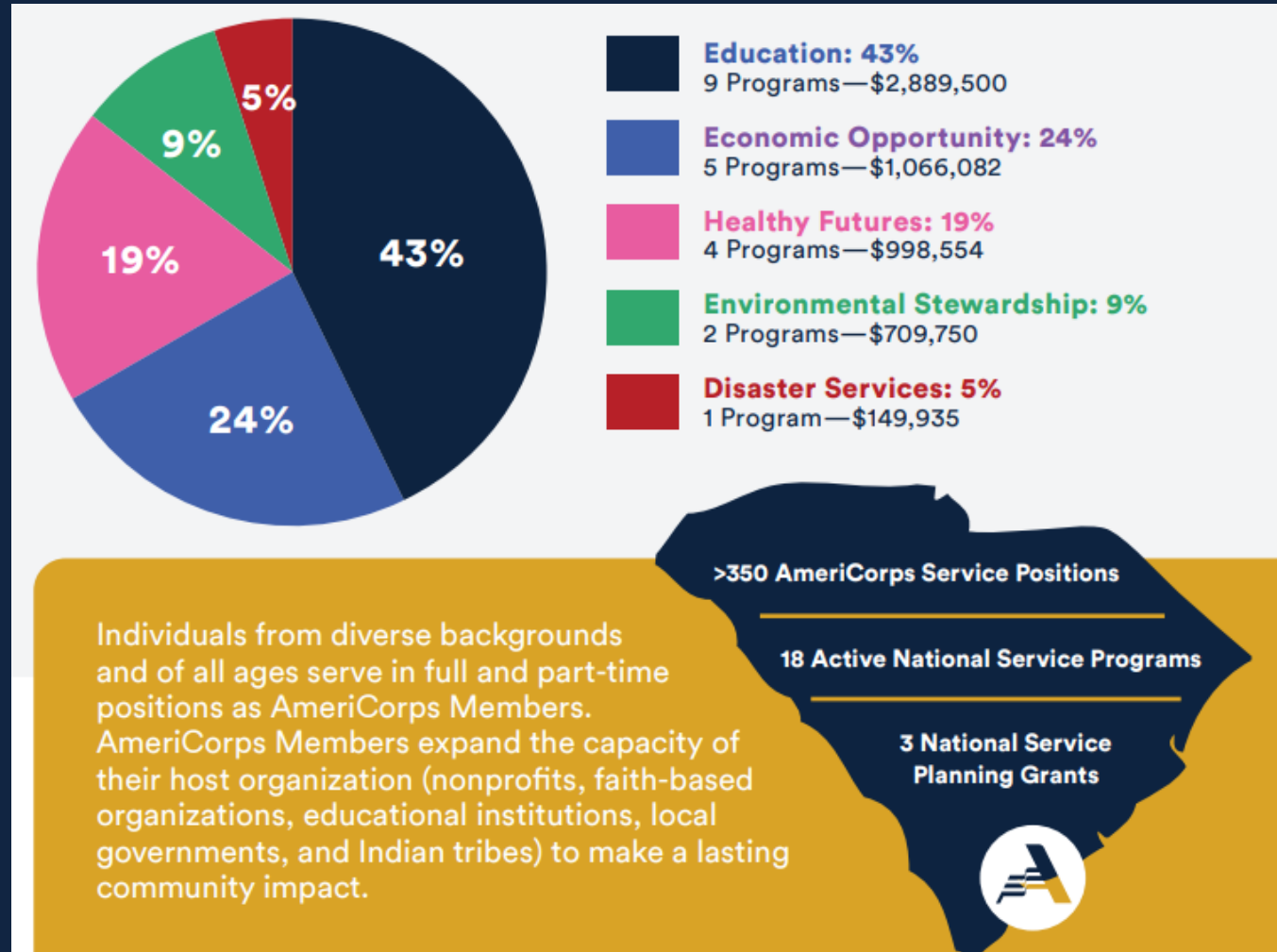
\$12.0m

AmeriCorps and local funding invested annually

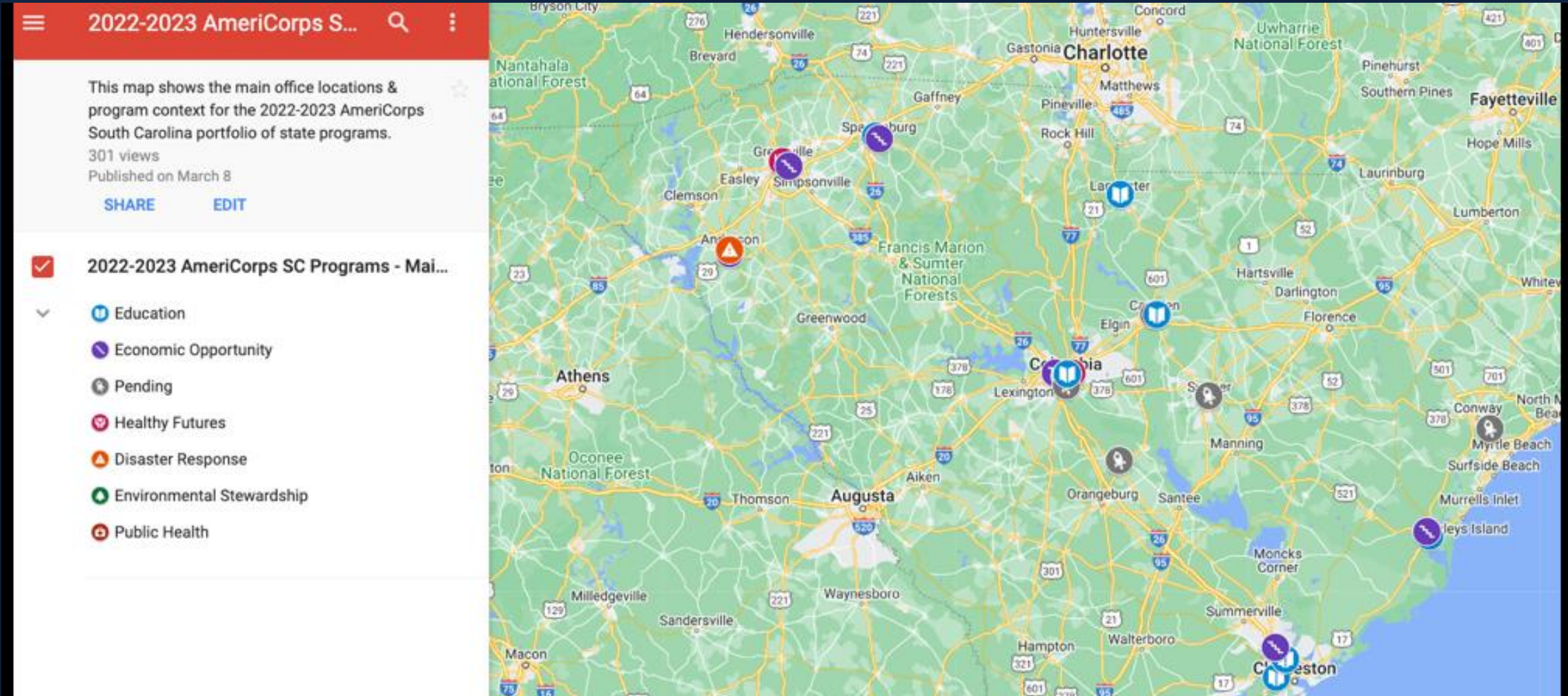
\$37.7m

AmeriCorps scholarships earned by South Carolinians since 1994

24-25 Statewide Programmatic Investments



AmeriCorps in SC – our programs



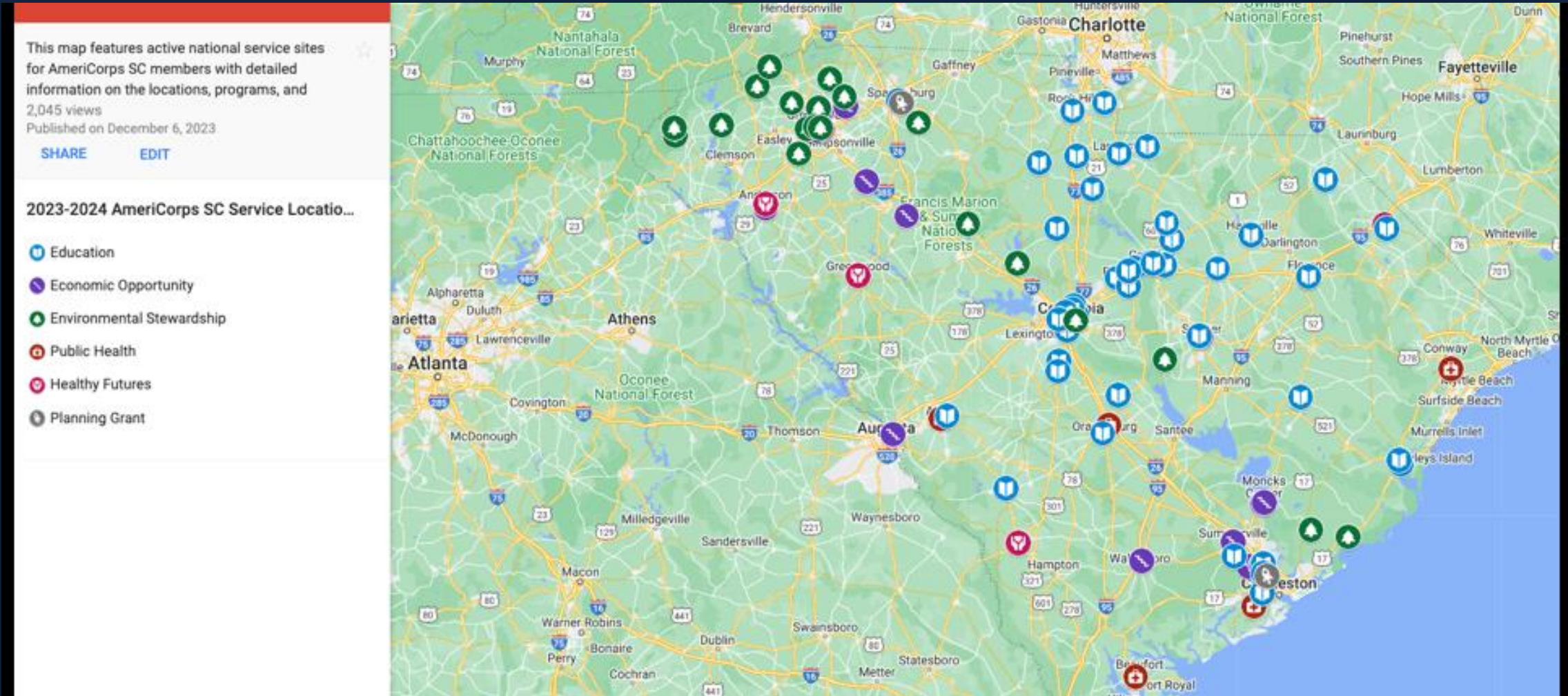
2022-2023 AmeriCorps S... 301 views
Published on March 8
SHARE EDIT

2022-2023 AmeriCorps SC Programs - Mai...

- Education
- Economic Opportunity
- Pending
- Healthy Futures
- Disaster Response
- Environmental Stewardship
- Public Health

The map displays various locations across South Carolina, including Charlotte, Columbia, Augusta, and Charleston. Colored pins on the map correspond to the program categories listed in the legend: Education (blue book icon), Economic Opportunity (purple person icon), Pending (grey person icon), Healthy Futures (red heart icon), Disaster Response (orange triangle icon), Environmental Stewardship (green leaf icon), and Public Health (red cross icon). Major cities and highways are labeled on the map.

AmeriCorps in SC – our sites



Allowable and Unallowable Activities

Allowable

- Consistent with what has been approved by the federal or state agency
- Grant application, Member position description, Member service agreement, Site agreements, etc.

Unallowable

- Activities not on the prohibited list, but ones that have not been approved
- Nonduplication – duplicating or replacing resources that already exists
- Nondisplacement – members are not employees

Limited and Prohibited Activities

Limited

- Capacity building
- Fundraising

Prohibited

- AmeriCorps members should not do or support while accruing/appearing to be accruing service hours
- Attempting to influence legislation
- Organizing or engaging in protests, petitions, boycotts, or strikes.
- Assisting, promoting, or deterring union organizing.

AmeriCorps – from the member's perspective

How it works

- **Choose length**
AmeriCorps members typically serve for 10-12 months, with options for shorter terms or summer positions.
- **Choose location**
Apply for service opportunities in your own community or pick from a list of locations across the country.

Member and alumni benefits

- ① Living Allowance
- ② Money for College and Trade School
- ③ Loan Deferment and Interest Forbearance
- ④ Professional Development
- ⑤ Alumni Network

How can I establish or grow AmeriCorps service opportunities within my community?

How would my community link up with AmeriCorps? (assuming alignment with national service focus areas)



Leverage support from an existing program: (smaller lift, good for projects and small orgs limited in capacity, scale, time or scope)

- Connect with a local AmeriCorps program:
 - Could you leverage their program's members for a service project or off-site event?
 - Could you host 1 or a few members as a 'service site'?

Apply to AmeriCorps to lead a program/project: (big lift, involves federal grant management and program administration + outside resources)

- Apply to NCCC to host a crew for a seasonal project
- Apply to AmeriCorps State / National, VISTA, or Seniors to launch a program & host/deploy members
- Apply to VGF to administer a volunteerism initiative

Sponsoring Agency (Subgrantee) vs Partner Site

■ Sponsoring agency pros

- Influence over program design and economy of scale
- Larger footprint for community impact

■ Sponsoring agency cons

- Expensive
- Exposure to risks
 - Programmatically and fiscally
- Program oversight
 - Recruiting and onboarding
 - Enrollment of members
 - Member exit
 - NSCHC
 - Partner site management

■ Partner site pros

- Low admin burden
- Scalable
- Support from sponsoring agency

■ Partner site cons

- Staff supervision/capacity
- Cost of hosting a member
- Physical space and equipment of hosting a member

Additional Upcoming Workshops



2. **NOFO Overview** – Fri 1/17 @ 11am

3. **Letter of Intent/Due Diligence Form** – Fri 1/24 @ 11am

4. **Breakout Sessions** – Targeted overviews for New & Recompete/Continuation/Planning Grants Fri 1/31 @ 11am

5. **Budget Walkthrough** – Fri 2/7 @ 11am

6. **Narrative Walkthrough Part 1** – Fri 2/14 @ 11am

7. **Narrative Walkthrough Part 2** – Fri 2/21 @ 11am

8. **Last Minute Questions** – Fri 2/28 @ 11am

Register for the workshops here: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

NOFO support – who to contact



- For technical assistance
 - Becky Brennan Thom
 - Director of AmeriCorps
 - rebecca@uwasc.org
 - Phone: 803-608-7780

- For administrative or management inquiry
 - Mark Weller
 - Executive Director, SC Service Commission
 - mark.weller@uwasc.org
 - Phone: 803-920-4868

- Office Hours with Becky and Mark
 - Book 1-1 Meeting Here: [Calendly - Mark & Becky](#)

Workshop #1: Introduction to AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps SC

Time for Q&A



Next workshop: PY 2025-26 AmeriCorps SC NOFO Overview

Friday, January 17th
11 am – 12 pm EST