

California Service Corps

Paid service opportunities ranging in length from 2 months to 1 year.

General Information

www.californiavolunteers.ca.gov/california-service-corps

All these programs offer paid experience serving the community. Financial stipends in general are not counted as income for public benefits, which may allow participants to receive CalFresh and Medi-Cal.

Differences in programs may include:

- Eligibility
- Activities
- Placement length
- Weekly hours of service
- Benefits
- Level of commitment: Some require a commitment to the “Service Terms” - the service length and number of hours.
- Type of enrollment: Some programs (and placements) have recurring periods that they accept applications, while others enroll on a rolling or ongoing basis.

CALIFORNIA SERVICE CORPS PROGRAMS – QUICK COMPARISON

As of August 2026

Program & Service Term	Enrollment Type	Eligibility <i>View websites for more details about eligibility.</i>	Benefits <i>In addition to paid wages, experience, skills, etc.</i>
AmeriCorps State • 2 – 12 months • PT or FT	Both ongoing and fixed application windows.	• 17+ • Must be a U.S. citizen, U.S. national or lawful permanent resident. • Must participate in a national criminal history background check.	• Healthcare insurance • Paid time off: Sick time, vacation time, holidays • Paid career development activities • Childcare assistance (if eligible) • Upon term completion: Up to \$10,000 in education award
California Climate Action Corps • 11 months • Full-time	Yearly application period: May through July. Positions start in September.	• Age 18+ • HS diploma/equivalent • US Citizen, US National, or lawful US resident • No criminal history of violent and sexual offenses	• Healthcare insurance • Paid time off: Sick time, vacation time, holidays • Paid career development activities • Childcare assistance (if eligible) • Upon term completion: Up to \$10,000 in education award
College Corps Full academic year	Not specified, but likely on a schedule similar to academic applications.	• FT undergraduate student at participating campus • Be a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, legal permanent resident • Demonstrate financial need (like FAFSA qualifying)	• Upon completion of 450 service hours: Eligible for education awards
Youth Service Corps Term not specified	Not specified; May depend on placement.	Age 16 – 30 and one of the following: • In or transitioning from foster care • Formerly or currently justice involved • Engaged with behavioral health system • Low-income • Having difficulty finding employment • Unemployed and/or out of school	• Supportive services like case management, emergency housing, transportation • Resume prep and career counseling • Special job training and certifications

MORE CALIFORNIA SERVICE CORPS PROGRAM INFORMATION

Local organizations included if they are within the counties AFWD serves.

Program	Types of Organizations	Doing What	Local participating organizations
AmeriCorps <i>Through California Volunteers</i> www.californiavolunteers.ca.gov/california-ameri-corps-programs	- Public agencies - Non-profits - Schools	- Increase economic mobility - Prepare for disasters - Promote fair health outcomes - Protect the environment ...and more	- Neighbor-to-Neighbor: Butte - GRID Alternatives (California AmeriCorps): State-wide - Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership Program (SNAP): Many northeastern counties - GrizzlyCorps: Plumas
California Climate Action Corps <i>A state AmeriCorps program; It's included in the list of AmeriCorps programs above.</i> www.CAclimateactioncorps.org/apply-now	- Public agencies - Non-profits - Schools - Tribal communities	Take meaningful action to protect the planet: - Urban greening - Organic waste and edible food recovery - Wildfire resiliency ...and more	- Butte Environmental Council - California State University, Chico - Center for Healthy Communities, CSU Chico
College Corps www.californiavolunteers.ca.gov/college-corps	- Public agencies - Non-profits - K-12 schools	- Tutoring & mentoring - Address food insecurity - Take climate action	- Butte Community College - Chico State
Youth Service Corps www.californiavolunteers.ca.gov/youth-service-corps	- Public agencies - Non-profits	- Support public services - Fight food insecurity - Address climate issues	Mechoopda Band of Chico Rancheria

All AmeriCorps Programs

California Volunteers is not the only AmeriCorps program in California. Although the requirements and benefits of AmeriCorps programs are different, they have the following in common: Corpsmembers serve the community AND positions are paid.

AmeriCorps State and National: Supports a broad range of local service programs that engage thousands of Americans in intensive service to meet critical community needs. **Learn more:** www.americorps.gov/serve/fit-finder/ameri-corps-state-national. **California Volunteers has the largest AmeriCorps State program, but there are others in the state.**

AmeriCorps Seniors: For adults age 55+. Includes the programs AmeriCorps RSVP, AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent, and AmeriCorps Seniors Senior Companions. **More information:** www.americorps.gov/serve/ameri-corps-seniors/ameri-corps-seniors-pathfinder.

AmeriCorps VISTA: Provides full-time members to community organizations and public agencies to create and expand programs that build capacity and ultimately bring low-income individuals and communities out of poverty. **Learn more:** www.americorps.gov/serve/fit-finder/ameri-corps-vista.

AmeriCorps NCCC: A full-time residential program for men and women, ages 18-26, that strengthens communities while developing leaders through direct, team-based national and community service. **Learn more:** www.americorps.gov/serve/fit-finder/ameri-corps-nccc.

Additional Corps Programs & Networks

- **California Conservation Corps:** The largest and longest-running conservation corps in the nation. Has residential and non-residential sites. Open to ages 18-25 and veterans up to age 29. Visit website for more requirements.
- **The Corps Network:** Also called the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps. An affiliate network of Corps organizations, such as the California Conservation Corps. www.corpsnetwork.org. A good resource to find service programs.