

The background is a vibrant, stylized illustration of a mountain landscape. In the foreground, a hiker wearing a purple cap, an orange jacket, and a blue backpack stands on a green hill, looking out over the mountains. The landscape features rolling green hills in various shades of green, with some dark green evergreen trees scattered throughout. A dashed white line with purple location pin markers winds across the hills, suggesting a hiking trail or a map overlay. The sky is a solid teal color with a few white, fluffy clouds. A large, semi-transparent purple heart is positioned behind the main title text.

# Volunteers:

THE HEART AND

# STRENGTH

— OF —

# WEST VIRGINIA

**v**♥**olunteer**  
WEST VIRGINIA

**"IT TAKES COURAGE,  
PERSEVERANCE, AND  
HEART TO CLIMB A  
MOUNTAIN—JUST AS IT  
TAKES HEART AND  
STRENGTH TO SERVE OUR  
COMMUNITIES."**







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# WELCOME

Greetings,

As a long-time community volunteer and organizer, I thought I knew a lot about the role of volunteerism in West Virginia. Yet, there's so much more community service and impact in our state than I ever imagined!

Thanks to the energy and hard work of thousands of West Virginians around our state, the powerful force of volunteerism continues to uplift and unite our communities.

Whether it's neighbors helping neighbors rebuild after a flood, feeding the hungry, assisting with addiction recovery, participating in local economic development, helping kids read, protecting animals, preserving history, culture, and the environment, volunteers in West Virginia consistently step up and commit. In West Virginia, service is actually who we are, not just something we occasionally do.

The impact of this service reaches well beyond the tasks themselves. Stories are shared. Hope is renewed. Friendships are built. Community is restored. We adapt, innovate, and find new ways to meet the needs and challenges in our state. Our volunteer spirit is resilient!

This essential work is possible due to the support of Volunteer West Virginia's staff, Commissioners, AmeriCorps program directors and service members, emergency preparedness and response leaders, and many, many volunteers. It is my great joy to have met some of these folks and to honor their grit, generosity, and pride.

I have an unshakeable faith in the will of West Virginians across the state to care for our people and strengthen our communities. To every volunteer who shares their time, talent, and heart: thank you!

In service,



Susan Aloï,  
Commission Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Aloï".





# 2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Granted over  
**\$3.3 MILLION**  
to support AmeriCorps  
programs and volunteer  
programs.

In 2025, for every state  
dollar invested in Volunteer  
West Virginia, the state  
received an additional  
\$15.08 from federal, local,  
and private sources.

Awarded over  
**\$1 MILLION**  
in AmeriCorps  
Education Awards.

# A MESSAGE FROM THE WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

Dear Friends of Volunteer West Virginia,

On July 1, 2025, the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History officially merged with the Department of Tourism. This exciting partnership marks a new chapter for Volunteer West Virginia — the State’s Commission for National and Community Service — now proudly housed within the Department of Tourism.

Volunteerism is at the heart of every community in West Virginia. It helps shape what makes our state truly unique — from AmeriCorps members restoring historic sites and natural spaces, to volunteers feeding their neighbors, supporting local festivals, and mentoring the next generation of West Virginians.

This year’s theme, Volunteers: The Heart and Strength of West Virginia, celebrates those who share their time and talent to make our communities stronger, more vibrant, and full of Almost Heaven experiences for everyone.

This merger strengthens our shared mission to connect West Virginians with opportunities to serve while highlighting the mountains, rivers, and charming small towns that make our state a special destination. Together, we can create more ways for volunteers to contribute to communities and showcase West Virginia’s unique culture, heritage, and natural beauty.

The West Virginia Department of Tourism is thrilled to collaborate with Volunteer West Virginia as we build a stronger, more connected state. Volunteerism continues to drive positive change, inspiring people across West Virginia to get involved and make a difference in their communities.

With gratitude and excitement for what’s ahead,



Secretary Ruby,  
The West Virginia Department of Tourism

*Chelsea A. Ruby*





# WHAT WE DO



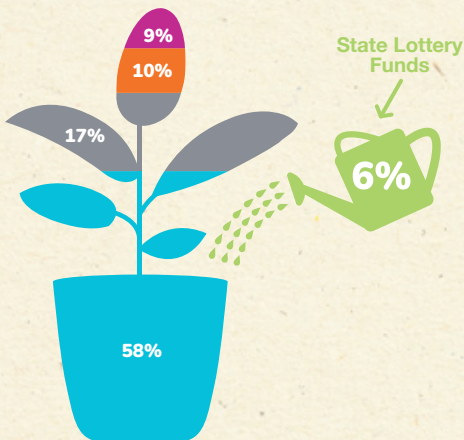
- 1) Make it easier for West Virginians to volunteer.
- 2) Provide funding and support to AmeriCorps programs.
- 3) Support and strengthen West Virginia's nonprofits and volunteer programs.
- 4) Promote emergency preparedness and disaster volunteerism.



## OUR PROGRAMS



## 2025 FUNDING



**Federal Grants to Communities**  
\$3,373,461.00

**Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards**  
\$1,001,430.90

**Cash Match**  
\$563,534.70

**Federal Support Funds**  
\$555,224.00

**State Lottery Funds**  
\$365,000.00

**Total 2025 Funding**  
\$5,858,650.60



**AmeriCorps**  
West Virginia

## AMERICORPS WEST VIRGINIA



Each year, over 450 AmeriCorps State and National members serve across West Virginia through programs funded by Volunteer West Virginia. Some serve in their own hometowns, while others travel from across the country to make West Virginia their home for a year.

Likened to the domestic Peace Corps, AmeriCorps members serve at nonprofits, schools, and public agencies. AmeriCorps members mentor youth, grow local food, restore historic properties, conserve natural habitats, and help make West Virginia wonderful.

## BENEFITS

Monthly Living Stipend

Segal AmeriCorps Education Award  
for College or Student Loans

Tuition Waiver for West Virginia  
Universities and Colleges

Health Insurance

Student Loan Forbearance

Career Experience



**EXTENSION**  
ENERGY EXPRESS



**lifebridge**

**GROW  
OHIO  
VALLEY**

**Preservation  
Alliance of  
West Virginia**

**Education  
Alliance**  
AmeriCorps



**APPALACHIAN  
FOREST**  
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA



# 2025 AMERICORPS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

11

historic properties  
were restored.

845

students showed  
improved academic  
engagement or  
social-emotional  
skills.

228

individuals received  
job training or  
placement.

44,382

healthy meals were  
provided.

4,533

volunteers were  
recruited and  
managed.



9,391

children were  
served.



36,539

hours were served by  
volunteers who were  
recruited and managed  
by AmeriCorps members.



954

individuals received  
drug intervention  
services.



4,767

acres of public land  
were supported.

# AMERICORPS HIGHLIGHTS

April Ross has been named the 2025 Outstanding AmeriCorps Member for her four terms of service with the Education Alliance AmeriCorps program. Serving at Mary C. Snow Elementary in Charleston, April has mentored students, led volunteer efforts, provided meals and resources for families in need, and revitalized her school's PTA—making a lasting impact on her community.



AmeriCorps program directors gathered at Blackwater Falls State Park for their annual Program Directors Training. Their dedication and hard work help AmeriCorps programs thrive in West Virginia. Thank you for your positivity, perseverance, and commitment over the past year, you truly embody the AmeriCorps pledge!

More than 120 AmeriCorps members from across West Virginia gathered for the 2025 AmeriCorps West Virginia Conference—a day filled with learning, connection, and inspiration. This year's Halloween-themed event, Serve More. Fear Less., celebrated the courage and commitment of members serving communities statewide. During the conference, participants proudly took the AmeriCorps Pledge, marking the official start of their year of service.





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.



# SEPTEMBER 11TH NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE AND REMEMBRANCE GRANTS

In 2025, Volunteer West Virginia awarded nine grants for the September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance, totaling \$89,610. This funding was used for the development of large volunteer projects that served a community need.

More than 1,000 volunteers came together across West Virginia to make a difference in their communities through a wide range of service projects, including:

Providing home repairs in low-income neighborhoods of South Wheeling following severe flooding.

Assembling and delivering food and hygiene backpacks to individuals and families in need in Monongalia and Preston Counties.

Leading community clean-up and beautification efforts in Tucker County.

Providing outdoor education and nature experiences for middle school students in Monroe County.

Assembling and delivering backpacks filled with hygiene and health care items for Veterans in the greater Huntington area.



Completing a Veterans memorial honoring local service members in Clay County.



Building wheelchair ramps and improving home accessibility for residents in the greater Parkersburg area.

Distributing food boxes to families and individuals in need throughout the Eastern Panhandle.

Enhancing community walking trails to expand outdoor recreation opportunities at West Liberty University.





## GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

Community Markets Inc., located in Shepherdstown, brought together 54 volunteers for a 9/11 Day of Service Food Box Giveaway, distributing 350 bags of local food that impacted more than 1,100 individuals - the largest number of people the organization has ever served in a single day! Volunteers also delivered food to homebound residents for the first time, ensuring no one was left out of this remarkable day of service.



University Physicians & Surgeons at Marshall University recruited more than 350 volunteers to assemble and deliver care packages and resources to over 400 Veterans. Volunteers connected Veterans to essential services, shared much-needed supplies, and spent time listening to their stories - creating meaningful connections while honoring their service.



West Liberty University enlisted 45 volunteers for a Day of Service focused on improving campus hiking trails. Participants cleared debris, assembled benches and picnic tables, and marked trails - connecting students across campus while creating spaces for recreation, education, and community pride.

Friends of Monroe, Inc. engaged nearly 200 volunteers in a 9/11 Day of Service focused on conservation and outdoor educational experiences for middle school students. Activities included guided hikes, citizen science training, and wildlife presentations, strengthening community connections and inspiring environmental stewardship across generations.



# DISASTER SERVICES

## HOW WE HELP



Partner with response agencies to engage volunteers in disaster response and recovery.

Mobilize AmeriCorps members to help respond to disasters.

Support Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT).



Promote disaster preparedness through Ready WV.



In 2025, Volunteer West Virginia's ReadyWV program supported agencies statewide in sharing disaster preparedness information. By partnering with county offices of emergency management, local health and safety organizations, and AmeriCorps Seniors, who offered specialized training for older adults, the program helped communities of all ages develop the skills and confidence needed to prepare for emergencies.

In June, for Pet Preparedness Month, Volunteer West Virginia partnered with the Kanawha-Charleston Humane Association to promote disaster readiness for pets, sharing helpful materials with new pet adopters.

Volunteer West Virginia sponsored a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training at Camp Dawson for Civil Air Patrol members, equipping volunteers with the skills to assist communities during disasters.



# COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program trains volunteers in basic disaster response skills, such as first aid, search and rescue, and disaster preparedness. CERT volunteers support their communities in a variety of ways.

## IN 2025 CERT VOLUNTEERS



Provided disaster  
response services to  
**34**  
individuals.

Reached  
**2,751**  
people with emergency  
preparedness training  
and educational  
materials.



Contributed  
**2,381**  
hours to communities  
through emergency  
preparedness training,  
events, outreach, drills,  
and disaster response.

Trained  
**55**  
new volunteers who  
completed CERT  
training in 2025.



Upshur County CERT members participated in swift water rescue training, gaining the skills needed to safely perform rescues in moving water, including fast-flowing rivers and flood situations.



In 2025, the Beckley CERT Program delivered comprehensive Community Emergency Response Team training. This photo features their graduating class and instructors who are now prepared to support local emergency response and disaster preparedness efforts.



Clay County CERT high school students hosted a Red Cross Blood Drive. They set a record for receiving 75 units of donated blood!

# SPECIAL MENTIONS

## Staff

**Krista Bradshaw**, *Interim Executive Director & Finance and Operations Director*

**Dana Bryant**, *Outreach Officer*

**Moya Doneghy**, *Special Projects Lead*

**Gina Namay**, *Disaster Services & Planning Lead*

**Chass Low-Wolfe**, *Fiscal Officer*

**Blake Turley**, *Program Coordinator*

**Cameron Waggoner**, *AmeriCorps Program Officer*

## Commissioners

**Susan Aloï**, *Buckhannon*

**Angela Beblo**, *South Charleston*

**Leslie Baker**, *Beckley*

**Valerie Bright**, *Elkins*

**Quinten Burton**, *Charleston*

**Dwight Coburn**, *Huntington*

**Ryan Elkins**, *Branchland*

**April Elkins-Badtke**, *Surveyor*

**Crin Joy Chamberlin**, *Wheeling*

**Chris Graham**, *Beckley*

**Natalie Henson**, *Morgantown*

**Mercedes Jones Castle**, *Scott Depot*

**Susie Nelson**, *Wheeling*

**Margaret Ann O'Neal**, *Charleston*

**Paul Smith**, *Wheeling*

**Cynthia Sorsaia**, *Charleston*

**Erin Susman**, *South Charleston*

**Philip Keith**, *Buckhannon*

**Christine Westgate**, *South Charleston*

**Brett White**, *Fairmont*





GRANTS

September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance Grants

Clay County Board of Health & Clay County CERT  
\$14,450, Clay

Community Markets Inc.  
\$12,302, Shepherdstown

Friends of Monroe  
\$6,600, Union

Habitat for Humanity of the Mid-Ohio Valley  
\$12,371, Parkersburg

Ritchietown Renaissance  
\$14,999, Wheeling

Tucker Community Foundation  
\$3,700, Parsons

United Way of Monongalia & Preston Counties,  
\$4,565, Morgantown

University Physicians and Surgeons & Marshall University Research Corporation  
\$7,773, Huntington

West Liberty University  
\$12,850, West Liberty

AmeriCorps State and National

Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area  
\$750,000, Statewide

Grow Ohio Valley  
\$79,466, Wheeling

High Rocks Educational Corporation  
\$394,215, Statewide

Preservation Alliance of West Virginia  
\$225,001, Statewide

The Education Alliance  
\$353,516, Statewide

United Way of Central West Virginia – LifeBridge AmeriCorps  
\$867,210, Statewide

West Virginia University Research Corporation - Energy Express  
\$349,193, Statewide

Conservation Legacy – West Virginia READY  
\$265,250, Statewide



# HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Volunteers are the heart and strength of West Virginia, showing up every day to make a difference. No matter how much time you have, there's a way to help.

## Have only a few minutes? Try a random act of kindness.

- ♥ Hold the door open or pay for someone's coffee.
- ♥ Write a thank-you note to a teacher, healthcare worker, or volunteer.
- ♥ Pick up litter while out on a walk.

## Have an hour or a day? Volunteer in your community.

- ♥ Serve meals at a community kitchen.
- ♥ Walk dogs or help at an animal shelter.
- ♥ Support a local festival, farmers market, or community event.

Find volunteer opportunities near you at [www.volunteer.wv.gov](http://www.volunteer.wv.gov).

## Looking for a bigger commitment? Join AmeriCorps.

For those who want to make service a part of daily life, AmeriCorps offers full-or part-time opportunities to earn skills and benefits while giving back.

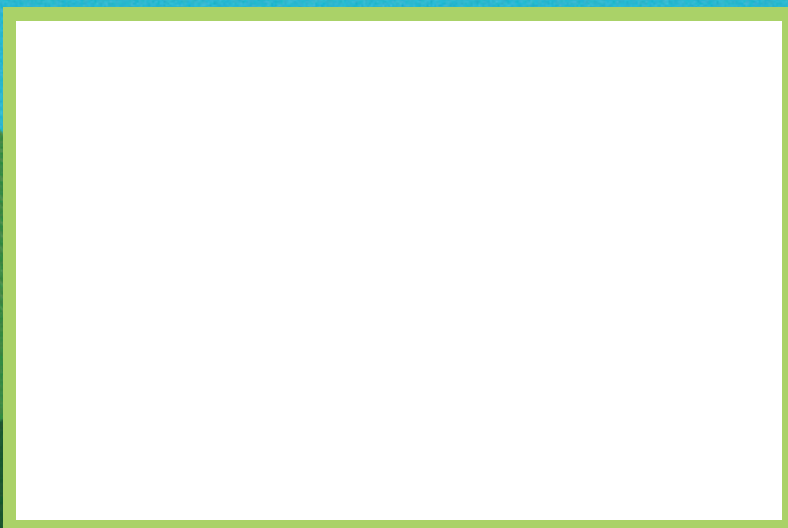
Learn more at [www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov).











## OUR VISION

All West Virginians are inspired and empowered to build stronger communities through volunteerism and service.

## OUR MISSION

We identify and mobilize resources to support individuals and agencies in addressing community challenges through volunteerism and service.



<https://volunteer.wv.gov/>  
803 Quarrier Street, Suite 400,  
Charleston, WV 25301

Volunteer West Virginia is an agency of  
The West Virginia Department of Tourism.

