



Day 2 Breakout Session Summary

April 27, 2021

Attracting and Supporting Staff for Summer Programs

Presenters: Atalaya Sergi, [AmeriCorps](#)

This tabletop discussion examined AmeriCorps' work to support programming in local school districts.

Session Highlights

- » AmeriCorps is made up of AmeriCorps Seniors (adult volunteers aged 55+), AmeriCorps State and National (volunteers aged 16+), and AmeriCorps VISTA (volunteers aged 18+). Education projects comprise 35 to 50 percent of the work of these departments.
- » Volunteers help to improve educational outcomes for students and are engaged in teaching, tutoring, mentoring, and supporting schools in bringing programming to their communities.
- » Volunteers are not only focused on academic development but are also focused on the development of social and emotional skills.
- » Members in the last year have been involved with COVID mitigation and are now looking at how to support students this summer. They have had experience doing wellness checks and supporting school meal programs.
- » Volunteers adhere to the same rules as any volunteer in a school district. It is advantageous to have them participate in all offered training events so that they can be fully supportive and understand program policies and procedures.

Shared Resources

- » [AmeriCorps Partner Funding Opportunities](#)
- » [AmeriCorps State Service Commissions](#)
- » [AmeriCorps: Our Impact](#)
- » [Maximize Student Recovery: Community-Based Afterschool and Summer Programs Accelerate Student Learning](#)

Questions and Answers on Attracting and Supporting Staff for Summer Programs

Are AmeriCorps volunteers and members cleared for all background checks, or does the partnering agency need to take care of necessary, federally mandated background checks?

Volunteers adhere to the same rules as any volunteer in a school district.



In my community, AmeriCorps members are typically recruited now, but their service doesn't start until August 1st. Is this universal or specific to a grantee? If the former, is there a push and/or flexibility to have new service members start earlier to help with human resource needs for expanded summer programming?

The policy is a school district or host organization contracting policy, but it doesn't affect the volunteer efforts of AmeriCorps.

Are you thinking about your own capacity for accommodating increased numbers of volunteers in your organization?

Some programs will need to create procedures to accommodate an increase in volunteers. The procedures would need to be in place for partnerships formed with businesses, for example. Some business can arrange specific release times for employees to volunteer in small teams to support specific activities. Local colleges and universities may also be a source of volunteers. It will be important to share the "why" of the work with volunteers and to include them in all provided training so that they can be fully supportive and understand all policies and procedures.

