

# WT AmeriCorps Community Resilience Corps

*Partnering to build resilience  
in the Panhandle*

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WT AmeriCorps Community Resilience Corps



# 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, and improve lives and communities.

## **AmeriCorps Mission**

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

# National AmeriCorps Impact



**35K**

locations served  
across the country



**\$800M**

in grants funded  
every year



**200K**

members and  
volunteers serving

AmeriCorps State and National  
AmeriCorps VISTA  
AmeriCorps NCCC

AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP  
AmeriCorps Seniors Foster  
Grandparents  
AmeriCorps Seniors Senior  
Companions

# AmeriCorps Focus Areas



## Education

Our members and volunteers support students in nearly 12,000 public, private, and charter schools across the country. Through our work we improve attendance and engagement, increase high-school graduation rates and expand college enrollment.



## Economic Opportunity

Our programs serve as a pathway to employment opportunities and help develop vital work skills. We build and rehabilitate affordable housing, provide financial literacy training, and connect people to jobs.



## Disaster Response

When disaster strikes, we repair homes, assist survivors, and help restore communities when it matters most. We have deployed thousands of members and volunteers to areas affected by hurricanes, wildfires, floods, and tornadoes.



## Environmental Stewardship

We serve on projects that cover thousands of acres of public lands across America—including many with the National Park Service. We help conserve natural habitats, protect clean air and water, and reduce utility bills by improving home energy efficiency.



## Healthy Futures

We provide independent living services to 385,000 elderly Americans. We also build the capacity of food banks, combat the opioid crisis, tackle homelessness, and address food insecurity.



## Veterans

We provide assistance to nearly 500,000 veterans and military families by connecting them to education opportunities, jobs, and the benefits they have earned. Many veterans also volunteer with us so they can continue to serve their country.

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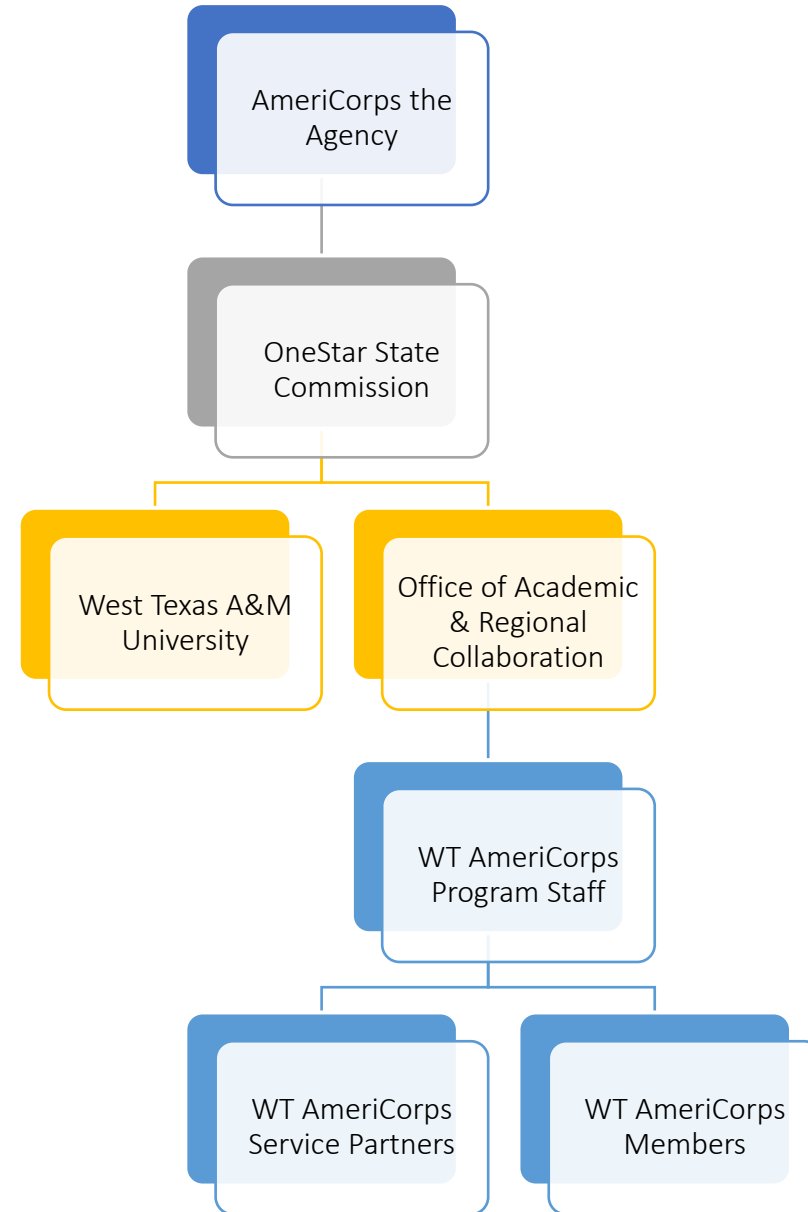


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# WT AMERICORPS CRC PROGRAM

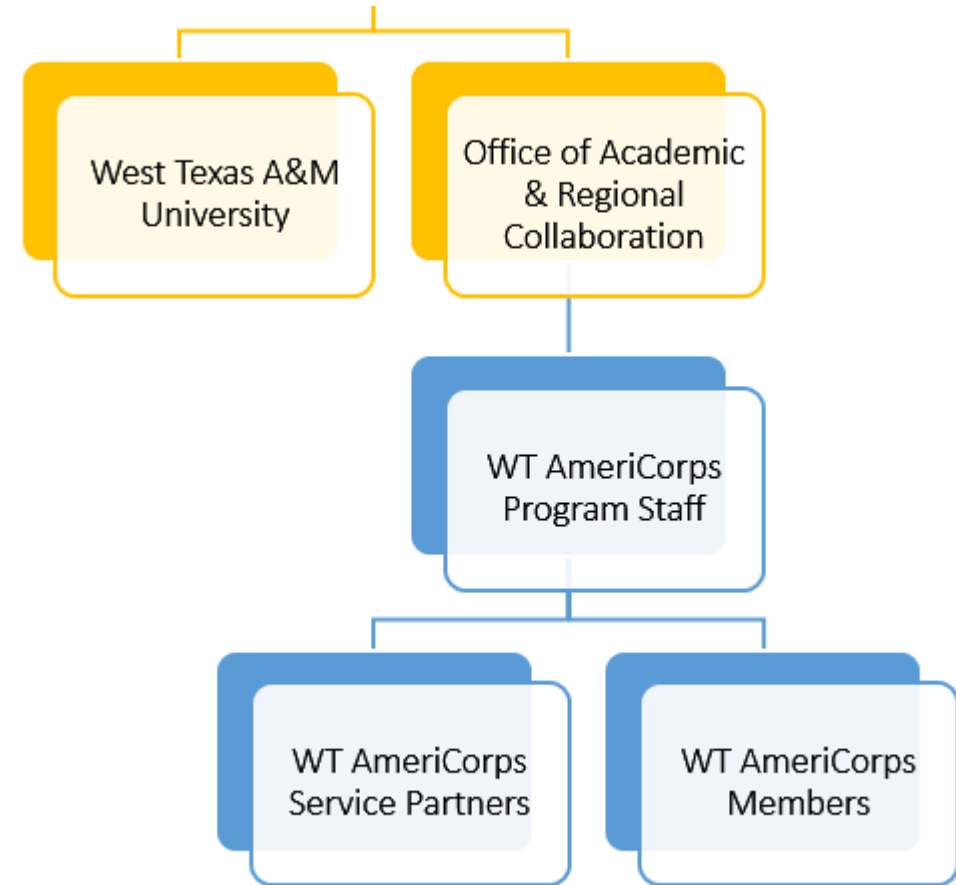
Funded by a federal  
agency, hosted  
through West Texas  
A&M University





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WT AmeriCorps Service Partners – the nonprofit organizations serving their community and getting things done in the AmeriCorps focus areas.

# WT AMERICORPS CRC MISSION

– MSA 2024-25

The Texas Panhandle faces multifaceted challenges that can strain resources and restrict growth and vitality. WTAMU, the Office of Academic & Regional Collaboration, and the WT AmeriCorps Community Resilience Corps program are committed to being active regional partners, working together, across multiple sectors and communities, to increase opportunity, engagement, and investment in the region. We strive to help build a more supportive, resilient environment where all people thrive in sustainable careers and communities.

The WT AmeriCorps CRC program is administered by West Texas A&M University under the Office of Academic & Regional Collaboration. This program is a state and regional collaboration that aims to serve the region by addressing challenges and closing gaps in access to opportunity. We serve under-resourced and rural communities across the Texas Panhandle by augmenting existing systems and partnering with community-based and civic organizations, education institutions, and other groups working to meet community needs. WT's AmeriCorps program focuses on capacity building with local partners, direct services and civic engagement to improve health and wellness, economic opportunity, education outcomes, food security, and environmental stewardship that leads to community resilience and improves access to opportunity.



# Capacity Building - our program's focus

A set of activities that: expand the scale, reach, efficiency, or effectiveness of programs and organizations. These activities achieve lasting positive outcomes for the beneficiary populations served.

*Capacity Building activities must:*

- 1) Support or enhance the program delivery model*
- 2) Respond to the program's goal of increasing, expanding, or enhancing services in order to address the most pressing needs identified in the community*
- 3) Enable the program to provide a sustained level of more or better direct services after the capacity building services end.*

# Examples of Capacity Building

- **Volunteer Coordinator**
  - Recruiting, training, scheduling, and supporting communication with volunteers
- **Communication and Outreach Support**
  - Creating new partnerships, developing marketing materials, managing social media
- **Organizational support**
  - Developing materials like handbooks, policies, training documents
  - Researching best practices and how to implement
  - Grant research, grant material preparation, some (limited) grant writing
- **Data collection support**
  - Understanding data collected by your organization and developing ways to use that data
  - Data to support marketing
  - Data to support grant writing
  - Identifying new data that should be collected and how

# Benefits

## **To Host Site:**

- Support in expanding scale or scope of services
- Added Service hours
- Ability to “pilot” a change at reduced cost
- Network of organizations working toward same goal (ex: feeding a community)
- Network by task – ability to collaborate on volunteer recruitment best practices, templates, shared learning

## **To AmeriCorps Member:**

- Monthly living allowance
- Education award
- Professional and personal skills development
- Introduction to service
- Introduction to nonprofit work
- Engagement in the community
- Cohort support
- Recognition as National Service alum

## **To AmeriCorps:**

- Sustain a program to continue to support nonprofits and the Texas Panhandle
- Ability to make a tangible, positive difference in supporting and creating resilience
- See and identify key areas to support a resilient / livable Texas Panhandle

## **To the Communities we serve:**

Engaged neighbors who are supporting non profits  
People working together to get things done

# To Become a Partner

- Apply with WT AmeriCorps to become a host site
- Work with us to develop a position description for an AmeriCorps member
- Recruit for the position, we will provide templates and support
  - Candidate members apply online to the program
  - We interview candidate and discuss with the host site
  - We complete background checks, onboarding and HR process
- We enroll the new AmeriCorps member and provide initial training
- Organizations provide site-specific training
- We provide ongoing:
  - professional development for the AmeriCorps member
  - supervisory support / guidance with the host site
  - professional development to augment what the member is learning and doing at the host site

Partner Application:



# Partnering with Host Sites

## **Cost Share:**

Partner pays 35% of Member's living allowance (+ 7.65% FICA)

Program pays 65%, manages hiring, background checks, programmatic training and payroll

Example:	Service Hours	Living Allowance	Partner Costshare*
TQT	1200	\$20400	\$7686
HT	900	\$12600	\$4747
QT	450	\$5625	\$2120

*\*Costshare amts tentative, pending final budget*

## **Supervision:**

- Direct the AmeriCorps member's day-to-day service
- Meet for a supervision meeting once a week (15-30 min), may be every two weeks
- Support the member's professional and personal development

## **Data collection:**

- Support program goals of collecting performance measure data

## **Support program compliance with federal law:**

- Prohibited and unallowable activities
- Verify timesheets of service

# Impact

## *WT AmeriCorps started in 2020*

Through August 2024 AmeriCorps members have....

- Completed 99,512 service hours in the Texas Panhandle
- Members have earned 135 Education Awards
  - Education Awards' cumulative value is over \$300,000

We've served at over 30 community-based organizations and 13 schools.

- 16 communities in 11 counties.

We have added 10 new partners on 2024-2025, and expect 6-10 more.



# Contact us!

Website: <https://www.wtamu.edu/academics/americorps/index.html>

(Google: wtamu americorps)

Contact:

Asst Director - Laura Seals

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(806) 651-2951

Prog and Comm Coordinator - Sophia Britto

[sbritto@wtamu.edu](mailto:sbritto@wtamu.edu)

Partner Application:



*Alone we can do so little.  
Together we can do so  
much. – Helen Keller*

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