



**Harnessing the Power of AmeriCorps to
Connect People and Programs Across Minnesota**

CONNECTIONS

2011-2012 Highlights

1,373

Number of AmeriCorps members serving in Minnesota this year

\$19.3 million

Amount invested in nonprofit, community, educational and faith-based community groups through AmeriCorps programs

4,661

Number of Minnesota Reading Corps students who passed the third-grade statewide reading test

33,947

Number of community volunteers managed or mobilized by AmeriCorps members

719

Number of sites where AmeriCorps members are serving

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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.

— AmeriCorps Pledge

CONNECTIONS

A Decade of Growing Support for ServeMinnesota

Dear Friends,

2012 marked ServeMinnesota's 10th anniversary as an independent nonprofit. This milestone gave us a chance to reflect on our past decade of accomplishments and growth.

ServeMinnesota is our state's Commission on National and Community Service. An integral component of our mission is to effectively leverage federal funding to help address critical needs across the state. It's a unique responsibility. We are the one entity that, by statute, has to exist in order for Minnesota to access federal AmeriCorps dollars.

10 Years of Growth

Private funding

2002 - \$75,000

2012 - \$2.5 million

State funds

2002 - \$900,000

2012 - \$5 million

Federal dollars leveraged

2002 - \$6.4 million

2012 - \$25.3 million

Since 2002, more than 8,200 members have served in 142 programs.



The power of our organization comes through how we manage those resources and deliver outcome-focused programming. These programs help build educational achievement, economic stability, and environmental stewardship.

Strategic initiatives like Minnesota Reading Corps and Minnesota Math Corps have a proven formula for success: combining research-based programs with AmeriCorps resources to provide tangible results for the state. Our successful track record over the past 10 years has allowed us to build strong partnerships with the private sector and state legislature and garner more federal resources for Minnesota. In fact, we currently leverage the third-highest amount of federal AmeriCorps dollars of all states – behind only California and Washington. That's an amazing testament to the high-quality AmeriCorps programs serving communities in the metro, suburban and rural areas of our state.

On the following pages, we feature AmeriCorps members who have served for more than one year, as well as those who have shared their talents and passion with more than one program or invited others to join them. It's that commitment to service that makes our programs so strong, and makes Minnesota a much better place to live.

We appreciate your support and interest in our work and know that you, our partners, rely on us to deliver results. That responsibility is our constant driver, and we will continue our consistent focus on proven approaches and program enhancements to ensure that the next 10 years are just as noteworthy as our first.

Kate Kelly
Board Chairperson

Audrey Suker
Chief Executive Officer

“What ServeMinnesota has done is to get out ahead of the curve. The future lies at the community level.”

— Former U.S. Senator David Durenberger

2011-2012 AmeriCorps Grants

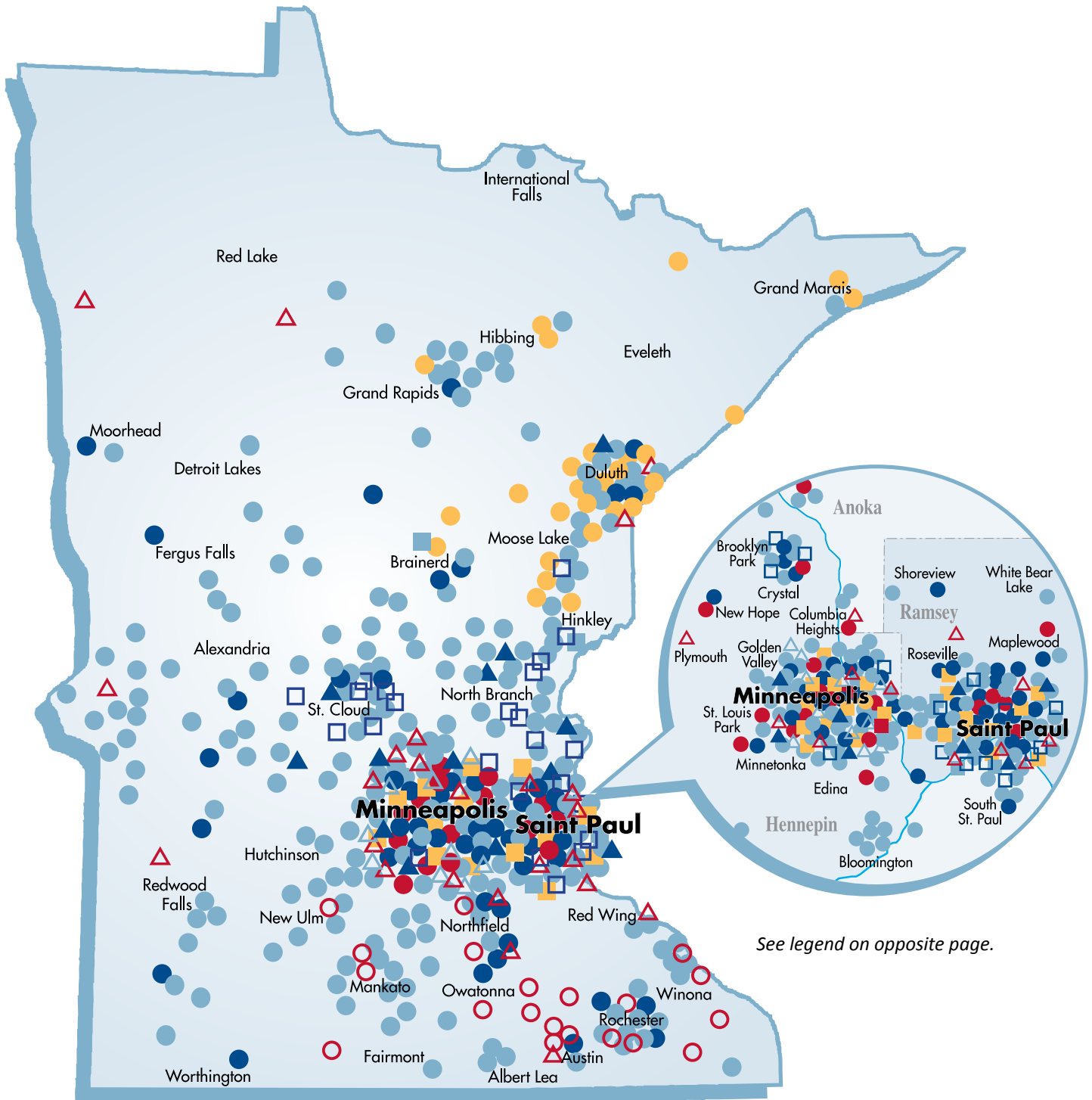
The AmeriCorps program is a pathway for people to make significant contributions to their community through service. ServeMinnesota provides AmeriCorps grants to organizations across the state that focus on a wide variety of issues including educational achievement, economic opportunity and environmental stewardship.

AmeriCorps members dedicate a year of their lives to tutor and mentor youth to close the achievement gap, build affordable housing, teach computer skills, clean parks and streams, run after-school programs and help communities respond to disasters. Collectively, they recruit, train and supervise thousands of community volunteers to extend and complement their efforts.

By aligning this powerful group of dedicated individuals with issues that need attention, ServeMinnesota makes a significant impact on the state's most critical needs.

Program Grants	Members	Grant Amount	Program Impact
△ City of Lakes AmeriCorps	31	\$396,256	Tutoring/Homework Assistance, After-School Programs, Mentoring
■ Community Technology Empowerment Project (CTEP)	30	\$404,991	Digital Divide/Computer Education, Employment Skills
■ Conservation Corps Minnesota	77	\$621,000	Environmental Stewardship, Youth Development
■ Green and Healthy Homes	15	\$202,497	Energy Efficiency, Healthy Living Education
○ Learning Early Achieves Potential (LEAP)	20	\$270,000	Early Childhood Social/Emotional Development, School Readiness Skills
● Minnesota Alliance With Youth Promise Fellows	116	\$1,541,200	Dropout Prevention, Mentoring, Leadership/Civic Engagement
△ Minnesota GreenCorps	31	\$376,650	Environmental Improvement
□ Minnesota Math Corps	65	\$1,244,648	Math Tutoring Algebra by 8th Grade
▲ Minnesota Opportunity Corps	75	\$993,251	Job Placement, Economic Stability
● Minnesota Reading Corps	786	\$12,285,041	Literacy Tutoring Reading by 3rd Grade
● True North AmeriCorps	76	\$869,128	Tutoring/Homework Assistance, After-School Programs, Mentoring
● Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity	12	\$15,600	Affordable Housing, After-School Programs
Planning Grant			
Asian Media Access	0	\$50,000	Public Health Awareness
Total	1,334	\$19,270,262	

AmeriCorps Members Serve in More Than 200 Communities



READING CORPS



Lydia and Deborah Dieterich

There's no generation gap here. Mom and daughter, Deborah and Lydia, serve together as Reading Corps tutors at Delano Elementary School. Lydia, now serving her second year, knew she wanted to join her mother helping children learn to read. Lydia loved to hear her mom talk about her experiences and "be so excited about what she was doing – it was clear she was making a difference."

Deborah has served for four years and is eager to talk about student progress and the impact the program has made. She reports that teachers love the program because they see the results in their classrooms. "We are so lucky to have Minnesota Reading Corps!" Deborah exclaims. "It's a program that shows results right away. The children gain confidence and skills they can use for the rest of their lives."



Proven Results: Early Literacy Success for Minnesota Children

Reading is the No. 1 predictor of whether a student will be successful in school and in life. Students who do not read proficiently by third grade are four times more likely to drop out of high school. Despite that, a mere half of Minnesota’s children are ready for kindergarten and one in five third graders is not reading at grade level.

Learning to read by third grade is the critical benchmark that marks the shift from students learning to read to students reading to learn. When students are reading at grade level, they’re ready for the new world that awaits them – their entry point to critical thinking and new ideas.

Minnesota Reading Corps, a strategic initiative of ServeMinnesota, is an early literacy program that’s helping thousands of children learn to read. In 2012, more than 750 highly-trained Reading Corps tutors served students in nearly 500 preschools and elementary schools statewide, improving reading levels through research-based literacy strategies.

Results from 2012 reveal that 80 percent of Reading Corps participants passed their state reading tests, which matches the average for all Minnesota students. Given that Reading Corps students were all on track for reading failure, this pass rate demonstrates remarkable progress for children who might otherwise have been left behind.

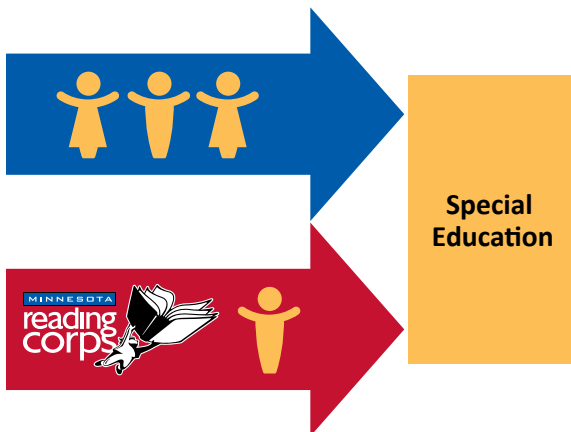
The Reading Corps model has been validated by the U.S. Department of Education and is being replicated in six other states. In addition, the model has been proven to keep educationally at-risk children on track in general education. Students who did not receive Reading Corps tutoring were three times more likely to be referred to special education than Reading Corps participants. Extrapolating these results for the entire state of Minnesota would result in an annual savings of \$9 million in special education services.

Minnesota Reading Corps provides schools with a tool to bridge the gap for their early learners. It opens up a world of possibilities for students through the power of reading and creates endless opportunities for them to learn, grow and shape the future.



“I am working with kids who at one point, didn’t even know a letter sound and at the end of their time with me, they’re reading stories. To see the smile on their face that they can read is indescribable.”

– Kendra Mays
AmeriCorps Member
Minnesota Reading Corps



**Nearly \$9 million
in projected
annual savings
for Minnesota**

Building Blocks: Beating the Odds for Struggling Students

Math is a complex subject that continually builds on previous knowledge. If a student misses a unit of study or doesn't grasp the concept, a piece of the foundation is missing. Unfortunately too many Minnesota children are missing critical building blocks. An alarming 40 percent of eighth graders are not proficient in math – a key indicator of future academic and economic success.

According to last year's state standardized tests, more than 100,000 students in grades 4-8 were not meeting expected math levels. Of more concern is that the number of students proficient in math declines from grade to grade. Last year, math proficiency rates dropped from 76 percent in third grade to 61 percent in eighth grade.

These statistics point to a troubling future for Minnesota's economy. Increasingly, high school diplomas and subsequent schooling are critical for employment. By 2018, 70 percent of Minnesota jobs will require post-secondary education, and jobs in the mathematics-intensive, science and engineering industries are outpacing overall job growth by a ratio of three to one. Students need to acquire math skills so that they can be prepared for these more technical careers and keep Minnesota's workforce globally competitive.

Minnesota Math Corps is a solution. By mobilizing AmeriCorps resources, Math Corps tutors provide the people power needed to help more students

become successful 21st-century learners and ultimately high school graduates. Math Corps tutors work directly with students an average of 90 minutes per week to assess their math gaps and deliver research-based interventions to build their skills.

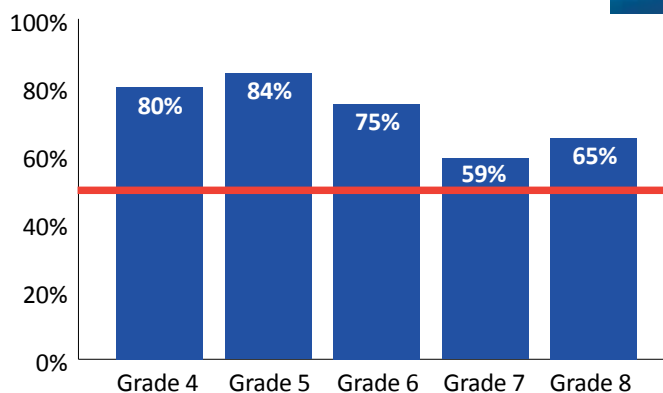
Minnesota Math Corps is a strategic initiative of ServeMinnesota and was piloted in 2008 in five schools within the St. Cloud School District. Meredith Boucher is an eighth-grade math teacher at North Junior High in St. Cloud and supervises the Math Corps tutors there. "Math Corps is an amazing program that offers kids a world of difference in a world where they are required to know a lot of math and a lot of technology," she explains. "It stops the gap from widening by keeping students from falling further behind."

Math Corps has now expanded to 90 schools in 25 school districts across Minnesota, with demand continuing to grow.



"I believe that giving back to the places we live in and come from is a key to building strong communities."

– Ryan Holton
AmeriCorps Member
Minnesota Math Corps



**Across all grades,
Math Corps students
exceed growth goals.**

MATH CORPS



Charles and Abigail Akyigina

When asked why he joined Minnesota Math Corps, Charles Akyigina didn't hesitate. "These kids need a solid foundation in math. It's very important and it will have a long-lasting effect in their lives and in the community."

Charles learned about Math Corps through his wife, Abigail, who is a Minnesota Reading Corps tutor at Eagle Point Elementary in Oakdale, Minnesota. He uses his love of math and is helping students learn to love it too.

At the beginning of the year, his students were unsure of their abilities and whether they could be successful. Lately, it's a different story – his students are declaring their love for math too. "I've enjoyed the whole experience, and I can tell the work I'm doing is making a positive impact," Charles says. He serves at Oakdale Elementary, working with fourth- and fifth-graders.

PROMISE FELLOWS



Chris Yard

Service not only connects from person to person, but also builds bridges between programs. Chris Yard began his AmeriCorps service in Winona, Minnesota, in 2008. He served with Learning Early Achieves Potential (LEAP) to help preschool children learn the developmental skills necessary for school success.

While there, Chris saw Promise Fellows in action. Today, he's joined their ranks and is helping struggling students navigate middle school. As is the case with many service opportunities, he learned something, too: He wants to keep working in the youth development field.

Chris highly recommends his service experience. "I would absolutely encourage anyone to join – you make your community, state, and country a better place," he says. "You meet amazing people, and know that every day, you're making things better than when you woke up in the morning."



Dropout Prevention: More Students on Track for Graduation



Engagement. Voice. Success.

By the time you finish reading this paragraph, a student will have dropped out of school. In total, more than 1.2 million students per year – one-third of students nationwide – are leaving high school without earning a diploma. In Minnesota, the overall graduation rate is better – 76 percent – but in rural and northern parts of the state, it mirrors the national average. These statistics are compounded by recent reports that show our achievement gap is the highest in the nation.

This education crisis affects the health and well-being of entire communities. For one class of dropouts alone, the lost lifetime earnings can total more than \$3.6 billion. Reducing the number of dropouts by just 50 percent for a single high school class (about 300 youth) would result in tremendous economic benefits for the region. In many cases, by earning their diplomas and continuing their education, these new graduates would earn an average of \$5 million in additional wages.

In order to ensure that all Minnesota students have a chance to graduate from high school on time, the Minnesota Alliance With Youth Promise Fellows program is tackling the problem head on. As a key partner with the Minnesota Department of Education and Grad Nation, a national coalition working to end the dropout crisis, this program is leading the way for higher graduation rates.

In 2012, 116 AmeriCorps members served at 65 sites across the state. Working directly with schools and community organizations, they identify and address the ABCs – Attendance, Behavior and Competence in core subjects – that can be early warning signs for students at risk of dropping out.

If a student is struggling in any or all of these areas, AmeriCorps members provide research-based interventions or connect them with resources to help get them back on track. These members ensure that students attend classes and engage in schoolwork and out-of-school activities that improve their academic performance. One such intervention, Check and Connect, is a research-based approach created at the University of Minnesota to improve attendance, participation and behavior, which in turn fuels academic motivation.

Having access to a trained and caring individual who is tracking the warning signs is the key to dropout prevention. By applying these best practices and catching students early, AmeriCorps members are critical to helping kids find success and achievement in school.



“Yes, I am making a difference... encouraging the students to want to be in school, making a difference with their self esteem and changing the way they view themselves.”

– Beza Tefera
*AmeriCorps Member
Minnesota Alliance With Youth
Promise Fellows*



DECREASING SCHOOL DROPOUTS.

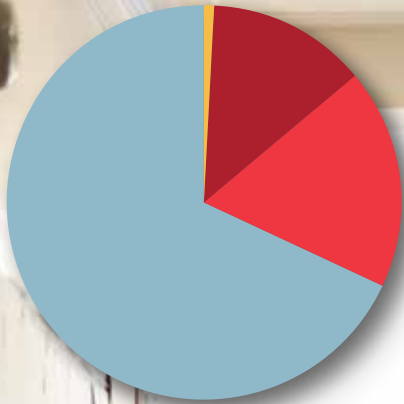
2011-2012 Financials

Statement of Financial Position

August 31, 2012 and 2011

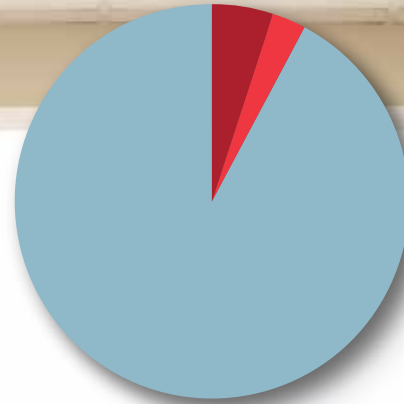
	2012	2011
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$1,076,029	\$836,063
Grants Receivable	\$1,946,540	\$1,636,855
Pledges Receivable	\$958,523	\$839,166
Other Receivable	\$30,501	0
Prepaid Expense	\$22,135	\$17,786
Security Deposit	\$3,798	\$3,798
Total Current Assets	\$4,037,526	\$3,333,668
Non-Current Assets		
Equipment – Net	\$770	\$3,225
Pledges Receivable	\$36,810	0
Total Assets	\$4,075,106	\$3,336,893
Liabilities & Net Assets		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$124,151	\$75,445
Grants Payable	\$1,714,992	\$1,521,893
Total Current Liabilities	\$1,839,143	\$1,597,338
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted:		
Designated	\$150,000	\$150,000
Undesignated	\$103,318	\$127,764
Total Unrestricted	\$253,318	\$277,764
Temporarily Restricted	\$1,982,645	\$1,461,791
Total Net Assets	\$2,235,963	\$1,739,555
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$4,075,106	\$3,336,893

2011-2012 Financials



REVENUE

Interest	<1%
Private	13%
State	18%
Federal	68%



EXPENSES

Program Support	5%
Support Services	3%
Grants	92%



“ServeMinnesota is a great linker of partners and has proven that it has the ability to take really good ideas to a larger scale.”

— Frank Forsberg, Senior Vice President, Systems Change and Innovation,
Greater Twin Cities United Way

Community Support

Individual Donors

Karin Abel
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St. Paul Children's Collaborative
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Target
The Whitney Foundation



"As much as you go in thinking you're helping people, you get way more out of it than you ever would imagine."

– Sara Fechtelkotter
AmeriCorps Member
Minnesota GreenCorps

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List current as of March 1, 2013



VISION *Inspiring action to change Minnesota communities for the better.*

MISSION *ServeMinnesota is a catalyst for positive social change, working with AmeriCorps and community partners to meet critical needs in Minnesota.*

WE GET MEASURABLE RESULTS THROUGH:

Innovation

Researching and applying the best methods to create powerful local solutions.

Investment

Raising and allocating funds for AmeriCorps program development, and people serving in those programs, to maximize return.

Alignment

Aligning with local community and government priorities and setting consistent program standards to ensure measurable results.



ServeMinnesota
The power of AmeriCorps. The power of you.

