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Contact:

Jaime Gabrielli, Outreach Coordinator, Governor's Office of Community Service, 406.444.9077

Montana Celebrates #6 National Ranking for Producing AmeriCorps Members

New data shows Montana in top ten AmeriCorps member states per capita

HELENA, MT- When it comes to enrolling in AmeriCorps, Montana residents rank #6 in the nation, according to new data released today by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). This federal agency administers the AmeriCorps program and leads the nation's national service and volunteer programs.

"Montanans have always had a strong set of values when it comes to finding a way to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others," said Governor Steve Bullock. **"AmeriCorps service is not only the bedrock of our communities, it builds up future generations to believe in the power of giving back."**

There are 15 different AmeriCorps projects in Montana that place dedicated people in communities across the state to address local needs. More than 800 members served at more than 600 locations in 2018. Members served with schools, food banks, homeless shelters, health clinics, youth centers, veteran's facilities, and other nonprofit and faith-based organizations. AmeriCorps offers a variety of service opportunities reducing crime, preserving and restoring public lands, connecting veterans to services, promoting green energy initiatives, fighting the opioid epidemic, rebuilding communities after disasters, and more. This service experience gives individuals an opportunity to impact Montana communities while gaining valuable skills and experience and advancing their careers.

"We are excited to see Montana remain in the AmeriState rankings," said Dan Ritter, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Community Service. **"Montanans have a long tradition of service**

to others and it's not surprising to see our residents answer the call to serve their neighbors and keep our state consistently ranked in the top ten.”

Montana's economy benefits from AmeriCorps. Working together with local partners, CNCS is investing more than \$11.1 million this year to support cost-effective community solutions. AmeriCorps State grant funding goes to the Montana Commission on Community Service, the Governor appointed State Service Commission, which in turn awards grants to organizations to respond to local needs. Through a unique public-private partnership, CNCS, its grantees, and project sponsors will generate more than \$10.6 million in outside resources from businesses, foundations, public agencies, and other sources in Montana this year. This local support strengthens community impact and increases return on taxpayer dollars.

This fall marks the 25th anniversary of AmeriCorps. Since its inception in 1994, more than 10,000 Montana residents have served approximately 9.9 million hours, earning more than \$23.8 million in education awards. Service members can use these awards to pay for college or to pay back qualified student loans.

Those interested in joining AmeriCorps can learn more at [AmeriCorps.gov/Join](https://americorps.gov/Join). To learn more about AmeriCorps in Montana visit <http://serve.mt.gov/AmeriCorps/american-in-montana>.

The Governor's Office of Community Service expands and promotes national service and community volunteerism in Montana and engages citizens in service. Visit serve.mt.gov for more information.

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