



## 2011 - 2012 AmeriCorps\*Texas Grantees

### Amarillo Independent School District

**Program Name:** Amarillo ISD AmeriCorps

**Service Areas:** Amarillo

**Description:** The Amarillo ISD AmeriCorps program utilizes AmeriCorps members to provide tutoring services at 14 local elementary schools. Tutoring is provided in literacy, math, and science. The program's primary goals are to: increase grade performance in literacy, math, and science, improve literacy rates among youth, earn higher standardized test scores, and through success, improve attendance rates.

**Program Contact:** Jill Humphrey ([jill.humphrey@amaisd.org](mailto:jill.humphrey@amaisd.org))

**Website:** <http://www.amaisd.org>

### AVANCE, Inc. - El Paso Chapter

**Program Name:** AVANCE - El Paso AmeriCorps

**Service Areas:** El Paso, Dallas

**Description:** The AVANCE - El Paso AmeriCorps program focuses on school readiness and places members as child and family education aides in a results-driven child development, parenting and family literacy program. AVANCE uses team-based placement of members with staff to enrich program services and to expand services that will reach children and families across El Paso County and Dallas. AVANCE seeks to increase parents' involvement in their children's education and school readiness. The program focuses on increased attendance and grade-passing rates as well as higher reading and math scores.

**Program Contact:** Taylor Moreno ([tmoreno@avance-elpaso.org](mailto:tmoreno@avance-elpaso.org))

**Website:** <http://www.avance-elpaso.org>

### Breakthrough

**Program Name:** Expanding Community Impact

**Service Areas:** Austin

**Description:** Breakthrough's comprehensive program makes a long-term commitment, beginning in middle school, to help low income students become the first in their families to graduate from college. Breakthrough provides an academically rigorous Summer Program and intensive year-round services to students who, statistics say, would not go to college without significant intervention and support.

**Program Contact:** Barry Aidman ([barry@breakthroughaustin.org](mailto:barry@breakthroughaustin.org))

**Website:** <http://www.breakthroughaustin.org/>

### Casa de Amigos of Midland Texas, Inc.

**Program Name:** STARS

**Service Areas:** Midland

**Description:** The Student Tutoring Assessment Readiness Success (STARS) program engages full-time and half-time AmeriCorps members to address K-12 literacy issues by providing one-on-one tutoring. The STARS program has a direct impact on the lives of children by increasing their reading scores and self-esteem to help them become successful in school and plan for a positive future.

**Program Contact:** Christopher Ewing ([cewing@casadeamigosmidland.org](mailto:cewing@casadeamigosmidland.org))

**Website:** <http://www.casadeamigosmidland.org>



### City Year, Inc.

**Program Name:** City Year San Antonio

**Service Areas:** San Antonio

**Description:** City Year San Antonio (CYSA) engages AmeriCorps members, ages 17-24 to address gaps in educational attainment in San Antonio. These young adults are mentors, tutors and role models that focus on improving Attendance, Behavior, and Course (ABC) performance (Math and English) in low performing schools. To improve the ABCs, CY members engage with students before school, in school, after school. Members also provide Out-of-School Saturday service learning and leadership development.

**Program Contact:** Paul Garro ([pgarro@cityyear.org](mailto:pgarro@cityyear.org))

**Website:** <http://www.cityyear.org/sanantonio>

### CitySquare

**Program Name:** N2 Texas Corps

**Service Areas:** Dallas and San Antonio

**Description:** CitySquare serves as an intermediary organization, placing members in local organizations to provide hunger relief to adults and children; provide after-school and summer educational enrichment programs in underserved communities; and implement a physical education curriculum with the intent of reducing obesity rates for children.

**Program Contact:** Jennifer Rajkumar ([jrajkumar@citysquare.org](mailto:jrajkumar@citysquare.org))

**Website:** <http://citysq.org/>

### College Forward

**Program Name:** College Forward Partnership for Higher Education

**Service Areas:** Austin, Baytown, Buda, Del Valle, Georgetown, Houston, Kyle, Manor, and Round Rock

**Description:** The College Forward AmeriCorps program provides college access and college persistence services to motivated, economically disadvantaged students to help facilitate their transition to college. The program not only seeks to help low-income and first-generation students gain access to college, but also provides support to their parents as well as the preparation needed to successfully complete college. The vision of College Forward is to change the face of education in Texas so that every student, regardless of family income or background, can graduate from college.

**Program Contact:** Erica Gordon ([egordon@collegeforward.org](mailto:egordon@collegeforward.org))

**Website:** <http://www.collegeforward.org>

### Communities In Schools of Central Texas

**Program Name:** Communities In Schools of Central Texas AmeriCorps

**Service Areas:** Austin, Buda, Niederwald, Kyle, Manor, Georgetown, and Lockhart

**Description:** Communities In Schools of Central Texas AmeriCorps provides and leverages social service interventions that address both academic and non-academic barriers and promote the academic success of students. AmeriCorps members serve as supportive mentors, academic supporters and service learning project leaders to students on school campuses. Members provide mentoring and supportive guidance to students one-on-one or in small groups, provide academic support such as homework help and classroom support and recruit volunteers to help support the program. AmeriCorps members support the overall mission of Communities In Schools to help students stay in school and prepare for life.

**Program Contact:** Jennifer Jefts ([jjefts@cisaustin.org](mailto:jjefts@cisaustin.org))

**Website:** <http://www.cisaustin.org>



### Communities In Schools Dallas Region, Inc.

**Program Name:** CIS Dallas Region AmeriCorps Program

**Service Areas:** Carrollton, Commerce, Dallas, Farmers Branch, Irving, and Midlothian

**Description:** The CIS Dallas Region AmeriCorps Program places AmeriCorps members in schools to provide academic enhancement to students, including tutoring, service learning and community volunteerism, as well as parents' education. Members tutor students in reading, math and science, and assist in recruiting local volunteers. Members also provide academic guidance and manage community service and service learning projects. In addition, members create or maintain a parent resource center and accompany CISDR staff on home visits to provide parent education and guidance.

**Program Contact:** Nitishia Booker ([nitishiab@cisdallas.org](mailto:nitishiab@cisdallas.org))

**Website:** <http://www.cisdallas.org>

### Communities In Schools of the Heart of Texas

**Program Name:** CIS Community Servers

**Service Areas:** Waco

**Description:** CIS Community Servers AmeriCorps members are placed in Waco area schools and with several partner agencies to help increase students' educational attainment by increasing grades and retention rates. The members placed in schools tutor individuals and small groups of students, and provide group academic activities during after-school programming at the campus. The members also mentor students individually and in small groups to help build rapport and address issues that are keeping students from focusing on and staying in school.

**Program Contact:** Jennifer Mikeska ([jmikeska@cis-hot.org](mailto:jmikeska@cis-hot.org))

**Website:** <http://www.cis-hot.org>

### Front Steps

**Program Name:** Keep Austin Housed

**Service Areas:** Austin

**Description:** Front Steps utilizes AmeriCorps members in its AmeriCorps homeless case management program through the Keep America Housed collaborative in Austin. The eight-agency partnership serves the full range of homeless adults, families with children and youth, including teen parents. Members provide intensive case management, mentorship and other supportive services to help clients develop skills for independent living, acquire jobs, and obtain and maintain long-term affordable housing.

**Program Contact:** Kameron Fowler ([kfowler@frontsteps.org](mailto:kfowler@frontsteps.org))

**Website:** <http://www.frontsteps.org/>



### Goodwill Industries of Central East Texas, Inc.

**Program Name:** TMC MentorCorps Project

**Service Areas:** Crockett, Huntington, Lufkin, Nacogdoches, and Woden

**Description:** The TMC MentorCorps Project at Goodwill Industries of Central East Texas uses a mentor model to address educational and other needs of at-risk youth. Goodwill is an intermediary, placing AmeriCorps members at host sites to mentor youth to improve graduation rates, GED attainment and school readiness. AmeriCorps members recruit and train volunteers, and provide one-on-one or small group mentoring to at-risk youth during the program year. Host sites include community and faith-based organizations, school districts and governmental entities.

**Program Contact:** Kristy Bice ([kristy.bice@lufkingoodwill.org](mailto:kristy.bice@lufkingoodwill.org))

**Website:** <http://www.lufkingoodwill.org/>

### Harris County Department of Education

**Program Name:** CASE AmeriCorps Kids' Day Project

**Service Areas:** Channelview, Houston, Humble, Pasadena, South Houston, and Stafford

**Description:** Harris County Department of Education engages the Cooperative for After-School Enrichment (CASE) AmeriCorps Kids' Day Project members at existing after-school programs for homework assistance, academic enrichment activities, and Kids' Day activities that tie career-focused curriculum to hands-on programming and a culminating event.

**Program Contact:** Lisa Caruthers ([lcaruthers@hcde-texas.org](mailto:lcaruthers@hcde-texas.org))

**Website:** <http://hcde-texas.org>

### Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Independent School District

**Program Name:** AmeriCorps Youth Harvest

**Service Areas:** Alamo, Alton, Donna, Edcouch, Hidalgo, La Joya, Mission, Pharr, and San Juan

**Description:** The AmeriCorps Youth Harvest program engages high school seniors from nine local school districts to serve as tutors for students learning basic reading skills. Members are placed in local elementary schools, after-school programs, and community and faith-based organizations. At their sites, members implement tutoring programs to meet their individual client needs.

**Program Contact:** Amanda Sandoval ([amanda.sandoval@psjaisd.us](mailto:amanda.sandoval@psjaisd.us))

**Website:** <http://psja.schoolfusion.us>

### Project Transformation

**Program Name:** Project Transformation AmeriCorps

**Service Areas:** Dallas, Denison, Farmers Branch, Mesquite

**Description:** Project Transformation AmeriCorps (PT) engages AmeriCorps members in leadership and service by providing educational after-school and summer programs for at-risk children and youth, building influential relationships and connecting volunteers, churches and other organizations to underserved communities. PT serves low-income communities in the Dallas area that suffer from problems associated with families' lack of financial resources--specifically, substandard classroom performance and poor nutrition. Members work with children and youth, grades one through nine, in after-school programs and summer day camps located in Dallas, Fort Worth and in outlying underserved neighborhoods. The program focuses specifically on improving student's literacy rates, academic performance in math, and retention rates.

**Program Contact:** Eric Lindh ([lindh@projecttransformation.org](mailto:lindh@projecttransformation.org))

**Website:** <http://www.projecttransformation.org>



### Schulenburg Weimar In Focus Together, Inc.

**Program Name:** SWIFT AmeriCorps Program

**Service Areas:** Schulenburg and Weimar

**Description:** The SWIFT AmeriCorps program is designed to improve student test scores, re-engage parents in their children's education and improve health knowledge. SWIFT AmeriCorps members tutor in elementary classrooms and after-school at Boys & Girls Clubs. Parent education starts with early childhood development and ESL classes. Members coordinate age-appropriate Healthy Choices presentations on-campus annually to improve nutrition knowledge and reduce childhood obesity. Members assist 7-12 grade students and their families prepare for life beyond high school, focusing on families that have never had a member attend an institution of higher education.

**Program Contact:** Sylvan Rossi ([rossi@gvtc.com](mailto:rossi@gvtc.com))

**Website:** <http://www.swift.cc>

### Teach for America

**Program Name:** Teach For America Rio Grande Valley

**Service Areas:** Donna, Dan Benito, Mission, San Juan, Brownsville, Harlingen, Edcouch, Alamo, Pharr, Weslaco, La Joya, Penitas, McAllen, Rio Grande City, Edinburg, Mercedes, and Roma

**Description:** Teach for America Rio Grande Valley engages recent college graduates as teachers for a minimum of two years in low-performing Rio Grande Valley schools.

**Program Contact:** Robert Carreon ([robert.carreon@teachforamerica.org](mailto:robert.carreon@teachforamerica.org))

**Website:** [http://www.teachforamerica.org/about/regions/rio\\_grande\\_valley.htm](http://www.teachforamerica.org/about/regions/rio_grande_valley.htm)

### Texas A&M International University

**Program Name:** TAMIU ADELANTE

**Service Areas:** Benavides, Carrizo Springs, Cotulla, Crystal City, Del Rio, Eagle Pass, Hebbronville, Laredo, San Diego, and Zapata

**Description:** TAMIU ADELANTE is an AmeriCorps program that provides services focused on youth educational attainment to mostly Hispanic, economically disadvantaged and first-generation students, including migrant and seasonal farm workers. The project focuses on demonstrating improved student attendance, increased equivalency attainment for its GED students, increased number of students staying in school and increased parent involvement.

**Program Contact:** Julio Madrigal ([jfmadrigal@tamiu.edu](mailto:jfmadrigal@tamiu.edu))

**Website:** <http://www.tamiu.edu>

### Texas A&M University

**Program Name:** TAMU Colonias AmeriCorps Disaster Recovery and Preparedness

**Service Areas:** El Paso, Laredo, Weslaco

**Description:** The TAMU Colonias AmeriCorps Disaster Recovery and Preparedness program engages Colonias in a 10-county area along the Texas/Mexico border in an effort to improve disaster response efforts. AmeriCorps members participate in education and outreach efforts, developing a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), improving collaboration between community and governmental agencies, developing communications plans, developing a water filtration system for use in time of disaster and developing local communication structures.

**Program Contact:** Barbara Henry-Thomas ([BHenry@archmail.tamu.edu](mailto:BHenry@archmail.tamu.edu))

**Website:** <http://archone.tamu.edu/chud>



### Travis County Health and Human Services and Veteran's Service

**Program Name:** Travis County 4-H CAPITAL AmeriCorps Project

**Service Areas:** Austin

**Description:** The mission of 4-H CAPITAL is to reduce the risk for school failure and school dropout by increasing science and literacy skills while promoting healthy growth and development. AmeriCorps members help to fulfill this mission by providing high-quality after-school enrichment programs that focus on science, math, technology, and literacy throughout Travis County.

**Program Contact:** Charlotte Benbenek-Price ([cebenbenek-price@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:cebenbenek-price@ag.tamu.edu))

**Website:** <http://www.4-hcapital.org>

### United Way of El Paso County

**Program Name:** HIPPY El Paso

**Service Areas:** El Paso, Horizon City, San Elizario, and Socorro

**Description:** Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) is a parent involvement and school readiness program that engages, equips and teaches parents to prepare their children for success in school. United Way of El Paso County engages AmeriCorps members in HIPPY, where they serve as home visitors providing a research-based curriculum to parents of preschool children who are three to five years old.

**Program Contact:** Muriel Thomas-Borders ([mborders@unitedwayelpaso.org](mailto:mborders@unitedwayelpaso.org))

**Website:** <http://www.unitedwayelpaso.org>

### University of North Texas

**Program Name:** Texas HIPPYCorps

**Service Areas:** Dallas, Grand Prairie, Houston, and Irving

**Description:** The Home Instruction Program for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) integrated with AmeriCorps, known as HIPPYCorps, provides school readiness and parental involvement opportunity to underprivileged families in Texas. Member service activities include providing weekly home visits and periodic parent meetings in order to train parents to prepare their three-, four- and five-year-olds for school, and to encourage and support parents to volunteer in their children's school.

**Program Contact:** Carla-Marie Mowell ([Carla.Mowell@unt.edu](mailto:Carla.Mowell@unt.edu))

**Website:** <http://www.unt.edu/hippy>

### The University of Texas at Austin - Charles A. Dana Center

**Program Name:** A Community for Education: ACE AmeriCorps

**Service Areas:** Austin

**Description:** The A Community for Education (ACE) program has been working in the Austin ISD since 1994 to improve school readiness in high-poverty schools. ACE is a research-based, bilingual early reading intervention program that intensively serves pre-K, K, first and second grade students using a Response to Intervention model that is proven effective in helping at least 75% of students served to reach or exceed grade level in key literacy skills. The ACE program engages AmeriCorps members to provide daily one-to-one and small group literacy support to students and their parents.

**Program Contact:** Mary Ellen Isaacs ([meisaacs@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:meisaacs@mail.utexas.edu))

**Website:** <http://www.utdanacenter.org/ace>



## The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College

**Program Name:** UTB/TSC AmeriCorps Program

**Service Areas:** Brownsville, Los Fresnos, and Port Isabel

**Description:** UTB/TSC AmeriCorps College Opportunities and Readiness Network's goal is to increase the number of students who complete high school and continue on with training or education after graduation. AmeriCorps members assist students in developing, reviewing and revising their educational plans, monitor the academic progress of students, provide career planning and serve as liaisons for students in Dual Enrollment programs.

**Program Contact:** Daniel Yarritu ([Daniel.Yarritu1@utb.edu](mailto:Daniel.Yarritu1@utb.edu))

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