

Please see below for some examples of Analysis of Impact and Impact Snapshots.

***These are both required fields on the 2015-2016 APR Report.**

Analysis of Impact:

- *Describe how AmeriCorps members' service is making an impact in the community that would not have been possible through existing staff and/or volunteers.*
- *If applicable, describe how AmeriCorps has enabled the program to leverage new public-private partnerships, funding and other resources.*

CITY SQUARE:

"CitySquare's Food on the Move program combats childhood hunger by deploying AmeriCorps members into low-income apartment communities to provide youth with a nutritious meal. These meals are made possible by strategic and innovative partnerships with local apartment communities, PepsiCo, Texas Department of Agriculture and AmeriCorps. Aided by the logistic capacity of PepsiCo, this innovative mobile-feeding program overcomes the barriers of transportation by delivering food daily to more than 15,000 youth in low-income areas who are home-bound and without access to nutritious meals while parents are working. Throughout the summer, CitySquare operates 20 mobile teams, bringing more than 500,000 meals and enrichment activities to apartment sites, city parks and street corners. At each site, the PepsiCo-operated mobile food trucks are met by a team of CitySquare AmeriCorps members who prepare the site, gather the children, assist with food distribution and, after the kids finish eating, engage them in up to sixty minutes of physical activities and games. According to Matthew Smith, Manager, Food for Good at PepsiCo, "CitySquare's Food on the Move program has proven to be a national best practice for delivering meals to previously un-reached children...The result has been a critical balance of addressing immediate nutritional needs while equipping the children to lead healthy lives. And, maybe most importantly, CitySquare is providing hundreds of jobs through AmeriCorps for young leaders (often from the neighborhoods they serve) to be role models for the children, showing first-hand that it is possible to break the cycle of poverty." "The U.S. Department of Agriculture has hailed Food on the Move as a model for the rest of the nation," said Shawn Wills, CitySquare's Chief Development Officer. "We started in Dallas and this year expanded our reach to the poorest neighborhoods in Houston, San Antonio and Austin. By bringing food to low-income kids on break from school, Food on the Move is taking a stand against childhood hunger across Texas."

COLLEGE FORWARD:

"After extensive pilot testing, College Forward is thrilled to announce the launch of Success Partnerships, a public-private venture with Lone Star College-North Harris in which College Forward AmeriCorps members will provide college persistence and success coaching directly to a cohort of low-income students. Lone Star College-North Harris recognizes that College Forward's unique near-peer mentor approach delivered by AmeriCorps members is capable of providing the support that students need to stay in school and graduate. An enormous benefit of the program will be the close working relationships that AmeriCorps members will have with the staff of Lone Star College-North Harris, which we predict will have a significant positive impact on our students' outcomes. As a fee-for-service venture, Success Partnerships will generate income to support College Forward's core activities. Success Partnerships is a direct outgrowth of the tremendous success of College Forward's college completion program and is an example of College Forward's innovative use of AmeriCorps members leverage a partnership opportunity to impact a new community with our high quality services."

UT-AUSTIN ACE READING CORPS:

“ACE is a fully bilingual program that is meeting the early learning needs of the fastest growing population in Central TX: monolingual Spanish speaking students, living in poverty, and likely to arrive at school already 12-18 months behind their more advantaged peers. ACE uses data to drive instruction—each student is assessed three times a year, but we also do a weekly progress monitoring assessment (1 minute) and track that progress in graphs that are accessible to the tutor, ACE supervisor, teacher, reading specialist, and principal. This real-time progress monitoring is key to our success. We are able to intervene and tweak instruction to be sure we are maximizing each student’s growth trajectory. AmeriCorps provides ACE with a cost-effective manpower resource to significantly impact the reading crisis in our community. We are able to provide intensive, individualized, research-based reading instruction to low-income elementary school students for a cost to the community of about \$600 per child. If we were relying on community volunteers who would typically work with a child once a week, we would need 50 volunteers for every one AmeriCorps tutor, and an infrastructure to recruit and retain about 5000 volunteers each year. This model has also leveraged significant local funding from foundations, individuals, and corporations. This year alone, each of our participating districts have increased their funding to ACE so that we could expand services, and we have increased funding from corporations (e.g. Samsung, Applied Materials, 3M, Austin Energy, etc). The City of Austin has also dedicated funding to ACE for the first time. And more and more individuals are seeing the value of investing in ACE. The dual mission of AmeriCorps also speaks to our stakeholders and donors: not only are they impacting children’s reading and developing our future workforce, but they are growing teachers and future engaged citizens through the tutors’ participation in national service/AmeriCorps.”

Impact Snapshots:

Provide one or more examples of a change in beneficiary knowledge, attitude, behavior or condition that your program has been able to measure. Include the following:

- *Program name and grant number*
- *Geographic location(s)*
- *2-3 sentences describing the problem, intervention and quantifiable change in beneficiaries*

LITERACY COALITION OF CENTRAL TEXAS – AUSTIN AND HOUSTON, TX:

“The Texas Family Literacy AmeriCorps project is working to address two challenges: the number of people needing literacy services and the ability of local providers to respond. 1 in 5 native English speaking adults in Central Texas can’t read or write well enough to fill out a job application, and the trend of illiteracy is growing (National Assessment of Adult Literacy, 2009). The Texas Workforce Investment Council predicts the need for adult basic education will double by 2040. Texas ranks near the bottom of the 50 states in adult literacy levels and spending on adult literacy per capita.

The correlation between education and income is powerful: high school graduates in the US averaged \$31,286 in annual earnings, compared to \$21,484 for those without a high school diploma (US Census). The problems that lead students to drop out and ultimately struggle with poverty can begin even before a child enters kindergarten. Children who have not already developed basic literacy practices when they enter school are three to four times more likely to drop out.

When children enter school without the literacy skills to succeed, and their parents lack the resources to bridge this gap, they are more likely to remain behind, drop out, and eventually face poverty as adults. Not only does a lack of literacy skills limit an individual’s earning potential, feeding cyclical poverty, but it also has a direct effect on a person’s health. Literacy level is the number one predictor of a person’s health status. Individuals with low literacy skills are four times more likely to be in poor health than those with higher literacy skills. The organizations that serve these populations do not currently have the capacity to meet the demands and

members not only help us serve more people, but also help put pieces in place in the organizations where they serve to recruit, manage and retain community volunteers who will continue to support the work when they are gone.”

AMARILLO ISD – AMARILLO, TX:

“The Pillowcase Project is a preparedness education program for third-fifth grade students developed and funded in conjunction with The Walt Disney Company. It teaches children how to prepare for and cope with emergencies and encourages them to share what they have learned with their friends and family. Our local Amarillo Red Cross Chapter is part of the Phase II Pilot for the Pillowcase Project, which includes 58 other Red Cross chapters located around the U.S. Our goal locally is to provide Pillowcase Project training to at least 3,000 students before the end of April 2015. Our team of ten AmeriCorps students have key roles in this project. As Community Disaster Educators, they are delivering the Pillowcase Project lessons, which utilize a LEARN-PRACTICE-SHARE framework. The impact we hope for is that every student, after learning about local disaster hazards and practicing the protective actions to keep safe, will share what they’ve learned with the grown-ups in their respective households. And with every lesson taught, our communities will become a little safer for everyone.” -Karen Tomlinson, Amarillo Red Cross

COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS-HEART OF TEXAS – WACO, TX:

“Our AmeriCorps program saw not only the desired impact on academic engagement in students, but we also saw a dramatic increase in academics themselves. In the 2013-2014 grant year, we had 1806 students enroll in our CIS AmeriCorps program. Among those students, 1292 of them showed an increase in academic achievement. This improvement among the students in our local schools would not have been possible without the presence of an attentive AmeriCorps member. Without the influence of an AmeriCorps member in their lives to help them focus on academics, these students may not have been able to move to the next grade level or pass their STAAR tests. Our AmeriCorps members provide hands on, one-on-one attention for our students that is not possible for school staff to provide, not because they don’t want to, but because they have 20 other students who also need their attention. The students in our program know that the members, their mentors, care about them and want to see each student do their best. Each day I hear stories from my members stating that students look for them each day and come by the CIS room just to talk to them. Because of our AmeriCorps program, over 1800 students in our schools know that there is someone who cares about them and nearly 1300 of those students achieved academic improvement that might not have been possible otherwise.”

CITY SQUARE “FOOD ON THE MOVE” PROGRAM – DALLAS, AUSTIN, HOUSTON, and SAN ANTONIO, TX:

“Texas has the 2nd highest rate of “food insecurity” in the U.S. and the highest rate of child hunger in the nation—1 in 5 children go to bed hungry. Moreover, more than 80% of students in our large urban areas qualify for free and reduced price lunches at school. Unfortunately, when the school day ends, their parents’ inability to provide nutritious meals doesn’t. Every summer more than 500,000 children in Texas go hungry when school lets out and they lose access to free lunch programs. While funding exists to provide food to these children during the summer, currently only 11% of eligible youth receive meals. Traditionally summer food programs operate in schools, recreation centers, parks, summer youth programs – places where children congregate. However, the current system does not work for the most disadvantaged children. CitySquare analyzed the problem and over the past five summers has put in place an innovative solution – dubbed Food on the Move. During the summer, Food on the Move combats childhood hunger by providing a half million meals to children and youth at 100 low-income apartment sites in Dallas and Houston. Powered by CitySquare AmeriCorps members, over 7,500 children and youth are provided with a nutritious meal each day. Additionally, members engage kids in physical activity – over 1,000 kids this summer achieved the Presidential Lifestyle Achievement Award.”

SWIFT – SCHULENBURG, TX:

“AmeriCorps gives my tiny, rural community hope and the means to pursue higher education. Before, many students would graduate high school and directly enter the workforce because the cost of college was not feasible for them. Now, students and others trying to transform their lives are utilizing the AmeriCorps Ed Award and skills gained at trainings to become successful leaders and philanthropists. Grad school would have been an unattainable dream for me without AmeriCorps. I now have sufficient award funds to attend Grad School next Fall. SWIFT has transformed my community by broadening horizons and raising expectations. Graduating college gives AmeriCorps members the power to set an example for their families and show them that achieving higher education is possible.” – Heather Eilers, SWIFT Program Coordinator

TRAVIS COUNTY 4-H CAPITAL – AUSTIN, TX:

“4-H CAPITAL AmeriCorps implements a unique curriculum in Austin ISD Title I schools on the east side of Austin. In our Animal Science program, students learn to care for livestock or other animals which offers a unique experience to youth raised in an urban environment. Urban youth have historically low academic engagement, which afterschool programming has been proven to make a difference in. While we saw increased academic engagement in all our curriculum areas during the 2013-2014 year, we saw the highest percentage of students with increased academic engagement in our Animal Science classes. 70% of the youth in our Animal Science classes showed an increase in academic engagement during the 2013-2014 year, which was at least a 16% higher increase in engagement than in any of the other curriculum areas we offered last year.”

UT-AUSTIN ACE READING CORPS – AUSTIN, TX:

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CITY YEAR – SAN ANTONIO, TX:

“This year, our San Antonio Independent School partners increased their collective rate by .02%. This resulted in a gain of between \$200,000 and \$250,000. City Year was named by Gary Pollack, SAISD’s Director of Attendance Accountability, as “one of the greatest influences in this improvement” due to City Year’s Tier One (whole school and whole classroom) and Tier-Two (targeted interventions with individual and small groups of students) throughout the year in each school.”

COLLEGE FORWARD:

“After extensive pilot testing, College Forward is thrilled to announce the launch of Success Partnerships, a public-private venture with Lone Star College-North Harris in which College Forward AmeriCorps members will provide college persistence and success coaching directly to a cohort of low-income students. Lone Star College-North Harris recognizes that College Forward’s unique near-peer mentor approach delivered by AmeriCorps members is capable of providing the support that students need to stay in school and graduate. An enormous benefit of the program will be the close working relationships that AmeriCorps members will have with the staff of Lone Star College-North Harris, which we predict will have a significant positive impact on our students’ outcomes. As a fee-for-service venture, Success Partnerships will generate income to support College Forward’s core activities. Success Partnerships is a direct outgrowth of the tremendous success of College Forward’s college completion program and is an example of College Forward’s innovative use of AmeriCorps members leverage a partnership opportunity to impact a new community with our high quality services.”

UNT TEXAS HIPPY CORPS – STATEWIDE:

“Texas HIPPY strives to empower parents to be their child’s first teacher. As a part of the home visit, the HIPPY AmeriCorps member demonstrates expressive reading for the parent. This also includes reading concepts that assist the child in gathering main idea Preliminary data shows that the percentage of parents reporting reading to their child at least 3 or more times per week increased from 43% to 82.8% during the 30 weeks of home visits from HIPPY AmeriCorps member. We have also found that the percentage of parents incorporating enrichment activities in reading, such as “stop reading and ask child to tell you what is in a picture” increased from 71% to 95% from the pre- to post-test.”

FRONT STEPS-KEEP AUSTIN HOUSED – AUSTIN, TX:

“Keep Austin Housed AmeriCorps members are placed at 9 different agencies that serve the homeless community in Austin, TX. Many of the agencies at which our members serve utilize Best Single Source Plus (BSS Plus), a grant that provides housing support costs and case management services to clients who are experiencing homelessness or are unstably housed. Last year, the average gross income for a household of three receiving BSS Plus funds was \$1,637/month. The average fair market rent for a two bedroom apartment required for this household was \$1,074/month- or 65% of that family’s income. Finding affordable housing for low-income households is essential to establishing self-sufficiency and stability. Housing these clients becomes even more difficult when factoring in one’s credit history, criminal history, lack of education, mental illness, substance abuse, etc. Our partner agencies’ staff are consistently pushed to the limits in attempting to meet the demands of the community, and the learning curve is often too steep to fill the gaps with volunteers that are available for limited hours. Keep Austin Housed members are an efficient and effective solution for agencies that are constantly at capacity. The living stipend allows members to commit 40 hours per week to their agency, as opposed to utilizing traditional volunteers who are restricted by other commitments. This gives members the opportunity to learn the agency, local resources, and basic case management skills that are necessary when working directly with clients experiencing housing crises. Unlike many staff members, most of our members do not have the educational or professional background necessary to provide clinical services to clients; however, they are able to step in and provide case management services to clients who would otherwise be underserved or not served at all. Specifically, members work directly with clients to set and accomplish goals related to housing and income, teach life skills classes, and help clients develop necessary independent living skills. Additionally, AmeriCorps members recruit and support volunteers that complete a wide variety of tasks such as taking clients to medical appointments or to the grocery store. These volunteer hours allow staff to focus on tasks that require their clinical skills and expertise. Therefore, KAH members augment case management capacity in addition to leveraging additional hours through their support of community volunteers.”