



Montana Campus Compact AmeriCorps Coaches serve in Montana high schools supporting low-income and first-generation junior and senior students with two interventions weekly either before, during or after school hours. These interventions are structured college focused peer groups supported by college access “coaches” (MTCC AmeriCorps Leader and current college student AmeriCorps Team Members) Students will have the opportunity to engage in over 200 hours of programming in a supportive group of college-bound peers. Within these groups, coaches will implement a structured college access curriculum, measure and report programmatic progress, and support students in the college application process. MTCC will model our coaching in part after College Possible a proven program model that leads to 97% of their students are admitted to college. MTCC believes that a college-going culture begins with school staff and provides AmeriCorps coaches to support and enhance this at individual schools. MTCC recognizes that Montana schools are unique environments and each school will have its own needs, so we will work together to address these needs with our AmeriCorps Team of coaches.

Target Population: First Generation and Low-Income Junior and Senior students

The MTCC AmeriCorps program will serve with low-income and first-generation high school juniors and seniors that need support to bridge the gap between high school and college going. The program places them in structured college focused peer groups with college access “coaches” (MTCC AmeriCorps members). Within these groups, coaches will implement a structured college access curriculum, measure and report programmatic progress, and support students in the college application process.

Eligibility requirements: Students must be low-income or first generation, have at least a 2.0 GPA, and have an interest in attending college. Students will commit to attend all programming sessions.

MTCC recognizes that Montana is a unique environment and each school will have its own needs, so we will work together to address these needs with our AmeriCorps Coaches. Please plan to provide a narrative within the application about the schools unique needs and plans to address these needs within the AmeriCorps application.

Recruitment: MTCC suggests counselor recommendations and full school recruitment efforts. In the 2020-2021 year of programming, Counselors, high school staff and the host site supervisor will commit to taking the lead with recruitment efforts, applications and interviewing. Recruitment should start in late spring 2020 after receiving notice of funding from MTCC staff. Having the students recruited in advance, will help to facilitate the programming once AmeriCorps coaches arrive in September 2020 after completing the required MTCC AmeriCorps Orientation. MTCC AmeriCorps Orientation will provide resources and training to AmeriCorps members at the start of the service year. For future years of programming, AmeriCorps Coaches can help with participant recruitment efforts.

Interventions – Twice Weekly:

AmeriCorps Coaches will provide twice weekly, two-hour before school, in school or afterschool sessions for groups of 10-15 students during the academic year. These sessions will comprehensively prepare students for applying to and transitioning to college. AmeriCorps members will also facilitate campus visits, college fair attendance, and two service projects for high school student beneficiaries to engage in.

Administration:

Students will be recruited into the program at the end of their sophomore year of high school. As noted above, for the first year of programming 2020-2021, schools are required to begin recruitment Spring 2020 school year.

Supervision, Support and Training:

Supervision happens locally with Host Site Supervisors (i.e., School Counselors) that commit to support MTCC AmeriCorps Coaches closely during service. Besides the required MTCC AmeriCorps Orientation, MTCC staff will provide weekly support meetings/trainings and required in person training sessions throughout the year of service.

Enhancing the culture of college going: Coaches will work closely with School Counselors to support college access activities for all high school students.

MTCC AmeriCorps Coaches Teams

MTCC AmeriCorps Coaching Teams consist of AmeriCorps Leaders that serve full time and are supported by part-time college student AmeriCorps Members:

- **AmeriCorps Leaders** are full-time service members that commit to serving at least 1,700 hours of service from September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2021. They receive a modest living allowance, healthcare, access to a mental health support, childcare assistance (if eligible), and earn an Education Award of \$6,195 which can go to pay down student loans or for future schooling.
- **AmeriCorps College student Team Members** can be work-study eligible, interns, practicum or volunteer members that commit to serving 300 hours over the academic year or through the summer depending on programming needs. They receive an Education Award of \$1,311.11 after successfully completing at least 300 hours of service.

Intervention Sessions

Recruiting sophomore high school students—the first couple of years of recruitment will need to include sophomore, junior.

I attest, the host site will recruit (with support from the MTCC AmeriCorps Team) first generation and low-income high school students that meet eligibility requirements: *Eligible students must have a GPA of at least 2.0, and have an interest in attending college. Selected students will begin the program in their junior year of high school.*

- Application required: MTCC will provide the application.
- Commitment required: *Students will commit to participating in college fairs, college campus visits and twice weekly two-hour afterschool sessions during the academic year.*
- *Students in the MTCC AmeriCorps program will be recruited during their sophomore year of high school at partner schools and host sites. Program coaches will deliver information sessions to all interested students, outlining the requirements for selection and participation.*

Application/Interview:

Interested sophomores will complete an application and interview with program coaches and/or school counselor and host site supervisors or other staff as appropriate. The interview will gather information about individual students' goals, family background, academic background, and teacher recommendations.

Coaches will serve as advocates, mentors, and resources for the students in their small group, giving them the necessary support to successfully apply to, and enroll in, college.

Small groups (10-15 or less depending on size of school): The MTCC AmeriCorps program will provide intensive coaching for junior and senior high school students. This coaching will prepare them for their application and transition to college and will occur in small groups of 10-15 students per coach. Students will commit to participating in college fairs, college campus visits and twice weekly two-hour afterschool sessions during the academic year.

- 320 hours of direct service over two years: Over the course of their junior and senior year, each student will have the opportunity to receive up to 320 hours of direct service over two years of programming.
- *Don't discriminate for students with jobs and sports—students must commit to attend at least 30 hours of coaching.*

Afterschool, Before school, or During School Programming Commitment to two hours weekly:

Coaches will give support and resources through structured afterschool or in-school sessions.

Junior Programming: During a student's junior year of high school, they will receive programming that addresses college awareness, academic support, planning financially for college, and intensive ACT preparation.

Senior programming in their senior year of high school addresses finding best-fit colleges, applying to college, financial aid consultation and support, planning financially for college, and guidance on transitioning to college.

Service Projects – civic engagement is an important part of being a civically engaged citizen

Students will commit to engaging in two service projects each academic year. These volunteer events will be organized by the MTCC AmeriCorps members, and support student values of service and giving back to communities.

Building/enhancing a Culture of College Going

AmeriCorps College Access Corps members will also work to build a culture of college going among all high school students through different avenues including career coaching, mentoring and engaging them in service projects. We strongly believe that the college going culture is the business of all staff, teachers, parents, and we would like to ensure they all be included in building and enhancing the culture.

Data Collection: All AmeriCorps teams are required to use MTCC data collection tools and submit a monthly report highlighting service activities and numbers of beneficiaries served. Host Site Supervisors are required to be involved with data collection efforts and be able to monitor for accuracy.