

So, you'd like to set up your own AmeriCorps position?

College students do amazing things all across Montana, and many times a class with an observation or experiential component can spur excitement about getting more experience in a professional setting while making a difference. *This document is designed to provide a basic road map for current Montana college students who are interested in creating an AmeriCorps placement for themselves.* This process can take some time, so being persistent and patient are key.

Did you know that in some cases AmeriCorps service, which is intentionally designed to address unmet community needs, can be combined with Work Study, internship, service learning, practicum and long-term volunteer placements? It can! *AmeriCorps means an increased commitment level to meeting needs in our communities and members agree to "make our communities safer, stronger and healthier."* In recognition of their contributions, they receive an [Education Award](#) after successfully completing a service term. Some positions can even come with a modest living allowance. If that is what you'd like to do, here are the steps.

- 1) Identify whether the **project** you're interested in serving with meets these basic criteria:
 - a) Addresses an unmet community need (e.g. school success, hunger);
 - b) Focuses on education (access and success), poverty alleviation, or support for veterans and their families;
 - c) Is primarily of a "hands-on" nature or has a very tangible product, (e.g. a volunteer database, a curriculum, etc.); and
 - d) Benefits a community that has been historically marginalized.

- 2) Identify a **service site** for your activities. This can be a college, school, nonprofit, or government agency. You'll want to make sure that there is a person on staff able to provide guidance, supervision, and hours certification. You should also identify a physical location from which you can serve, one that grants you access to clients or students who meet the above criteria. This can be formalized with a project application*, and an email from the site supervisor letting us know you've been in touch and will be serving as their AmeriCorps member.

-[This page](#) features links to the summer and part-time AmeriCorps site applications that need to be completed.

-Questions about which site application to complete should be directed to [Callye Foster](#).

**Please note that hosting projects may come with a service site fee, and this is the responsibility of the service site, not you. Service sites with financial need may request a fee waiver.*

- 3) **Enroll**, get oriented, and begin your AmeriCorps service! Once you've got an approved service site proposal, you will need to complete your AmeriCorps enrollment and attend an orientation. Montana Campus Compact will help to guide you through these processes, and support you throughout the service term. If you're simultaneously pursuing an internship, practicum, or other credit bearing experience, you will need to complete that process through the appropriate campus office.