

National Process, Outcomes, and Impact Evaluation of Public Health AmeriCorps

Study Fact Sheet

Summary

Public Health AmeriCorps, a partnership between AmeriCorps and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has invested since Spring 2022 in programs across the country to (1) engage AmeriCorps members in addressing local public health needs, (2) advance equitable health outcomes for underserved communities, and (3) create pathways to public health-related careers. To document implementation, facilitate “real-time” learning and improvement, and assess progress toward goals, outcomes, and impacts, AmeriCorps contracted with JBS International to conduct a five-year evaluation of Public Health AmeriCorps.

Study Background

Public Health AmeriCorps is a partnership between AmeriCorps and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that includes a \$400 million investment, over five years, from the American Rescue Plan Act workforce funding that will enable the recruitment, training, and development of a new generation of public health leaders who are ready to respond to the needs of the nation by serving their communities. Public Health AmeriCorps has two main goals:

1. Address public health needs of local communities by providing support in state and local public health settings and advancing equitable health outcomes for underserved communities.
2. Create pathways to public health-related careers through onsite experience and training, and recruiting AmeriCorps members who reflect the communities they serve.

In Spring 2022, Public Health AmeriCorps began investing in programs across the country to support COVID-19 pandemic recovery and meet public health needs of local communities. Public Health AmeriCorps members provide needed capacity and support in local public health settings to advance more equitable health outcomes, emphasizing historically underserved communities.

In August 2022, AmeriCorps contracted with JBS International, an independent research and evaluation firm, to conduct a multi-year national evaluation of this Initiative. The purpose is (1) to document implementation, facilitate “real-time” learning and process improvement and (2) to assess the Initiative’s progress toward goals and capture program outcomes and impacts. The Office of Research and Evaluation at AmeriCorps, in consultation with the CDC, is managing the national evaluation.

Study Goals

The national Public Health AmeriCorps evaluation will help AmeriCorps and its stakeholders understand the extent to which Public Health AmeriCorps is progressing toward its goals to address public health needs and develop the next generation of public health leaders. The Public Health AmeriCorps evaluation has three primary objectives:

1. Assess how Public Health AmeriCorps strengthens capacity to address the public health needs, especially in communities that have been historically underserved, and how recruiting members from within the communities grantees serve affects both communities and members;
2. Identify successes, challenges, and lessons learned in implementing Public Health AmeriCorps;
3. Examine members’ public-health-related career pathways, civic participation, commitment to national service, and sense of community.

Study Design

The mixed methods evaluation will use quantitative and qualitative data to answer the following evaluation questions:

- What are the overall successes and challenges of implementing Public Health AmeriCorps? How do grantees measure their performance and program effectiveness? What are the outreach and retention strategies grantees use?
- What education, training, and workforce development supports do Public Health AmeriCorps members receive that allow them to serve communities and prepare them to achieve their public health career goals?
- What is the nature of the relationship and partnership between grantees and their local and state health departments?
- Does participation in Public Health AmeriCorps affect civic and community engagement?
- Does participation in Public Health AmeriCorps lead to placement in public health-related careers? Does participation in Public Health AmeriCorps lead members to pursue or obtain credentials, certifications, or degrees in a public health occupation?

JBS International will collect data from the following sources: surveys of grantee/subgrantees and member; grantee documents and literature reviews expert stakeholder discussions; and focus groups and interviews with AmeriCorps and CDC staff, grantees/subgrantees, members, and community members.

Key Evaluation Activities & Timelines in 2023

January - March 2023	Literature Review
January - June 2023	Identify and secure existing secondary data sources
February - June 2023	AmeriCorps and subject expert advisory group meetings
February - April 2023	Develop instruments
April - May 2023	Pilot test instruments
April - June 2023	Draft evaluation design
May - August 2023	Submit OMB Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) packet
March - May 2023	Focus groups and interviews with grantees
January - December 2024	OMB approval, implement data collection, and conduct analysis

Between March and May 2023, JBS staff, in collaboration with the Office of Research and Evaluation, will gather data to inform how best to implement the evaluation

- **Interviews and focus groups.** JBS staff will contact AmeriCorps, CDC, and grantee staff to participate in virtual interviews and focus groups to discuss successes, opportunities, challenges and other experiences implementing Public Health AmeriCorps programs.
- **Pilot surveys.** JBS staff will request a small number of grantee staff and members to participate in piloting online member survey, focus group, and interview protocols designed to assess the Initiative's influence on members, grantees, and communities.

Study Contacts

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If you have questions, please contact us at PublicHealthAmeriCorpsEval@cns.gov