



Experience Matters
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Experience Matters AmeriCorps Program Program Year 2016

Phoenix, Arizona

Federal Legislative District(s) 24

PROGRAM FAST FACTS

Congressional District(s): 7
State Legislative District(s): 24
Service Area by County/City: Maricopa County
Project Federal Share: \$166,157
Project Local Match: \$87,464
Community Volunteers Recruited: 49
Volunteer Hours Served: 20,400
Value of Volunteer Hours: \$456,349
*2011 Independent Sector Rate for the Value of a Volunteer Hour in Arizona is \$22.37

Community Need

The Experience Matters AmeriCorps Program is designed to work with Public and Charter Schools to help the students and the schools to succeed by engaging retired skilled adults. Teachers often are short on time and resources to assist struggling students and schools often lack the time and resources to build a strong volunteer program. The program addresses these issues through direct service by members tutoring students and through capacity building, where members help build the volunteer base at the school and help improve the volunteer experience.

National Priority Area and Program

Performance Goals

Education & Healthy Future

- **840 students are matched with mentors and receive coaching in college and career readiness**
- **380 students in grades 1 – 3 are matched with reading tutors**
- **Partnering schools will implement effective volunteer management practices developed by the member**
- **Members have a meaningful Encore experience**

Program Activities

In partnership with HandsOn Greater Phoenix's Your Experience Counts program, members assist teachers in the classroom by tutoring students in grade 3 – 6 in reading, writing, and math. The Experience Corps Phoenix program places reading tutors in Phoenix Title 1 elementary schools, each with a majority of minority students, high levels of poverty and high levels of free and reduced lunch participation and a low number of students passing 3rd grade reading tests. AmeriCorps members take on the role of the site coordinator and manage the volunteer reading tutors. Experience Matters also places AmeriCorps members at College Depot and Central High School. These projects focus on giving students the skills to be ready for college and career after high school.

Program Impact

Experience Matters is collaborating with the City of Phoenix and AARP Foundation in the Experience Corps Phoenix program, a K-3 literacy program based on AARP's highly successful national Experience Corps model. Leveraging partnerships with programs such as Experience Corps Phoenix allows us to have a targeted recruitment strategy, place members in projects with well-defined expectations and goals, and offer projects to schools that have a demonstrated impact and require a minimum of time and resource commitment from school administrators and teachers. Studies have shown that students who do not read at grade level by the end of 3rd grade are four times more likely to drop out of high school than students who do read at grade level. The Experience Corps Program's primary focus area is Third Grade Reading Proficiency.



Experience Matters AmeriCorps Program

Mission

Experience Matters aims to create a culture in our community and its organizations which fosters meaningful work and service opportunities for people age 50+.

Vision

Experience Matters vision is to effect lasting social change via a movement that change the face of civic engagement and has the potential to transform the structure and sustainability of hundreds of nonprofits throughout Maricopa County. Our purpose is to develop and organize the marketplace that connects adults age 50+ to social purpose opportunities Recognized nationally as a groundbreaking initiative, Experience Matters engages the time, talent and experience of adults age 50+ to help meet the growing needs in the public and nonprofit sector. Focusing specifically on the one million-plus Baby Boomers in Maricopa County, Experience Matters strives to prepare the civic and social purpose sectors in the creation of paid and unpaid opportunities for these experienced workers.



History

Since 2009, Experience Matters has served over 1500 individuals and more than 437 social purpose organizations through a best practice platform model that connects passionate skilled adults aged 50+ with community organizations. Our programs offer the variety and flexibility that Boomers have told us they need in term of structure (schedule, commitment, experience level, continued income) and purpose (interest area, connections, outcomes) in order to use their experience effectively and to address specific community needs.

Experience Matters views national service as a powerful pathway for Boomer adults to engage in and strengthen our community while helping them shift to social service endeavors and positively impact the community. Experience Matters has both an AmeriCorps grant from the Arizona Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism and the Senior Corps RSVP grant for central, north, and west Maricopa County. Both programs have a primary focus on education, specifically school-based literacy tutoring and youth mentoring. Through collaborative partnerships, Experience Matters is committed to playing a leading role in providing services to improve language and literacy outcomes for Arizona's children.

Partnerships

The Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust has been a major supporter and strategic partner in carrying out the mission of Experience Matters. Encore.org and their Encore Fellows Network is another strategic partner. Experience Matters is part of the national network of organizations that deliver the Encore Fellow Program to their community. In addition, BHHS Legacy Foundation, Nina Mason Pulliam Trust, and Bruce T. Halle Foundation have all made significant investments in Experience Matters to support the development and implementation of our programs and services we offer nonprofit organizations to effectively engage skilled community talent age 50+. The RSVP Senior Corps program has directly been supported by Thunderbird Charities and the APS Foundation. We continue to build significant partnership to directly support our goals with our RSVP program including:

- Read On Arizona and their affiliate networks in the Maricopa County area
- City of Phoenix
- AARP – Experience Corps
- Arizona Caregiver Coalition
- Central High School
- 15 Elementary Schools within Phoenix City Limits

OTHER

Broadly speaking, through our National Service Programs Experience Matters is providing an innovative intergenerational approach to improve education and strengthen communities while supporting the changing expectations and needs of Boomers in Maricopa County.



AARP Experience Corps Phoenix Program "Rollout" at Wilson Elementary School.