



Back AmeriCorps to Boost Community Health May 2025

What is AmeriCorps & Why It Matters

- 🍏 AmeriCorps is a cost-effective, high-impact national service program that enables organizations, like CHCANYS, to address complex challenges faced by people living in communities served by community health centers (CHCs).
- 🍏 AmeriCorps offers individuals the opportunity to serve their country and gain community work experience by addressing critical community needs.
- 🍏 Each year, approximately 75,000 AmeriCorps members and 140,000 AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers serve with nonprofit, community organizations to support disaster response, veterans, address the opioid crisis, combat hunger and homelessness, and so much more.

CHCANYS Public Health AmeriCorps Program

- 🍏 CHCANYS was a NYS subgrantee under the Public Health AmeriCorps program, a strategic workforce development initiative that expanded healthcare access and strengthened the public health workforce.
- 🍏 The CHCANYS Public Health AmeriCorps program placed members directly in CHCs to support patients and communities, increase access and service utilization, and train future CHC staff.
- 🍏 The program was an essential vital workforce pipeline for CHCs, who continue to face persistent workforce shortages. Many AmeriCorps members go on to transition to permanent roles within their health centers or pursue a career in CHCs after completing their service.

AmeriCorps in Crisis

- 🍏 **On April 28, 2025**, the NYS Commission on National and Community Service announced the **immediate termination of all AmeriCorps programs in New York.**
- 🍏 The announcement follows a federal directive from the **Department of Government Efficiency** cancelling **\$400M in AmeriCorps grants.**
- 🍏 The CHCANYS Public Health AmeriCorps program was ordered to cease all operations, effectively shutting down this vital program.

Impact of the AmeriCorps Shutdown

- 🍏 **47 CHCANYS AmeriCorps members are now suspended, halting services at 9 CHCs statewide.**
- 🍏 CHCs face intensified workforce shortages, losing a valuable pipeline of future public health professionals during an ongoing healthcare workforce crisis.
- 🍏 Vital health care services were disrupted, directly impacting patients served by health centers.

Immediate federal action is needed to restore AmeriCorps funding.

The program is a cost-effective, high-impact solution vital to fostering healthier, more resilient communities across the nation.