



NEWS



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AmeriCorps Members Serving at the Health Department Get Things Done in McLean County *It's AmeriCorps Week in Illinois*

BLOOMINGTON – Making people safer, stronger and healthier; strengthening communities; and getting things done for America are core reasons why people choose to become AmeriCorps members. The McLean County Health Department has benefitted from the assistance and support of AmeriCorps members for the past 14 years. Through the years, these hard-working individuals have been instrumental in activities such as helping establish a Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) at the Health Department, assisting with investigations during communicable disease outbreaks, working with residents to identify functional needs in the county, and contributing to disaster-preparedness planning.

So just what is AmeriCorps? AmeriCorps is a network of national service programs that each take a different approach to improving lives and fostering civic engagement. It's called a *Corps* because like the Military or the Peace Corps, it is another form of service to the country. AmeriCorps members are dedicated to strengthening communities and can choose to commit to service for anywhere from 3 months to a year.

There are currently two AmeriCorps members serving at the Health Department, each addressing different community needs. One member is working to expand the reach of the Mental Health First Aid trainings, another is working on projects to help recruit MRC volunteers and plan for the Health Department's next full-scale disaster exercise. As we recognize AmeriCorps Week from March 11 through March 17, we thank past and present AmeriCorps members for helping the Health Department keep our community protected and strong.

The AmeriCorps network of national service programs is made up of three primary programs that each take a different approach to improving lives and fostering civic engagement. Benefits of service include perks such as a living allowance, skills and training, limited health benefits and student loan deferment. The Health Department will be recruiting its next Illinois Public Health Association (IPHA) AmeriCorps member in July. To learn more about the IPHA AmeriCorps Program, visit: <http://americorps.ipha.com/>. For information about the full range of opportunities offered by AmeriCorps, visit: <https://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/americorps>.

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