



EAST BAY CONSERVATION CORPS/AMERICORPS COLLABORATIVE

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

- Margaret Mead

1995-96 PROGRAM YEAR

OUR MISSION:

We seek to build an army of volunteers, inspired, diverse, enthusiastic, creative, and devoted to the fundamental belief that we can and will build and strengthen communities.

"AmeriCorps gave me the courage and skills to do something about societal problems. I would like to see this opportunity available to a lot of my friends.

My future has been defined by what I accomplished this year."

Neffitiria Staton, 1995 AmeriCorps Health Team Graduate

"While my year was a personal growth experience for me, I'm most proud of what I got done this year. I see that I have changed the lives of several children. At times the responsibility seemed overwhelming. But to see those children today makes all of my hard efforts worth it."

Kele Nitoto, 1995 AmeriCorps Education Team Graduate

"The AmeriCorps Members who have worked this year with severely emotionally disturbed teens in our residential and special education treatment programs have meant all the difference in the world. Their commitment, enthusiasm, intelligence and willingness to grow and learn was matched by the positive results of those kids they served. Our setting is a tough one and their presence, characterized by their perseverance, creativity and collaboration, enhanced our overall program greatly. A breath of fresh air!

**John F. Steinfirsh, President & CEO, Fred Finch Youth Center,
Oakland, CA**

I. The National Service Movement

The AmeriCorps program of the 1990's is the latest in a long tradition of volunteer service in America. It draws from the experience and traditions of the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's, the G.I. Bill of the 1940's-50's, the Peace Corps and Vista of the 1960's-70's, and innovative programs of the 1980's.

AmeriCorps provides people of all ages and backgrounds the chance to lead America into the 21st century by helping communities-in-need. The AmeriCorps Ethic has four components that ensure benefits to all involved in service:

Getting Things Done: We provide direct and tangible improvements to our communities with so many unmet needs.

Strengthening Our Communities: We work in communities with diverse groups of people to build a shared tradition of service.

Encouraging Personal Responsibility: We want to show the nation the true value of the energy and leadership of young people.

Expanding Opportunities for Youth: We create more opportunity for those who take more responsibility. In exchange for their service, AmeriCorps Members receive job and life skills, assistance towards school, and a greater sense of responsibility and achievement.

II. A National Program at the State Level: the AmeriCorps Structure

AmeriCorps has not created a new bureaucracy of agencies. Rather, it operates through existing local agencies that have reputations for achieving tangible improvements in local communities. In the first full year of the program, 1994, AmeriCorps funded over three hundred programs nationwide to operate at over 1,200 locations with over 20,000 Members. The AmeriCorps Program is run by a federal office, **Corporation for National Service** in Washington, D.C. The Corporation has set up a small office in each state, **State Commissions on National Service**. Each State Commission maintains and funds a strong network of local programs prepared to provide high quality community service.

III. The East Bay Conservation Corps-AmeriCorps Collaborative

Since 1983, EBCC has been a nationally-recognized innovator in community service, youth development, and service-learning programs. EBCC has developed an exciting AmeriCorps program in collaboration with twenty-two local agencies to provide young adults a chance to serve in the areas of education; health; and environment. Members are placed in teams that serve at local agency sites. Partners in the EBCC-AmeriCorps Collaborative have included:

Alameda County Public Health Department
Berkeley Community Media
Berkeley High School
Cal Adventures
Berkeley Youth Alternatives
City of Oakland Parks & Rec
City of Oakland Economic Development & Employment
City of Oakland Public Works
City of Oakland Unified School District
East Bay Regional Park District
East Bay Conservation Corps
East Bay Asian Youth Center / RAP
Environment Protection Agency
Fred Finch & Seneca Youth Centers
Military Base Closure Project
Multicultural Alliance
Project YES
Spanish Speaking Citizens Foundation
U.C. Berkeley School Wellness Program
Ujima House
Urban Strategies Council
Youth Employment Partnership, Inc.

IV. For agencies interested in joining the EBCC-AmeriCorps Collaborative:

EBCC acts as the lead partner in a collaborative with twenty-two partner agencies that provide service to communities in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Partner agencies play a key role in recruitment, selection, and supervision of EBCC-AmeriCorps Members. Agencies also help to design and facilitate portions of the EBCC's service-learning and training program for Members. In addition, partners contribute a portion of the mandated annual local match needed to run the program. The competitive process to become a partner involves submitting a Letter of Intent and a Scope of Work Plan to the EBCC prior to the beginning of each program cycle (September and January of each year). *Please call Al Auletta, Development Director, for additional details at (510) 891-3919.*

V. For individuals interested in joining the AmeriCorps program for one year of service:

To apply for the EBCC-AmeriCorps program, prospective candidates must be at least seventeen years old (there is no upper age limit), have a High School Diploma or GED, and have a strong desire to serve others. In exchange for 1700 hours (11 months) of service, Members receive:

- **A high-quality service position @ 40 hrs/wk**
 - **\$600 per month Living Stipend**
 - **\$4,725 Education Award Voucher**
 - **Healthcare & Childcare**
 - **Training & Workshops**
 - **Life-long insights and friends!**

Call or visit EBCC to obtain an AmeriCorps application.

We can be reached at (510) 208-6138.

VI. Highlights & Accomplishments: AmeriCorps Members put in over 50,000 hours of service last year to achieve some of the following astounding results:

EDUCATION

- Tutored and mentored over 1,600 youth in basic academics and life skills.
- Taught environmental education and outdoor safety to 1,000 disadvantaged and disabled youth.

HEALTH

- Enrolled 4,000 children in immunization programs.
- Provided health outreach education on STD's, HIV, Substance Abuse, and Physical Health to over 1,000 people.

ENVIRONMENT

- Mapped over 300 miles of High Risk Fire Trails.
- Built and maintained over 20 community gardens.
- Performed neighborhood beautification (cleanups, murals) and maintenance at over 30 urban public spaces and parks.
- Planted over 1,000 trees in urban neighborhoods and parks.

VII. Key Phone Numbers

Corporation For National Service

(for a directory of programs nationwide): 1-800-942-2677

California Commission on Improving Life Through Service

(for a directory of California programs near you): 1-916-323-7646

East Bay Conservation Corps-AmeriCorps Collaborative

(for a list of over 120 currently available positions): 1-510-208-6138