

NEWS RELEASE

Arizona Supreme Court
Administrative Office of the Courts



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Arizona AmeriCorps Programs Receive National Grant Funding

PHOENIX – The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) recently awarded more than \$560 million nationally for AmeriCorps funding. AmeriCorps programs help national and local organizations, including Arizona’s courts. The AmeriCorps program, which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, was implemented nationally to respond to critical issues in communities.

The Arizona Supreme Court and Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) was awarded nearly \$240,000 dollars in national competitive funding to support the Adult Probation Support Services AmeriCorps Program. This includes nearly \$174,000 dollars in federal funds and \$64,000 in state matching funds to support 50 AmeriCorps members who will serve throughout the state, both in rural and urban communities. The AOC was the first to receive national competitive funding for a National Service program geared toward reducing recidivism in the adult and juvenile probation populations.

In partnership with Superior Court Adult and Juvenile Probation Departments, the AOC will place 50 AmeriCorps members who will serve within the Adult Probation system in Apache, Coconino, Maricopa, Navajo, Pima, Pinal, Yavapai and Yuma Counties. AmeriCorps members will deliver services by aiding Probation Officers to help probationers in ways that will help probationers change behaviors to decrease their risks of reoffending. The services will include assisting with the increase of self- sufficiency skills, soft skills, and work-force development skills; assisting with integrated cognitive behavior change programs; providing links to education resources, such as access to GED preparation courses and technical trainings; providing assistance with case management duties; providing court navigation assistance; and providing

referral services for both probationers in the community and probationers soon to be released into the community.

Arizona's AmeriCorps Program competed for the funds under the CNCS' Safer Communities Funding Priority. AmeriCorps members will provide services that will enhance community supervision services that probation officers currently provide, focusing on recidivism reduction, the protection of the public, and rehabilitation of offenders. The proposed AmeriCorps involvement will strengthen partnerships with probation departments, law enforcement agencies, and the communities in which probationers live. This creates safer communities by providing probationers with direct services and connections to other services and programs that in turn decrease their chances of engaging in risky behaviors.

Other Arizona agencies that received the competitive funding include the American Conservation Experience, the Arizona Board of Regents for Northern Arizona University and the University of Arizona, Prescott College, La Frontera Center, Area Agency on Aging and Arizona State University.

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