



AMERICAN CONNECTION

CORPS

An  AmeriCorps program of **LEAD FOR AMERICA**

MINNESOTA GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON BROADBAND
MAY 2024

MEET THE PRESENTERS



Taylor Stuckert
ACC Executive Director



Becky Johnson
ACC Program Officer

ACC is connecting
people to places and possibilities
in digitally disconnected communities
across America.

ACC Members

serve shoulder-to-shoulder

with local partners on the ground.

ACC Geography

14 STATES > 28 STATES

50 MEMBERS > 95 MEMBERS

JUST THE BEGINNING.



1. Arkansas State Broadband Office - Little Rock, AR
2. Baystate Health - Springfield, MA
3. Berkshire Regional Planning Commission - Pittsfield, MA
4. Boston Medical Center - Boston, MA
5. Center for Social Justice @ WNEU School of Law - Springfield, MA
6. City of Quincy - Quincy, MA
7. City of Santa Paula (3) - Santa Paula, CA
8. Communities Unlimited- Nacogdoches (2) - Nacogdoches, TX
9. Communities Unlimited- Texarkana (2) - Texarkana, AR
10. Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine - Muscatine, IA
11. Computers For People Inc. - Hoboken, NJ
12. Connect Humanity - Eastgate Council of Govt (2) - Youngstown, OH
13. Connect Humanity - Headquarters - Youngstown, OH
14. County of Hawai'i; Research and Development - Hilo, HI
15. CultureALL - Urbandale, IA
16. Empower SouthWest Georgia - Cuthbert, GA
17. Goodwill Industries of Kansas - Wichita, KS
18. Illinois Broadband Office - North Central - Normal, IL
19. Illinois Broadband Office - Northeast II: Cook County - Chicago, IL
20. Illinois Broadband Office - Southwest - Edwardsville, IL
21. Illinois Broadband Office- East Central - Champaign, IL
22. Illinois Office of Broadband - Central - Springfield, IL
23. Illinois Office of Broadband- Northwest - DeKalb, IL
24. Island Institute - Rockland, ME
25. Jefferson Parish Library - Metairie, LA
26. KC Digital Drive - Kansas City, KS
27. Kentucky Office of Broadband Development - Frankfort, KY
28. LatinX Digital Leaders Now - Chicago, IL
29. Lead for America - Wichita (3) - Wichita, KS
30. MACIR inc - Boston, MA
31. MakeIT Haverhill - Haverhill, MA
32. Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission - Dayton, OH
33. Ministerial Association of Colusa County - Colusa, CA
34. Minnesota - Koochiching County - International Falls, MN
35. Montachusett Regional Planning Commission - Leominster, MA
36. Neighborhood Allies - Pittsburgh, PA
37. NC Dept. of Information Technology - Raleigh, NC
38. Nubian Directions II, Inc. - Poughkeepsie, NY
39. ParkLands Foundation - Normal, IL
40. Partners for Rural Impact - Clemson, SC
41. Partners for Rural Impact - National Priority State - Raleigh, NC
42. Partners for Rural Impact - Promise Zone Counties - Berea, KY
43. Partners for Rural Impact- Clay County - Berea, KY
44. Poughkeepsie City Schools - Poughkeepsie, NY
45. Shaping Our Appalachian Region Inc. - Pikeville, KY
46. Southeastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission - Versailles, IN
47. Southeastern Regional Commission and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) - Taunton, MA
48. Southern Indiana Development Commission - Loogootee, IN
49. Tech Foundry - Springfield, MA
50. Tech2Elevate Inc (3) - Ambridge, PA
51. The Art Effect - Poughkeepsie, NY
52. Tree Pittsburgh - Pittsburgh, PA
53. Tucson Industrial Development Authority - Tucson, AZ
54. University of Florida/IFAS Extension Holmes County - Bonifay, FL
55. University of Idaho Extension - Couer d'Alene Tribe - Plummer, ID
56. University of Idaho Extension - Lemhi County - Salmon, ID
57. University of Idaho Extension - Teton County - Driggs, ID
58. University of Idaho Extension - Shoshone-Bannock Tribes - Fort Hall, ID
59. West Central Initiative - Fergus Falls, MN
60. Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas - Wichita, KS

**Over the past 2 years, ACC
AmeriCorps Members have
demonstrated a significant impact
in the communities they serve.**



ACC IMPACT SUMMARY

CUMULATIVE FROM AUGUST 2021 - AUGUST 2023*

119

Grants Pursued



Awaiting
46.2%



Awarded
53.8%

Totalling
\$63,912,904



97

Broadband Action Teams (BATs) formed with Members engaged

319

Town Halls & Public Workshops Hosted



7,760

Households connected to affordable broadband via ACP & Community Outreach

3,280

Households connected via new infrastructure



91%

of members are working on projects their host sites wish to prioritize but wouldn't have capacity to complete without an ACC Member.



75

ACC Members Deployed through



AmeriCorps



7,755

Speed Mapping Tests Conducted

78



Public-Private Partnerships fostered and/or supported by Members



290

Digital Skill Building Workshops

LEAD FOR AMERICA & ACC IN MINNESOTA

MAKING AN IMPACT RIGHT HERE IN MINNESOTA

22 AmeriCorps Members placed in Minnesota since 2019

40 communities served in Minnesota since 2019



Over **\$12 million** leveraged for broadband and community development from member's efforts



roughly 90% of our alumni stay in Minnesota after service



Amber Lewis
Northspan, Duluth, MN

WHAT DO ACC MEMBERS DO?

Mobilize Resources

119

Grants Pursued



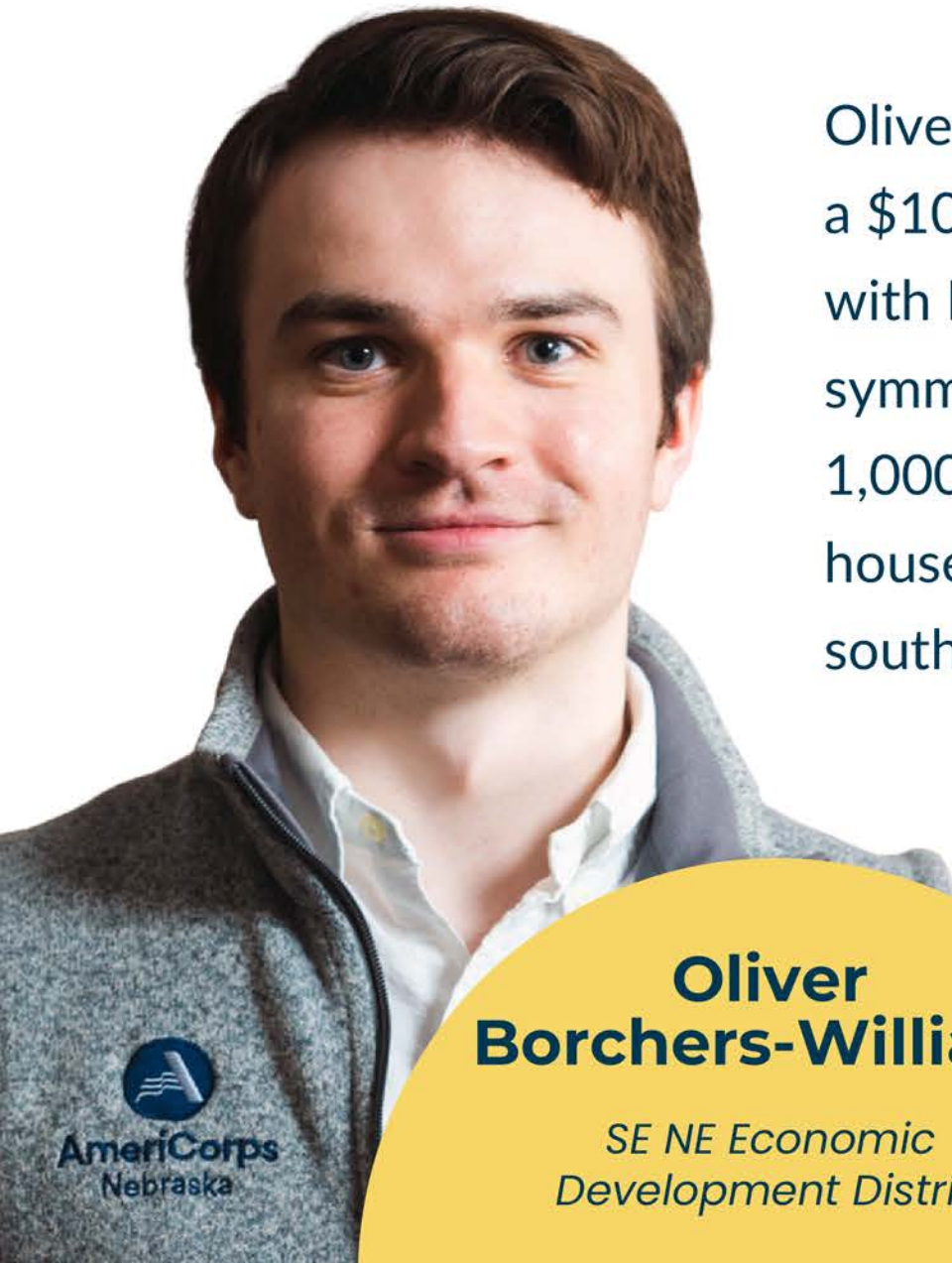
Awaiting 46.2%
Awarded 53.8%

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Households connected via new infrastructure



Oliver Borchers-Williams

SE NE Economic Development District

Oliver helped Gage County, NE secure a \$10 million public-private partnership with Nextlink ISP that will deliver symmetrical 2 Gbps speeds to nearly 1,000 unserved and underserved households in unincorporated areas of southeast Nebraska.



Patrick Garry

Redwood County, MN Economic Development Authority

Patrick helped Redwood County, MN secure \$2,259,955 in state grant funding. Patrick built impactful public-private partnerships between Arvig and Hanson Communications ISPs, bringing high-speed internet to 2,399 unserved residents.



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Facilitate Partnerships

Katie convened 4 local ISPs together to split service areas and collaborate on grant applications. She provides providers with GIS maps and community support documents, and engages them on digital skilling classes for seniors and schools in the county. Through her service, Mercer County IL will ensure 100% fiber + wireless connections county-wide.



Katie Herbert

Mercer County Board
Mercer County, IL



Activate Community Engagement

Kathy launched a pilot program with senior citizens to teach digital literacy. Seniors, ranging in age from 65-96, are introduced to technology and provided devices for learning. The devices, which are donated by community partner er2, are used in a lab-style format.



Kathy Lofton

Innovate Memphis
Memphis, TN



A national network of leaders with empathy and diversity of lived experiences to bridge the divides in our nation.

"This Membership has meant the world to me because I grew up in a low-income, rural area and know how important our service is to the communities we serve. It sets me up for the future by developing my professional capacity, interpersonal skills, and ability to innovate."

- Kenneth Edwards
Auburn Development Council
Auburn, Nebraska

**It's clear we cannot
alleviate social and
economic inequities
without addressing
the digital divide.**



Community & Economic Development



Health & Social Capital



Agriculture & Natural Resources



“I’ve so thoroughly enjoyed my ACC experience. It has perfectly united two things that I love: agriculture and improving my community. I can’t imagine a better program to bring these two worlds together.”

Sidney Grantham
Bonifay, FL

Member Profile: Sidney

Host Site: University of Florida Extension, Holmes County (Bonifay, FL)

Program Area: Agriculture & Natural Resources

Impact: Collaborating with numerous Holmes County stakeholders and university faculty to advance agricultural tourism and improve agricultural practices through technology.



"ACC service has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. It's enabled me to give back to my hometown and its people, and meeting so many talented members from diverse backgrounds and places around America has truly been inspiring."

Tim Gerlach
International Falls, MN

Member Profile: Tim

Host Site: Koochiching County (International Falls, MN)

Program Area: Community & Economic Development

Impact: Collaborated with local officials to enhance digital resources for community members, expand broadband access, address affordability issues, and offer tech skill development programs.



"My ACC experience has given me the opportunity to serve and improve a community that has done so much for my immigrant family. I've used digital storytelling to bridge divides in rural communities, enabling lowans from different walks of life to learn about one another, and to feel like they all truly belong in the state."

JJ Kapur
Des Moines, IA

Member Profile: JJ

Host Site: CultureALL (Des Moines, IA)

Program Area: Health & Social Capital

Impact: Designing and implementing an affordable, practical digital storytelling program that introduces rural lowans to their neighbors, whose life experiences and cultures differ from their own.



"Serving with ACC has been so fulfilling - I've exceeded my goals and become a better equity advocate and community leader. I've built strong relationships and uncovered new opportunities to demonstrate my skills while learning new ones."

Nsai Temko
Pittsburgh, PA

Member Profile: Nsai

Host Site: Tree Pittsburgh (Pittsburgh, PA)

Program Area: Agriculture & Natural Resources

Impact: Coordinates outreach activities that promote tree conservation in high-need communities across the city. Leverages mapping software (ArcGIS) to bring a data-driven approach to her organization.



PEOPLE

PLACE

POSSIBILITY

WHAT SETS US APART?

LIVING EXPENSES

HEALTHCARE/CHILDCARE

TRAINING AND TRAVEL

EDUCATION AWARD

OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO SERVICE



AMERICAN CONNECTION
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PEOPLE

PLACE

POSSIBILITY

NATIONAL SCALE-LOCAL FOCUS

1:1 EXPERIENCE

ACCESS TO RESOURCES

BRIDGING DIVIDES

STRENGTHENING CONNECTION



STATE PARTNERSHIPS

ACC 2023-24

ACC STATE PARTNERSHIP

ILLINOIS

Host Site Approach

Illinois chose to place their 9 Members individually in regions across the state; each Member's host site was a state university branch (NIU, SIU, WIU, etc).

Funding & Contracting Approach

The convening and funding partner leading the charge in Illinois was the [Illinois Broadband Lab](#) (a quasi-government entity) and the University of Illinois Extension system.

Training & Management Approach

While university chapters supervised Members' day-to-day activities in their communities, training was predominantly provided by the Illinois Broadband Lab team.



ACC STATE PARTNERSHIP

IDAHO

Host Site Approach

Idaho chose to place 10 Members across the state, each serving with a branch of the University of Idaho Extension System. All Members served either rural or tribal communities.

Funding & Contracting Approach

The University of Idaho Extension System fully funded all 10 Members.

Training & Management Approach

All training was conducted centrally, administered by the Digital Economy branch of the Extension System.



ACC STATE PARTNERSHIP

MASSACHUSETTS

Host Site Approach

Massachusetts chose to place 15 Members at a mix of host sites statewide - some hosts were nonprofits, while others were municipalities.

Funding & Contracting Approach

All Members were funded by the Massachusetts Broadband Initiative (MBI), which functions as the state broadband office. MBI also raised private funding from Comcast to support the statewide corps effort, adding an additional 5 Members.

Training & Management Approach

Given the large number of Members, most training was community-specific and conducted by each host site. However, MBI did provide some central training, while also marketing Members' efforts statewide in the press/media.



What next?

01

Community Partnerships

Host sites, organizational partners, and communities to place our members, member recruitment, expanding geographic reach in Appalachia, Upper Midwest, Rural South and Tribal Communities.

02

Organizational Partnerships

Leverage our AmeriCorps recruitment and management to support other rural and legacy community-focused organizations and empower our members with additional technical resources and skillsets.

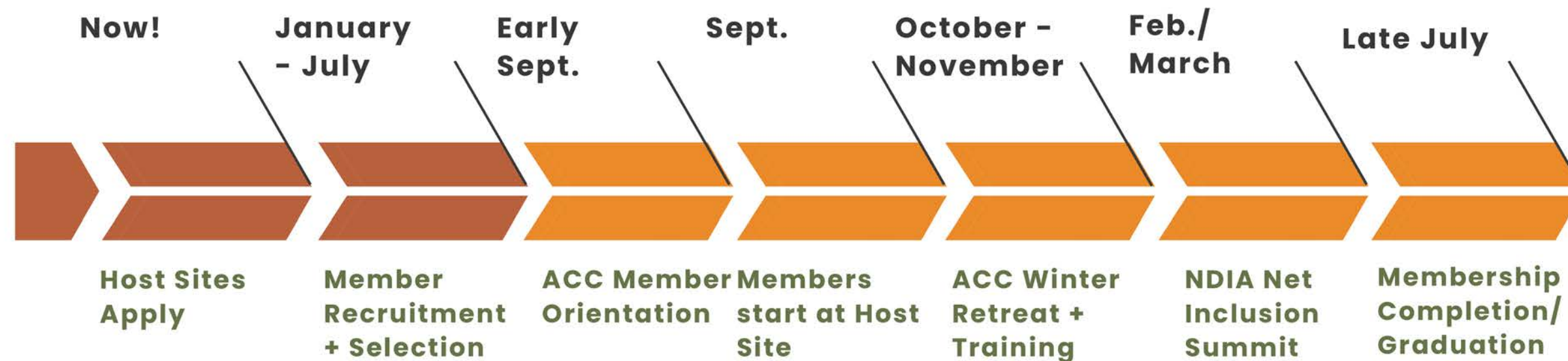
03

Funding the Gap

Locally-focused, nationally-scaled service work. For every \$1 of AmeriCorps funding, we are matching with \$2 in additional support. Grow philanthropic support and expand our reach.

PY'24 PROGRAM TIMELINE*

* Specific training dates TBD.



"Receiving an ACC Member from LFA has had insurmountable impact on our organization's broadband efforts. Our Member came to us with a wealth of knowledge, leadership capacity and confidence, and excitement to make a difference in our community. It has been a great experience for our organization and our community."

Stefan "Shabazz" Milton

Waseca Chamber & Arts Center

