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Engage Arkansas Receives \$508,202 in AmeriCorps Funding to Expand Arkansas National Service

Little Rock – Engage Arkansas announced that national service programs have received \$508,202 in AmeriCorps funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the federal agency responsible for AmeriCorps and other national service programs. AmeriCorps programs that have been selected for funding include Our House, Inc., and Southeast Arkansas Education Service Cooperative.

Our House, Inc. will provide job placement services, ongoing job support, school-readiness intervention, developmental support, and educational programming for preschool children; and academic success programs for school-age children in Little Rock, Arkansas.

AmeriCorps members with Southeast Arkansas Education Service Cooperative, will provide literacy and math tutoring services to students who are at increased risk for academic failure in the Arkansas Delta Region Elementary Schools. In addition, the Arkansas Smart Start AmeriCorps members will leverage an additional 120 volunteers who will be engaged in school based hunger relief efforts.

EngageAR serves as the State Service Commission whose mission is to foster a culture of service to strengthen communities and solve local problems. Civic engagement encompasses service and volunteerism and is foundational to establishing a collaborative programmatic initiative to create a culture of service in Arkansas that permeates activities of family, education, business, government and the nonprofit.

EngageAR partners to provide training, consultation and best practices to equip state agencies, county government, municipalities and private organizations to develop, launch and maintain civic engagement programs, including AmeriCorps programs. For more information on EngageAR AmeriCorps opportunities, visit www.VolunteerAR.org/AmeriCorps.

With the arrival of COVID-19 in 2020, Engage Arkansas AmeriCorps members have adapted their service to help meet critical needs of Arkansas communities. This includes meal preparation, online tutoring and education, COVID-19 safety education, and volunteer mobilization.

Every year, 75,000 AmeriCorps members serve through 21,000+ schools, nonprofits, and community and faith-based organizations across the country. These citizens have played a critical role in the recovery of communities affected by disasters and helped thousands of first-generation college students access higher education. They also tutor and mentor young people, connect veterans to jobs, care for seniors, reduce crime and revive cities, fight the opioid epidemic, and meet other critical needs.

AmeriCorps is funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the federal agency for volunteering and service, and recently marked its 25th anniversary. Since the program's inception in

1994, more than 1.1 million AmeriCorps members have served the nation, providing more than 1.6 billion hours of service and earning nearly \$4 billion in education awards to pay for college or pay back student loans. Those interested in joining AmeriCorps can learn more at <https://www.volunteerar.org/National-Service>.

As part of Governor Asa Hutchinson's Transformation Plan, effective July 1, 2019, EngageAR is housed in the Arkansas Division of Higher Education.