



2019 Annual Report

A Year of Accomplishments.





**BILLY NUNGESSER,
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

The Volunteer Louisiana Commission continues to be a strong asset in our State. Every day, I hear about and see the impact that volunteers and AmeriCorps members have in communities across Louisiana. From helping in times of disaster, to cleaning up State Parks, to improving the academic performance of students, national service continues to be a vital approach to helping address the needs of local citizens. I am proud of the great work and dedication of the Volunteer Louisiana staff, AmeriCorps members, and volunteers.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

2019 was a year of accomplishments for Volunteer Louisiana. We celebrated the 25th Anniversary of AmeriCorps, welcomed two new programs to our AmeriCorps portfolio, and had two Louisiana cities named as national leaders in producing AmeriCorps members. We also recognized 9 outstanding citizens and groups as Champions of Service, trained Community Emergency Response Teams throughout the state, and saw Louisiana High School students earn a record number of Community Service Diploma Endorsements. We are humbled by the amazing spirit of service in Louisiana and excited to see what 2020 has in store!



**JUDD JEANSONNE,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



**KYLE WEDBERG, CHAIR
VOLUNTEER LOUISIANA
COMMISSION**

COMMISSION CHAIR MESSAGE

As an AmeriCorps Alum, it has been a thrill to serve in my first year as the Chair of Volunteer Louisiana. It has been a year of great successes. We have an outstanding executive team, a board that represents every corner of this great State, and our programming is reaching more areas of Louisiana than ever before. I recently traveled to Washington D.C. and it is incredible the reputation that Louisiana carries for our AmeriCorps programs and work at a national level. This does not mean that there are not challenges or opportunities for growth, but Volunteer Louisiana is in a great place. We look to our Federal Delegation's continued support for vital national service funding and leadership in eliminating the tax on the AmeriCorps education award. And we are deeply appreciative of Lt. Governor Nungesser's leadership and support as we push for greater alignment and activation of volunteerism and national service across the state. Our best days are ahead of us in Louisiana, but we will need to build it together.

VOLUNTEER LOUISIANA

Volunteer Louisiana, the state service commission in the Office of Lieutenant Governor, was established in 1993 under the National and Community Service Trust Act.

Volunteer Louisiana's mission is "to help meet the needs of Louisiana's citizens through volunteerism and national service" by focusing on three main strategies identified in the 2019-2022 State Service Plan:

- Promote national service in Louisiana and develop a high-quality, diverse portfolio of AmeriCorps subgrantees
- Maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of volunteers in times of disaster
- Build a culture of service and volunteerism in Louisiana

Volunteer Louisiana is supported by grants from the Corporation for National and Community Service as well as State funding and in-kind contributions.

Source of Funding

Federal Funds:

AmeriCorps State Operating Grants	\$5,260,070
Segal Educational Awards	\$3,471,051
Commission Support Grant	\$265,000
Commission Investment Fund	\$268,155
Volunteer Generation Fund	\$243,377

Total Federal Funds \$9,035,372

Local and Private Funds:

AmeriCorps State Program Match	\$5,218,552
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State Funds:

State General Funds	\$126,225
State Inter-Agency Transfer	\$131,136
Total State Funds	\$257,361

Other National Service in Louisiana

Federal Funds:

AmeriCorps National Grants/NCCC	\$1,852,846
AmeriCorps VISTA	\$1,918,994
Senior Corps	\$3,942,429
Segal Education Awards	\$1,950,391

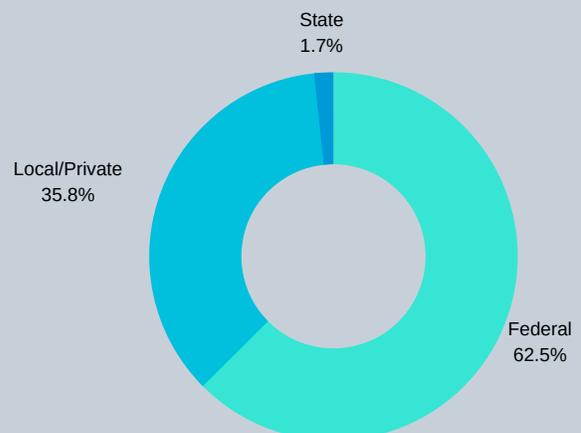
Total Federal Funds \$9,664,660

Local and Private Funds:

AmeriCorps National, VISTA, Senior Corps Program Match	\$8,675,953
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State Funds:

\$0



AMERICORPS

For the 2018-2019 program year, Volunteer Louisiana managed 899 AmeriCorps State members serving in 17 Programs across 29 parishes



AmeriCorps State members served over 25,000 students in Louisiana



1,560 AmeriCorps State & National members and 3,548 Senior Corps members served in LA

AmeriCorps State members transitioned 73 economically disadvantaged individuals into safe and affordable housing



AmeriCorps State members improved the academic performance and engagement of 7,154 students



AmeriCorps State members engaged 1,503 children in programs to reduce childhood obesity



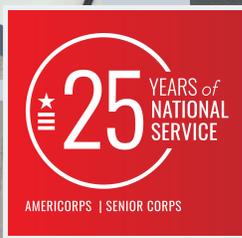
AmeriCorps State members recruited and engaged 11,081 community volunteers

AMERICORPS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

2019 marked the 25th anniversary of AmeriCorps in Louisiana and throughout the country. On October 25, Volunteer Louisiana was joined by AmeriCorps members from across the state to celebrate this milestone in Baton Rouge.

The 25th Anniversary Celebration of AmeriCorps provided an opportunity to celebrate the legacy of AmeriCorps in Louisiana - from disaster response to tutoring and mentoring to rebuilding Louisiana's coast and communities - while also celebrating the service of current AmeriCorps members and those who will serve over the next 25 years.

The event featured panels of AmeriCorps Alumni who shared their personal stories and reflected on the impact of service on their lives. The day culminated with remarks from Baton Rouge Mayor-President Sharon Weston-Broome, a former Volunteer Louisiana Commissioner, and U.S. Representative Garret Graves, a member of the National Service Caucus.



LOUISIANA: HOME TO TOP AMERICITIES

In 2019, The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) named **New Orleans** and **Baton Rouge** as **Top 10 AmeriCities** for producing the most AmeriCorps members each year. This is the first time **two cities** in Louisiana made this list and **Louisiana** was **one of only three states** to have multiple cities named to the list.

Note: A **small city** was defined as any place with a population greater than or equal to 100,000 and less than 250,000 people. A **large city** was defined as any place with a population greater than or equal to 250,000 people.



2019
TOP 10 AMERICITIES
— LARGE —
Places that produce the most *AmeriCorps* members per capita
#2 NEW ORLEANS
LOUISIANA
JoinAmeriCorps.gov



2019
TOP 10 AMERICITIES
— SMALL —
Places that produce the most *AmeriCorps* members per capita
#6 BATON ROUGE
LOUISIANA
JoinAmeriCorps.gov

MLK DAY OF SERVICE

Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser and CNCS National Director of AmeriCorps Chester Spellman joined Volunteer Louisiana and Rebuilding Together New Orleans (RTNO) for the 2019 MLK National Day of Service. RTNO hosted AmeriCorps members and volunteers from across the country on a week-long blitz build assisting local homeowners with needed repairs.

Chester Spellman also visited with Up2Us AmeriCorps members during their MLK Day of Play for kids in the Desire Development Neighborhood of New Orleans.



AMERICORPS STATE PROGRAMS



Boys & Girls Clubs of Acadiana: AmeriCorps members provide programming and activities to improve behavior outcomes through homework assistance, tutoring, and mentoring activities during the school year and summer months in four parishes: Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry and Vermilion.



Boys & Girls Club of Greater Baton Rouge: AmeriCorps members provide programming and activities to implement a four-focus, outcome-driven Club experience in seven elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school in Baton Rouge.



Boys & Girls Clubs of North Louisiana: AmeriCorps members provide supervision and assistance with homework completion and tutoring during the school year, and facilitate a physical fitness program to increase student academic engagement.



Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeast Louisiana: The Boys and Girls Club of SELA implements the Project Learn Initiative in New Orleans, Covington, Gretna, and Slidell. Members are also responsible for improvements in academic attitudes and academic success of 294 low-income youth.



Catholic Charities of Greater New Orleans: AmeriCorps members package and deliver food to older adults in conjunction with the Food for Seniors (FFS) program serving the Greater New Orleans area. Additionally, members receive workforce development training as part of their re-entry and service.



AMERICORPS STATE PROGRAMS



City Year Baton Rouge: AmeriCorps members provide one-on-one support to students in 13 Baton Rouge public schools. Members help students overcome challenges both in school and out, help them reach their full potential, and ensure they graduate high school ready for college or career.

City Year New Orleans: AmeriCorps members provide in-class and after-school support to academically challenged students in New Orleans, giving them the extra resources they need to get back on track in school.

Communities In Schools: AmeriCorps members assess, mentor, and offer social skills groups to treat the needs of disadvantaged, at-risk, under-served, disabled, and/or economically disadvantaged youth in 10 New Orleans public schools.

Impact Lake Charles: AmeriCorps members provide health and safety programming to students and parents in public schools and throughout Lake Charles to raise awareness, build skills, and develop best practices.

Rebuilding Together New Orleans: AmeriCorps members engage in home repair projects in the New Orleans area, transitioning homeowners to safer and healthier housing conditions.

Serve Louisiana: AmeriCorps members provide capacity building services in Southeast Louisiana to increase the effectiveness of their partner organizations that serve local communities.



AMERICORPS STATE PROGRAMS



ReNew Schools: AmeriCorps members provide direct tutoring in reading and math to over 1,300 students in 6 high poverty priority schools in New Orleans.



ShreveCorps: AmeriCorps members provide nutrition information, hands-on gardening experience, and healthy cooking lessons to at-risk youth in low income food deserts. Members also provide nutritional support services to low income households struggling with food security through community gardening and distribution of fresh produce boxes.



Synergy, Education & Environment West Monroe: AmeriCorps members provide financial literacy training for adults and in-school, after-school, and summer educational support for students in grades 1-3.



Teach for America: AmeriCorps members are full time teachers who promote academic growth for students, engage as volunteers leaders within their schools and communities, and engage parents and community members as volunteers.



University of Lafayette AmeriCorps: AmeriCorps members engage at-risk students through in-school and after-school programming at JW Faulk and New Hope Tutoring, and provide housing services to low income residents in partnership with Rebuilding Together and Habitat for Humanity.



Up2Us Sports: AmeriCorps members target the childhood obesity epidemic by serving as sports-based youth development coaches for approximately 2,500 children living in under-served New Orleans neighborhoods.



AMERICORPS

In 2019, Volunteer Louisiana added two new programs to its portfolio which will serve during the 2019 - 2020 service year.



LA Vet Corps: With a focus on Veterans and Military Families, LA Vet Corps members will serve as peer mentors and counselors to veterans and military families in colleges and universities across Louisiana.



Louisiana Conservation Corps: With a focus on Environmental Stewardship, Louisiana Conservation Corps AmeriCorps members will provide disaster relief, coastal restoration, and conservation services across Louisiana.



DISASTER SERVICES

Volunteer Louisiana continues to expand disaster volunteer capacity throughout the state with the **Volunteer Generation Fund**. Through this grant, communities are receiving **disaster preparedness** and **response training**, further building “**ready to deploy**” teams of volunteers.

In 2019, Volunteer Louisiana conducted **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training** sessions, with **217 volunteers representing 17 parishes** and giving over **2,300 hours in volunteer service for training and exercises**.

Volunteer Louisiana launched a media campaign encouraging volunteers to get trained and affiliated with disaster response and recovery organizations. This included **two Public Service Announcements (PSA) with Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser**. One PSA focused on **disaster preparedness**, and the other PSA focused on **volunteer engagement** during disaster response and recovery.

In 2020, Volunteer Louisiana will continue to collaborate with key stakeholders (**Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Development, Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters, Citizen Corps Council, Parish Offices of Emergency Preparedness**, and others) to improve volunteer and donations management capacity in Louisiana.



Get Connected + Get Trained

Lend a Helping Hand

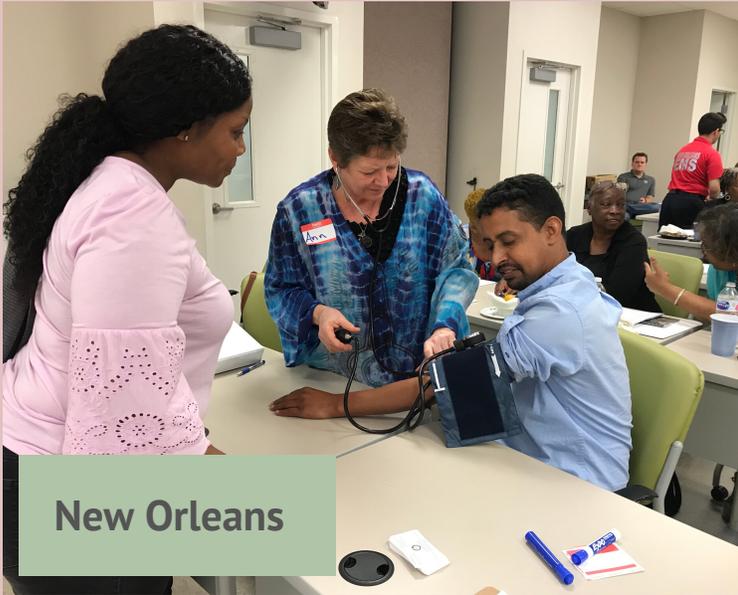


The image features four logos in the bottom right corner: the official seal of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness, the AmeriCorps logo, the Volunteer Louisiana logo which includes a fleur-de-lis, and the Volunteer Generation Fund logo which features a large 'V' inside a circular border.

DISASTER SERVICES: CERT TEAM TRAINING



Calcasieu Parish



New Orleans



Calcasieu Parish



Baton Rouge



East Feliciana Parish

VOLUNTEERISM

Volunteer Louisiana continues to support and promote volunteerism throughout the state.

VolunteerLouisiana.gov is a one-stop shop that connects volunteers with volunteer organizations. Volunteer Louisiana also provides opportunities to recognize volunteers from the local level with the **Louisiana Volunteer Service Award**, and state-wide recognition with the annual **Champions of Service Awards**. In collaboration with the Louisiana Department of Education, Volunteer Louisiana also helps promote youth volunteering through the **Community Service Diploma Endorsement**.



LOUISIANA GIVES BACK.

Last year, more than **929,000** Louisiana residents volunteered.

Their service has an estimated economic value of more than **\$1.9 Billion.**

SERVE.GOV

[#GoVolunteer](https://twitter.com/GoVolunteer)

Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE** ★★★

VOLUNTEERISM

In 2019, Volunteer Louisiana recognized **1,240 volunteers** with the **Louisiana Volunteer Service Award**.

3,568 High School Seniors from **34 Parishes** received the **Community Service Diploma Endorsement**.



VOLUNTEERISM

The Champions of Service Awards

On April 9, 2019, Volunteer Louisiana, along with the Volunteer Louisiana Foundation, honored nine winners of the annual Champions of Service award during National Volunteer Week.

The 2019 Champions of Service Winners



Mary Jean Lewis – Northwest Champion Mary Jean Lewis is a devoted volunteer with Holy Angels, a residential training facility for individuals with disabilities in Shreveport. Mary Jean serves in every capacity within the AngelWorks Day Program, where residents receive work readiness training and job placement through such enterprises as culinary and creative arts. She empowers residents by finding and developing their untapped talent.



Emily Leitzinger – Greater New Orleans Champion Emily Leitzinger embodies service in anything she does, from serving on multiple boards and organizations in the New Orleans area, to volunteering with the Crescent City Café, to producing and hosting a radio show on WHIV, 102.3 FM called “VoluntoldYa!” - a forum for nonprofits to tell their stories and solicit volunteers.



Tanya R. Whitney – Capital Area Champion Tanya Whitney has dedicated her time volunteering with veterans, especially female veterans, after nearly 28 years of military service with the Army and Army National Guard. Tanya served as the Chairman of the Ascension Veterans Memorial Park, educates the public on the effects of PTSD, and serves as a volunteer coach for high school athletes.



Mike Shields – Northeast Champion Mike Shields spearheaded the effort to build the SMILES Park in West Monroe, a playground where children with physical and developmental disabilities can play inclusively with others. Mike is also a volunteer blood donor who has donated over 66 gallons of lifesaving blood products. He is a member of his church choir and participates in numerous volunteer activities throughout the community.

VOLUNTEERISM



Ruben D. Henderson III – Southwest Champion Ruben Henderson is involved in a wide range of volunteer activities and is a mentor for many students at UL Lafayette. As an advisor to Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and the Black Male Leadership Association, Ruben encourages black male students to take on leadership roles on campus and throughout the community.



Barbara McKaskle - Southeast/North Shore Champion Barbara McKaskle has volunteered tirelessly with Keep Hammond Beautiful; recruiting businesses, service organizations and youth groups to join her in her clean vision for the community. Known as "The Trashy Lady," Barbara has also served with the Tangi Food Pantry since its inception. She has been active with Grace Camp, served with CASA and has volunteered with First United Methodist Church in Hammond for over 45 years



Jimmie Bryant – AmeriCorps Champion Jimmie Bryant serves with ShreveCorps, addressing community health issues and food deserts by educating Shreveport youth about gardening and healthy eating. He engages youth in hands-on cooking activities and encourages healthy eating through community gardening. Jimmie is a true example of peer leadership, always giving his all to make sure the job gets done and done well, inspiring his teammates along the way.



Ron Griggs – Senior Corps Champion Ron Griggs is a Senior Corps RSVP volunteer and has dedicated his time and energy to the Chennault Aviation & Military Museum in Monroe for the last nine years. Ron, a veteran with multiple purple hearts and military awards, volunteers as a mentor to other veterans and active military when they are home, as well as serving on museum boards, helping with events, and supporting museum employees.



Shell Exploration and Production Company – Corporate Volunteer Champion Shell is helping build the capacity of the nonprofit sector through its Community Coaches project. Community Coaches provide nonprofits with the skilled volunteer services of Shell employees – services that would otherwise be cost prohibitive for the organization. Shell's Community Coaches build organizational strategic plans, increase board engagement, and help visioning and leadership for executive staff.

SUPPORT FROM LOCAL LEADERS

Volunteer Louisiana is proud of the bipartisan support for volunteerism and national service at every level of government in Louisiana. In an era so often defined by political conflict, service is something that brings Americans together to strengthen our communities and shows that what unites us is much stronger than what divides us.

Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser has been a champion for national service statewide and nationally through the National Lieutenant Governor's Association. In 2019, U.S. Senator Bill Cassidy and U.S. Representative Garret Graves added their names as co-signers for the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award Tax Relief Act. Senator Cassidy serves as the Senate co-chair for the National Service Caucus, where Representative Garret Graves and Senator John Kennedy are also members.



COMMISSIONERS

The Volunteer Louisiana Commission consists of leaders from across the state who share an interest in volunteering and national service. They are the funding and decision-making body for AmeriCorps and other national service and volunteer initiatives in Louisiana. The Commission meets quarterly in Baton Rouge and Commissioners represent Volunteer Louisiana in their local communities.



Kyle Wedberg, Chair: New Orleans
New Orleans Center for Creative Arts
President/CEO
AmeriCorps Alumnus

Lee Arthur Jeter, Vice Chair: Shreveport
Fuller Center for Housing NWLA
Executive Director



Kellie Duhon, Treasurer: Crowley
Blue Cross Blue Shield of LA
Corporate Giving Program Manager

Patrick Lawler, Secretary: Baton Rouge
Division of Administration
Office of Planning and Budget
State Budget Analyst



Amy Burris: Baton Rouge
Raising Cane's
Executive Assistant to CEO

Sandra Cavalier: Denham Springs
Retired/Volunteer



Sarah Mouton Floyd: Monroe
Children's Coalition for Northeast Louisiana
Development Director

Carissa Graves: Baton Rouge
Cristo Rey Franciscan High School
VP of Community Engagement
AmeriCorps Alumnus



Ryan Haynie: Baton Rouge
Haynie and Associates
Owner

Gwen Hilliard: Prairieville
American Red Cross
Regional Youth Engagement Leader





Leslie Hill: Baton Rouge
 LA Department of Education
 Legislative and Community
 Liaison



Julie LaFleur: Lafayette
 Retired/Volunteer
 AmeriCorps Alumnus



Matthew LaBorde: Alexandria
 Rapides Foundation
 Program Officer



Paul Pratt: Shreveport
 Paul Pratt Allstate
 Principal



Grant Shreiner: New Orleans
 Louisiana Association of
 Educators
 UniServ Director



DeRon Talley: Monroe
 Louisiana Small Business
 Devevelopment Center
 Marketing and Media Manager



Mitzi Hochheiser: Baton Rouge
 Louisiana Department of Health
 Medicaid Deputy Director



Angela Jouett: Lake Charles
 Calcasieu Parish Police Jury
 Medical Reserve Corps
 Coordinator



Shedonna Martin-Mason: Baton Rouge
 Life Source Hospice
 Community Relations and
 Volunteer Director



Wendy Primeaux: Lake Charles
 Catholic Charities Southwest Louisiana
 Case Management Supervisor



Gerren Sias: New Orleans/Baton Rouge
 Louisiana Appleseed
 Community Engagement Director



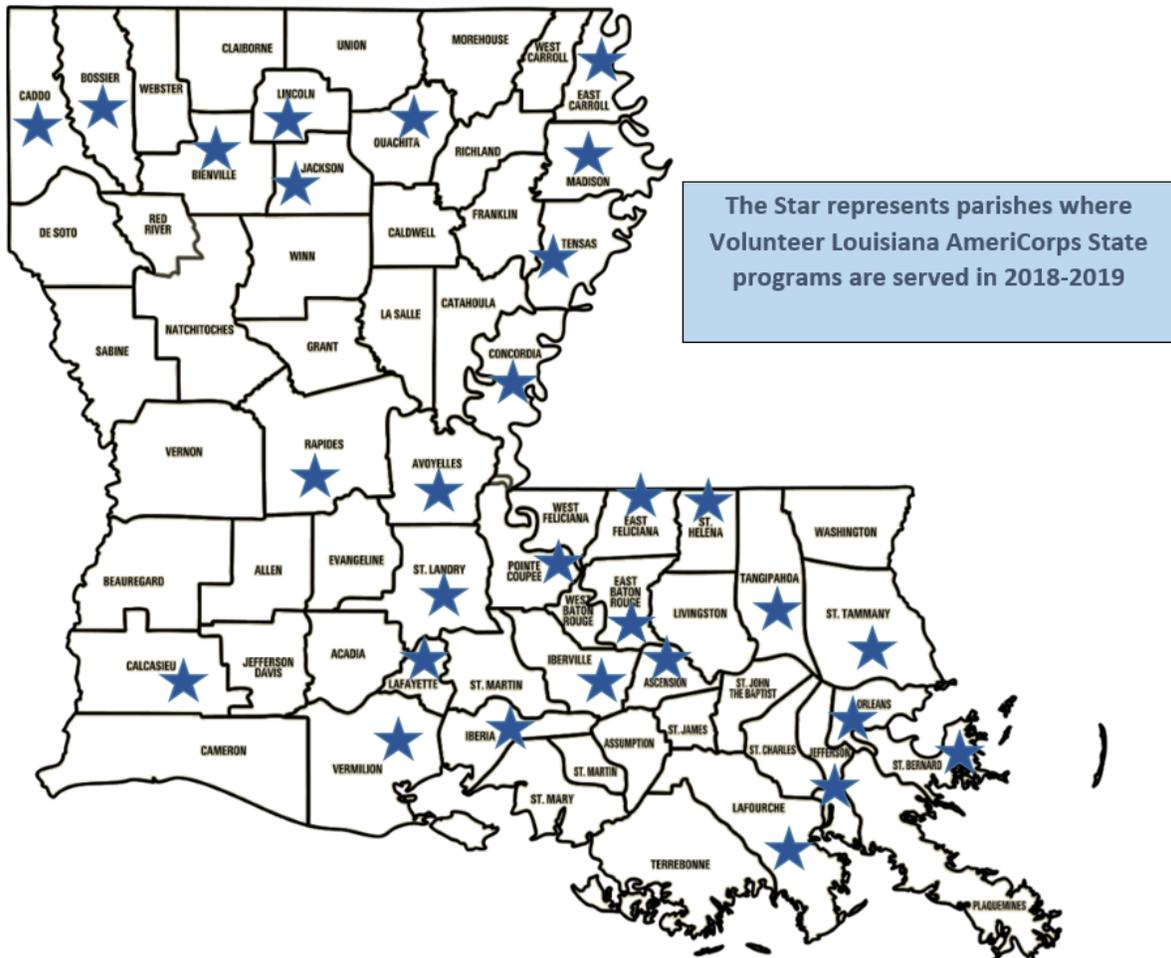
Jay Blackmon-Williams: Baton Rouge
 East Baton Rouge Council on Aging
 Advocacy/Compliance Manager

EX-Officio:

John Bel Edwards - Governor; **Billy Nungesser** - Lieutenant Governor;
Lora Grady - Corporation for National and Community Service State Office

VOLUNTEER LOUISIANA STAFF

(L to R) Tammy Son, AmeriCorps Program Officer; Kori Chisham, Director of Communications and Volunteer Outreach; Jawonna Mason, Fiscal Officer; Judd Jeansonne, Executive Director; Stephanie Trahan, Senior AmeriCorps Program Officer; Amanda Smith, Disaster Services Specialist; Tisha McKinney, Public Information Officer



This public document was published at a total cost of \$840.40. Four hundred (300) copies of this public document were published in this printing at a cost of \$840.40. The total cost of all printings of this document, including reprints is \$840.40. This document was published by Volunteer Louisiana, P.O. Box 44243, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4243 to provide information to the public under authority of R.S. 49:1115. This material was printed in accordance with the standards for printing by state agencies established pursuant to R.S. 43:31.