Instructions & Call Script for AmeriCorps

Follow these steps to share your story and ask Congress to protect AmeriCorps:

- Visit **Congress.gov and input your zip code** to find your members of Congress and their phone numbers.
    - You may need to input your street address in full, if your ZIP code is divided between two Representatives. Everyone will have two Senators and one Representative.
- Alternatively, you can call the Capitol operator, ask for your lawmakers by name, and be connected directly to their offices.
    - House of Representative Switchboard: 202-225-3121
    - Senate Switchboard: 202-224-3121
- Typically, a staff assistant or intern will answer your call. Some offices have a fully automated answering system, and you may hear a recording play before letting you leave a message.
- **If you reach a staff person:**
    - Introduce yourself as a constituent and that you're with Habitat for Humanity [affiliate name].
    - Ask to leave a message for the legislator.
    - Read the script below.
    - If you would like a letter or email addressing your concerns from the office, let them know that you would like a response and repeat your name and contact information before ending the call.
    - When you are finished, be sure to thank the staffer for their time.
- **If you reach an answering machine:**
    - Introduce yourself as a constituent.
    - Read the script below.
    - If you would like a letter or email addressing your concerns from the office, let them know that you would like a response and repeat your name and contact information before ending the call.

CALL SCRIPT:

Good morning/afternoon. My name is (first and last name) and I'm a with Habitat for Humanity (location) serving (elected official name)'s district. I would like to share my concerns with (elected official name) about the very upsetting news of steps being taken at the AmeriCorps agency that could deeply impact AmeriCorps services in my community.

Significant cuts to AmeriCorps agency staff will impact non-profit, faith-based, and community organizations like Habitat for Humanity that engage AmeriCorps members to enhance our mission and make a difference in communities across the nation. I am concerned that staffing cuts will impact the agency's ability to execute grants, operate programs and enroll AmeriCorps members.

Already we are seeing the impacts of stop work orders for AmeriCorps NCCC members; this program deploys teams of young adults to respond to urgent community needs, including natural disasters such as Hurricane Helene.

<mark>*(Share your organization's experience with AmeriCorps and the impact the partnership has had on the community and your work. If you are an AmeriCorps alumni, you can share how this work inspired you, the positive results you saw, how it prepared you for your career*</mark>*).*

AmeriCorps is among the most successful federal investments of this generation—a model public-private partnership with strong bipartisan support.

For the past three decades, Americans of all ages have joined AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors to respond to an array of challenges. Members have been deployed in rural and urban areas across all 50 states and federal territories, addressing critical and urgent needs such as responding to natural disasters, connecting veterans and seniors to services, tutoring students, fighting the opioid epidemic, combatting hunger and homelessness, and much more.

Since 1994, more than 12,000 AmeriCorps members have served with Habitat organizations across the nation, engaging more than 4 million volunteers and serving more than 135,300 individuals in need of safe, decent, and affordable homes. Since 2019 alone, AmeriCorps members have supported more than 6,000 housing projects with Habitat.

If AmeriCorps funding goes away, and if staff are not present at the agency to administer the programs in an efficient and effective manner, that means our communities would lose key services and resources. That would be devasting, since the work of AmeriCorps members is needed now more than ever.

I hope we can count on (<mark>elected official name</mark>) to help us protect and save AmeriCorps.