

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 16, 2023

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\$240,000 Federal Grant Awarded to Expand AmeriCorps Opportunities in Poughkeepsie & Dutchess County

Senior AmeriCorps official makes announcement in visit to Poughkeepsie

Poughkeepsie, NY: AmeriCorps State and National Director [Sonali Nijhawan](#) announced on Thursday evening that a \$240,000 federal American Rescue Plan grant has been awarded to [Ampact](#) to expand its nationally acclaimed AmeriCorps programs to the City of Poughkeepsie and Dutchess County in partnership with local institutions.

The announcement by Nijhawan was made at a reception and dinner hosted at the Poughkeepsie Trolley Barn by [Lead for Poughkeepsie](#). Over her two-day visit, Nijhawan is meeting with community members and local leaders, including City of Poughkeepsie Mayor **Marc Nelson**, City of Poughkeepsie Common Council Chair **Natasha Brown**, Dutchess County Executive **William F.X. O'Neil** and Poughkeepsie City School District Superintendent **Dr. Eric Jay Rosser**.

The City of Poughkeepsie was selected as one of only a handful of communities from across the nation that Nijhawan is visiting to highlight this new grant from AmeriCorps.

"These inaugural planning grants are designed to give our community partners the time and resources they need to develop solutions that leverage service to tackle urgent local challenges," said **Nijhawan**. "The dynamic collaboration happening in Poughkeepsie between city, county, school district, nonprofit and philanthropic leaders is exactly the type of innovative and effective approach we're eager to support."

"Investing in AmeriCorps programs in Poughkeepsie and Dutchess County is an investment in the future of our community. This \$240,000 federal grant will bridge the gap between urgent local challenges and sustainable solutions. I commend AmeriCorps Director Sonali Nijhawan for visiting Dutchess County and providing this invaluable support, and thank Ampact and Lead for Poughkeepsie for their hard work and dedication in creating a cradle-to-career AmeriCorps strategy that will benefit our Hudson Valley communities for years to come," said **U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, a long-time advocate for AmeriCorps**. "AmeriCorps is one of the world's greatest service programs, and I fought hard to secure the support it needed in the American Rescue Plan. These planning grants are crucial investments in AmeriCorps' continued success, and this award is a significant recognition of the meaningful cross-sector work being done in Poughkeepsie and Dutchess County. Let's celebrate this milestone and continue working towards a brighter future for our community!"

Ampact was recently awarded the [\\$240,000 AmeriCorps planning grant](#) to work with Poughkeepsie and Dutchess County institutions to develop a local cradle-to-career AmeriCorps strategy. Ampact is working in close collaboration with Lead for Poughkeepsie to formalize partnerships with key city of Poughkeepsie and Dutchess County institutions to scale service

year opportunities locally through [Ampact's portfolio of AmeriCorps programs](#) in education, public health, housing and more.

This unique partnership is a major component of Lead for Poughkeepsie's strategy to create **100 service year opportunities for local residents to serve as AmeriCorps members annually in Poughkeepsie and Dutchess County by 2026.**

"Ampact's evidence-based programs will accelerate our ability to address longstanding disparities in our community, increase civic engagement and create pathways to civic leadership and careers for local residents through service." said **Rob Watson, Jr.**, co-founder of Lead for Poughkeepsie. "Our partnership with Ampact and this groundbreaking funding support from AmeriCorps allow us to hit the ground running with programs that will immediately benefit youth and families."

Ampact is launching two AmeriCorps programs — [Early Learning Corps](#) and [K-3 Math Corps](#) — in Poughkeepsie schools and early childhood centers this Fall. Both programs are designed to support schools and early learning centers by training local residents to serve as on-site tutors. **The two programs are offering a combined 36 AmeriCorps positions locally.**

Each AmeriCorps position offers:

- A paid stipend
- Money for college tuition or student loans (Tutors 55 years and older may gift the award to their child, grandchild, stepchild or foster child)
- Free health insurance and child care assistance for those who qualify
- A transformative opportunity to invest in Poughkeepsie's young people and explore new career pathways

Interested applicants can apply online [here](#).

AmeriCorps, the federal agency for national service and volunteerism, provides opportunities for Americans to serve their country domestically, address the nation's most pressing challenges, improve lives and communities, and strengthen civic engagement. Each year, the agency places more than 200,000 AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers in intensive service roles; and empowers millions more to serve as long-term, short-term, or one-time volunteers. Learn more at [AmeriCorps.gov](#).

Ampact: A national nonprofit, Ampact demonstrates the power of national service to solve complex social problems. Offering evidence-based programs in three focus areas: education, environment and healthy futures, Ampact supports more than 3,300 AmeriCorps members as they serve their communities and make an incredible impact. Current programs include: Reading Corps, Math Corps, Early Learning Corps, Climate Impact Corps, Recovery Corps, Heading Home Corps, Public Health Corps, Resettlement Corps and Language Corps. For more information, visit [Ampact.U.S.](#)

Lead for Poughkeepsie (LFPK) is a local affiliate of Lead for America (LFA), a national service organization advancing place-based movements across the US that cultivate the next generation of civic leaders. This Fall, LFPK will transition into the **Poughkeepsie Service Accelerator (PSA)**, an independent service collaborative that aims to attract new service programs to the Poughkeepsie region and strengthen existing ones. Its North Star goal is: by 2026, to **establish 100 diverse and transformative service year opportunities** that address our community's key issues and promote pathways to civic leadership and careers.