

## AmeriCorps in Eldercare Settings helps Aging Service Providers “do more with less”



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In these tough economic times, many providers of aging services are “doing more with less” and yet are still determined to provide the best possible care for their residents and clients. The Foundation for Long Term Care (FLTC) [www.fltc.org](http://www.fltc.org), an award-winning research entity affiliated with the trade association New York Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (NYAHS) , has embarked on pioneering civic engagement project called AmeriCorps in Eldercare Settings or ACES to help aging service providers enrich the services they already provide without breaking the bank.

Through a grant awarded from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), to the FLTC, thirty eldercare agencies and counting are now leveraging the experience and passion of baby-boomer and graduate students as AmeriCorps volunteers in the regions of New York City, the greater Capital Region of New York, and

Connecticut. (The ACES graphic above is based on responses generated at a recent orientation about what drew volunteers to their unique service assignments.)

Eldercare agencies represent a wide cross section of aging services from nursing homes to community-based senior centers and home care providers. Further, many of the sites themselves offer or are developing a suite of aging services to meet the needs of a diversified consumer base.

Current ACES Host Sites	
Capital Region	New York City
Adirondack Tri-County Nursing Home, Baptist Health Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, DePaul Housing /Catholic Charities Senior Services in Schenectady and St. Jude Apartments, Eddy Village Green, Ferncliff Nursing Home Company, Inc., Jewish Family Services of Northeastern New York, Marjorie Doyle Rockwell Center, Senior Services of Albany, Seton Health at Schuyler Ridge	Broadlawn Manor Nursing & Rehabilitation, Cabrini Center for Nursing & Rehabilitation, Cabrini of Westchester, DOJ Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Gurwin Jewish Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Isabella Geriatric Center, Jewish Home Lifecare, Margaret Tietz, Northern Adult Day Health Care Center, Selfhelp Community Services, Inc., Village Nursing Home
Connecticut	
The Whitney Center and (Central CT Senior Health Services) Arbor Rose/Jerome Home, CT Center for Healthy Aging, Southington Care Center, The Orchards at Southington, Mulberry Gardens	

The FLTC, serving as the head technical and training consultant, has assisted these sites in crafting assignments for AmeriCorps members that focus on three main categories: 1) volunteer recruitment and management, 2) resource coordination to support aging in place and maximized independence, and 3) training and development of current staff to increase retention and the quality of care. Several sites have also successfully proposed their own service project ideas that build upon these three focus areas, such as assisting clients in finding appropriate housing in the community after return from a skilled nursing setting or implementing a Life Stories program in concert with a volunteer recruitment program.

## How to Get Involved in the ACES Project

**As a Host Site:** The Foundation for Long Term Care is still accepting applications in the Capital Region and New York City regions from eldercare agencies that want to host AmeriCorps members for the ACES Project. Thanks to the CNCS grant, ACES sites receive on-going support from the FLTC in recruitment, supervision, training, and provision of a living allowance for AmeriCorps members. AmeriCorps volunteers provide 900 hours (comparable to a half-time schedule) of service for the ACES site usually over a 12-month period; however, sites and volunteers have the option of 450 and 300 hour service term commitments if both parties agree this arrangement will be more appropriate for their service project goals. The FLTC reimburses approximately two-thirds of the costs of living allowance stipends for volunteers, making an ACES site's contribution between \$397- \$1,656, for the entire service term, depending on the service category and hour commitment of the Member. Aging service providers interested in finding out more information, should contact Capital Region Project Manager, Karen Revitt, <krevitt@nyahsa.org>, 518-449-7873 extension 165 or New York City Project Manager, Kate Bliss Ó'Flathabháin, <kbof@nyahsa.org>, 518-449-7873 extension 102.

**As a Volunteer/Refer a Volunteer:** Current AmeriCorps volunteers in the ACES project brought to their positions a variety of backgrounds and skills, including experiences in the aging field, psychology, recreational therapy, management, marketing and communications, graduate study in Social Work and Public Health, and a passion to improve the quality of life for older adults in their communities. If you, or someone you know, is interested in learning more about volunteering for this unique civic engagement project, please contact the Project Manager (listed above) from your region. In addition, please visit the national AmeriCorps website at [www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov) or AARP's Create the Good website at [www.createthegood.org](http://www.createthegood.org) to see current listings of available positions.