

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1806

April 29, 2025

The Honorable Donald Trump
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Jennifer Bastress Tahmasebi
AmeriCorps Interim Agency Head
250 E St. SW
Washington, D.C. 20525

Dear President Trump and Interim Agency Head Tahmasebi,

We are writing to express deep concern over the recent actions by the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) to suspend AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) operations, significantly reduce staff by 85%, and terminate over 1,000 active FY24 grants nationwide. These decisions are already having a devastating effect in Louisiana and threaten to irreparably damage essential services across our state.

According to data provided by AmeriCorps and Volunteer Louisiana, these terminations will cut approximately 80% of all current AmeriCorps grant awards and impact over 32,000 AmeriCorps members across the country. In Louisiana alone, thirteen active grants have been affected— four AmeriCorps VISTA projects and nine AmeriCorps State grants awarded through the Volunteer Louisiana Commission, which now faces the loss of over 60% of its grant portfolio (9 of 14 programs).

These programs are not abstract line items; they represent boots-on-the-ground service to some of Louisiana's most vulnerable communities. The four impacted AmeriCorps VISTA programs help build sustainable, long-term solutions to poverty by supporting nonprofits and community organizations in areas such as education, public health, climate resilience, and access to public benefits. Activities include vital functions such as grant writing, fundraising, volunteer recruitment, and data analysis—all work that would otherwise be unaffordable to these organizations.

The nine affected AmeriCorps State programs represent the frontlines of service in Louisiana communities, with members delivering critical supports like after-school tutoring, early childhood education, mentorship, supplemental nutrition assistance, and blighted property remediation. These programs serve over 49,765 Louisianans annually, including children, seniors, veterans, and low-income families. Without them, these services will simply vanish.

Moreover, these actions appear fiscally and legally indefensible. While the total value of the terminated grants stands at approximately \$400 million, we are now nine months into the FY24 service year. It is highly likely that upwards of \$300 million has already been expended by grantees. Cutting programs at this stage in the service year will do little to generate savings and

will instead result in waste, disruption, and reputational harm to AmeriCorps as a trusted national institution.

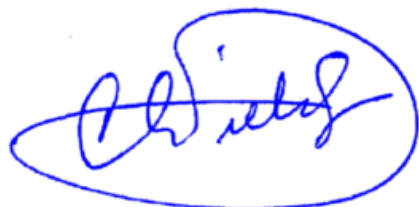
Worse still, the termination process appears to have violated statutory requirements governing federal grant agreements. According to law, grant terminations must be based on a documented cause of noncompliance, and grant recipients must be given a minimum seven-day notice and a right to appeal. To date, none of these procedural safeguards have been afforded to the affected organizations. The lack of transparency and disregard for due process is unacceptable and undermines trust in AmeriCorps leadership and operations.

We urge you to immediately halt further implementation of these terminations, reinstate suspended grants where feasible, and fully restore AmeriCorps NCCC and other essential service functions. In addition, we request a full accounting of the legal basis and decision-making process behind these actions, including documentation of any cost analysis and compliance with statutory requirements for grant termination.

The communities of Louisiana—and indeed the nation—rely on AmeriCorps to strengthen civic engagement, reduce poverty, and respond to disasters. Now more than ever, we cannot afford to abandon this mission or the thousands of members who have pledged to serve.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Cleo Fields

District 6



Troy Carter

District 2