

Public Service Ambassador Initiative Application

Strengthening Civic Purpose. Activating the Next Generation.

About the Volcker Alliance

The [Volcker Alliance](#) is a nonprofit founded by former Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul A. Volcker to empower the public sector workforce to solve the challenges facing our nation. Our portfolio of work focuses on the people at the core of government service delivery—people who provide a steadfast source of optimism during an unsettled time for our democracy. We promote innovation in public service education, empower rising leaders to build the democracy of our future, connect talent to city, state, and federal government jobs, and inspire others with the story of Mr. Volcker’s commitment to public service.

About the Program

The Public Service Ambassador Initiative engages AmeriCorps alumni to listen to young people, build community and connection, and inspire civic purpose and service across the United States.

Communities nationwide are facing significant challenges amid declining trust and extreme polarization. Young people’s voices, perspectives, and leadership are essential to shaping the future of our country. The Public Service Ambassador Initiative empowers AmeriCorps alumni—action-oriented individuals with a unique blend of practical problem-solving skills and a deep commitment to the public good—to seek the perspectives of rising leaders, foster connections, and inspire them to serve, whether in their communities or through careers in local, state, or federal government. By creating space for listening, connection, and inspiration, the program strengthens civic connectivity.

Why AmeriCorps Alumni?

The true promise of AmeriCorps lies not just in what members accomplish during their service year, but in what they can accomplish afterward. That’s why we are activating AmeriCorps alumni as Public Service Ambassadors. AmeriCorps Alumni bring a distinctive combination of hands-on experience and commitment to public service. Addressing local needs alongside community members fosters a lifelong lens through which alumni understand their country and appreciate their responsibility to strengthen it. AmeriCorps alumni know what it means to serve, to listen, and to lead from the ground up. Their service hones skills in facilitation, coalition-building, and policy implementation. Crucially, alumni have witnessed how engaged citizens create meaningful change, experiencing firsthand the pathways from individual concern to collective action.

The Role

Public Service Ambassadors will learn which issues young people care about, listen to their perspectives on the government's role in addressing those issues, amplify their collective voices to shape the future of our country, and connect them with meaningful ways to serve.

The Volcker Alliance is seeking AmeriCorps alumni from across the country to serve in this role. As an AmeriCorps alum, you bring lived experience in service, deep community ties, and the ability to navigate diverse stakeholders, making you uniquely well-positioned to lead this work.

What Public Service Ambassadors Will Do

After completing training, Ambassadors will:

- **Host listening sessions** in their respective communities to understand the issues that matter most to young people and explore their perspectives on the role of government in addressing those issues
- **Organize community events** that connect young people with current and former public servants, inspiring civic purpose and service
- **Inspire and facilitate pathways to service**, by guiding young people from interest to action, helping them identify volunteer roles, internships, fellowships, and career opportunities in public service that align with the challenges they care about
- **Serve as trusted connectors** between communities, service and youth-based organizations, universities, public servants, and public institutions

During 2026, Ambassadors will collectively engage young people nationwide, strengthening civic participation and deepening understanding of public service.

Ideal Candidate

The ideal Public Service Ambassador is a community-centered leader who believes in the power of public service to create meaningful change and is motivated to inspire others to serve.

Strong candidates will bring the following qualities and experiences:

- AmeriCorps alumni status, with a demonstrated commitment to service and civic engagement
- Strong ties to their local community, including connections through volunteer organizations, professional networks, colleges and universities, or public institutions
- Experience engaging diverse groups, particularly young people, rising leaders, or community stakeholders

- Comfort facilitating conversations and creating inclusive, welcoming spaces for dialogue
- Creativity in co-creating effective and engaging events tailored to the resources and needs of their respective communities
- Organizational and self-management skills, including the ability to balance this part-time commitment alongside other responsibilities
- Interest in public service, whether through direct experience, advocacy, or community work
- Collaborative mindset, with enthusiasm for learning alongside peers, sharing best practices, and co-creating solutions
- Adaptability and initiative, with the ability to work independently while staying connected to a national cohort and support team

What matters most is commitment to community, passion for public service, and a desire to help others imagine themselves as part of the public sector's future.

What You'll Gain

As a Public Service Ambassador, you will:

- Make a meaningful impact on your community by listening to rising leaders and encouraging them to shape the future they want to see
- Strengthen local relationships with community members, public servants, and civic leaders
- Build a national peer network by forming deep relationships with fellow Ambassadors and reconnecting with AmeriCorps alumni across the country
- Develop advanced leadership skills, including community engagement, organizing, conflict management, and facilitating constructive dialogue
- Receive ongoing coaching and mentorship from the Volcker Alliance and partner organizations
- Continue your public service journey in new and influential ways, while helping to shape the future of the public sector

Time Commitment and Support

- **Time commitment:** Approximately 20 hours per month, with flexibility to align with other responsibilities
- **Duration:** July-December 2026
- **Compensation:** \$4,000 plus a modest budget to support community events through reimbursement of eligible expenses

- **Orientation & Training:** Ambassadors must participate in an in-person multi-day structured orientation, facilitation training program, and a co-design workshop the week of July 13, before launching community-based activities; travel expenses and training will be provided free of charge to the Ambassadors
- **Ongoing support:** Ambassadors will participate in cohort-building activities, coaching, and mentoring throughout the program

Key Program Dates

Application Closes: Applications will be considered on a rolling basis, with priority given to applications submitted by May 4, 2026

Multi-Day In-Person Program Orientation & Training in Boston (mandatory): The week of July 13, 2026 (travel and expenses will be covered)

Duration of the Ambassador Work: August-December 2026

How to Apply

Please apply using [this Google form](#). If you have any questions, please get in touch with americorpsalumni@volckeralliance.org.

Public Service Ambassador Application

Fields:

Name

Preferred Email Address

Location

Prior AmeriCorps Service Role/Organization

Prior AmeriCorps Service Start and End Dates (Month/Year)

Resume

Professional Reference (Name, Title, Organization, Relationship, Email Address)

Confirmation of the following:

I confirm that I can commit to participating in the orientation and training program in Boston, MA, the week of July 13, 2026.

I confirm that I can commit to serving in this leadership role in my community for approximately 20 hours per month from August to December 2026.

I am interested in receiving additional information about other AmeriCorps Alumni engagement opportunities.

Short Essay Questions

Instructions: Please respond to the following questions.

1. Motivation & Purpose *(Max 500 words)*

What draws you to the Public Service Ambassador Initiative, and what do you hope to gain from this experience? In addition, what makes you a strong candidate for the Ambassador role? What unique skills, experiences, and/or perspectives would you bring to a cohort?

We're interested in what motivates you and what you would bring to this role.

2. Community Connection *(Max 500 words)*

Tell us about the community or communities you would serve as an Ambassador. What are you proud of and what opportunities do you see for growth? In addition, what issues, strengths, or opportunities do you see among young or rising leaders there?

This can be a geographic community, a professional or identity-based community, or a combination of both. We are also interested in any strong connections you have with youth-based organizations, universities, etc.

3. Experience Engaging Others (Max 300 words)

Describe a time when you brought people together (formally or informally) to listen, learn, or take action around an issue that mattered. What was your role, what was your approach, and what did you learn?

This could include AmeriCorps service, community organizing, facilitation, mentoring, or other relevant experiences.

4. Engaging Young People as a Public Service Ambassador (Max 300 words)

Please offer three concrete ideas you would employ to engage young people in your community in public service.

We are interested in your creativity, understanding of your community, and willingness to experiment.

Note: This is a preview of the application. To submit an application, you must enter your answers through [this form](#).