



# Our future needs **you.**



# The State of Youth Mental Health

**42%**  
of students

felt persistently sad or  
hopeless in 2021

**122**  
million

Americans live in communities that lack  
adequate mental health services

**18.4%**  
job growth

expected for the mental health  
profession between 2022 and 2032

The Youth Mental Health Corps, conceived by the Schultz Family Foundation and Pinterest, has been developed in consultation with hundreds of experts and practitioners. Launching in partnership with AmeriCorps, America Forward and state service commissions, the Corps will utilize the power of national service as a bridge to career pathways to simultaneously address the youth mental health crisis and empower young adults with promising and meaningful careers.

The Corps is designed for young people between the ages of 18 to 24 years old to earn a certification or higher education credit while serving in communities with limited access to mental health resources. These young adults bring a personal connection and motivation that uniquely position them to work with youth.

## What service looks like:

Members will support staff in schools, community organizations, and clinics through activities such as: conducting 1:1 and small group check-ins with students; providing peer or near-peer guidance; offering trainings for caregivers; developing community outreach campaigns; and identifying barriers to mental health access for youth. As part of the staff team at their service organization, members will receive valuable work experience, mentorship, and training while they also work toward earning their credentials.

## Members can pursue one of three service-to-career pathways:



### School-based mental health navigator

Members will earn stackable credentials and/or credits toward a higher education program as they serve in schools, out-of-school-time programs, and community-based youth organizations in communities with limited access to mental health services.



### Peer support/recovery navigator

Members who have lived experience with mental health challenges and/or substance use disorder will support peers and near-peers along their recovery journey while getting the training and experience required to earn a peer support/recovery specialist state certification.



### Community mental health navigator

Members without lived experience will have the opportunity to serve youth and young adults in communities where access to mental health resources is limited, all while receiving the training, support, and experience to earn a community health worker state certification.

## Career Pathway for Youth Mental Health Corps Members

### Immediate Benefits

- Earn a stipend
- Access mental health support
- Be a part of the national Youth Mental Health Corps community

MAY

**EDUCATION: May-June**

- Learn about participating states and programs in the Youth Mental Health Corps

JUNE

**APPLICATION: May-August**

- Join the Youth Mental Health Corps and decide on a credential pathway to pursue

JULY

Access career guidance and

**TRAINING: July-August**

# The Youth Mental Health Corps will initially launch in 11 states.

## Four states will launch programs in Fall 2024.

**Colorado** will work with partners including the Colorado Community College System, Reach University, Colorado Behavioral Health Administration, and existing Department of Labor registered apprenticeships to place 150 members in schools with limited access to mental health services.

PATHWAYS:  

**Michigan**, with partners including City Year Detroit, Michigan College Access Network, and Michigan State University, will build on existing AmeriCorps programs to improve access, expand services, and address gaps for schools and community programs in low-income, diverse, and rural communities in which 125 members will serve.

PATHWAYS:  

**Minnesota** will leverage existing partnerships with two AmeriCorps programs, Recovery Corps and Promise Fellows, to empower 125 members to provide mental health navigation in schools, community organizations, recovery community organizations, and collegiate recovery programs.

PATHWAYS:  

**Texas** will partner with middle school and high school Communities in Schools (CIS) programs in Central Texas, North Texas, and San Antonio where 160 members will serve to improve academic engagement and build social-emotional skills for students.

PATHWAY: 

### LEGEND

 School-based mental health navigator  Peer support/recovery navigator  Community mental health navigator

## Seven states are designing programs for potential launch in Fall 2025.

**California** is exploring building upon the existing California AmeriCorps and #CaliforniansForAll College Corps service infrastructure to develop a California Youth Mental Health Corps.

**Iowa** is exploring the creation of community health worker, peer recovery specialist, and school-based pathways to increase access to mental health resources in rural and underserved areas.

**Maryland** is exploring the expansion of existing peer support and community mental health navigator pathways and create a new school-based mental health navigator pathway.

**New Jersey** is exploring leveraging the state's vast network of youth mental health programs and behavioral health certification opportunities to create service-to-career AmeriCorps pathways.

**New York** is exploring creating a service-to-career pathway through AmeriCorps programs into behavioral health service for young people who are interested in youth peer advocate state certification.

**Virginia** is designing a Youth Mental Health Corps to serve youth and young adults in schools, out-of-school-time programs, and youth organizations through a near-peer mental health navigator model.

**Utah** is exploring partnerships through the state's new One Utah Service Fellowship, and existing AmeriCorps programs to create their Youth Mental Health Corps.

### AUGUST

and specialized training

### SEPTEMBER-JUNE (THE FOLLOWING YEAR)

#### SERVICE: September-June

- Serve and complete service in the Youth Mental Health Corps
- Earn college credits and a credential.
- Enroll in formal training program
- Make an impact in the community

### AND BEYOND!

#### Long-term Benefits

- Enroll/continue college program to earn a degree
- Eligible for a well-paying job in the behavioral health field
- Earn an educational award to assist in college tuition



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