



# CITY YEAR PRESS KIT

City Year helps students and schools succeed, while preparing the next generation of civically engaged leaders who can work across lines of difference to make a positive impact. In partnership with teachers and schools, diverse teams of City Year AmeriCorps members cultivate learning environments where students can build on their strengths, fully engage in their learning and experience success.

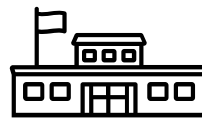
## OUR REACH



3,000 AmeriCorps  
Members



29 U.S. Cities



300+ schools



226,000 students



Founded in 1988



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## WHAT WE DO AND WHY

### OUR BELIEF

At City Year, we believe that supporting children and young adults contributes to just, equitable and vibrant communities, and that when students rise, we all rise.

### THE CHALLENGE

We know more than we ever have about how young people learn and develop. Yet too many students do not have access to the learning environments they need to thrive, due to systemic failings that have contributed to inequitable access to educational opportunities. These inequities disproportionately impact students of color and students growing up in low-income households. Disparities in opportunity and resources have created inequitable educational, health and economic outcomes: for example, children living in poverty graduate high school at significantly lower rates than their middle- and upper-income peers.<sup>1</sup>

### OUR INTENDED IMPACT

Together with our school and community partners, City Year seeks to support student success, advance educational equity and nurture the next generation of civically engaged leaders.

Our AmeriCorps members serve in schools full time as student success coaches who help students build on their strengths and cultivate social, emotional and academic skills, whether that's learning to work in teams, cope with frustration or master fractions—skills that are important in school and in life. Through their service in schools and communities, City Year AmeriCorps members not only make a difference in the lives of students they serve, but also acquire valuable skills and experience that prepare them to lead and make meaningful contributions to where they live and work.

Recent events, including COVID-19, have underscored the unacceptable systemic inequities that disproportionately impact Black, Indigenous and other students of color (BIPOC students); the fundamental role of schools in our communities; and the importance of supporting the whole child. As City Year continues to innovate and respond to the needs and voices of our students alongside our school and district partners, we are dedicated to sharing what we are learning about how best to support our students. We also seek to contribute to systems-level changes in policies and practice that address the root causes of inequitable educational outcomes—including by helping to nurture future educators and working to identify and spread practices that support improvement across schools and districts.

<sup>1</sup> 2020 Building A Grad Nation: Progress and Challenge in Raising High School Graduation Rates. (2020). Civic and the Everyone Graduates Center at the Johns Hopkins University School of Education. Retrieved from: <https://www.americaspromise.org/report/2020-building-grad-nation-report>





## OUR RESEARCH-BASED APPROACH

City Year and our partners commit to multiple years of service in schools so that students “grow up with City Year” and receive support during key transition years of their educational experience, from third through ninth grades, when research shows students are most at risk for falling off track.<sup>2</sup>

City Year’s Whole School, Whole Child approach is based on research about how students learn and develop, ensuring that students are strengthening all of the skills essential for success in and out of school—social, emotional and academic. City Year AmeriCorps members work closely with students who exhibit one or more “early warning indicators” in attendance, behavior or course performance—indicators that are associated with whether students will stay in school and graduate from high school.

The developmental relationships that AmeriCorps members cultivate with students are at the center of our approach. City Year AmeriCorps members help students develop an understanding of who they are, a sense of agency to make a difference, and critical skills that set them on a path of lifelong learning and success.

<sup>2</sup> Langenkamp, A. (2010). Academic Vulnerability and Resilience during the Transition to High School. *Sociology of Education* 83(1).



# OUR WHOLE SCHOOL, WHOLE CHILD® SERVICES

As student success coaches, City Year AmeriCorps members deliver holistic support to students, classrooms and the whole school. In addition to tutoring students one-on-one or in small groups, AmeriCorps members provide classroom and whole school support, partnering with teachers, helping students stay focused in class, organizing school-wide events, and running afterschool programs.

## HOW CITY YEAR WORKS IN SCHOOLS

City Year works closely with the school principal and teachers to deliver a suite of interconnected services that cost-effectively and efficiently improve student, classroom and whole school outcomes.



One-on-one and small group instruction in English and math with embedded social-emotional supports



Use of data to monitor student progress and better meet student needs



Additional capacity in the classroom, supporting classroom routines and providing and enabling differentiated instruction



Extended-day activities: afterschool programming, homework assistance, enrichment curricula and civic projects that build and serve community



Small group social-emotional skill building sessions



Whole school activities that improve conditions for learning, engage families and inspire civic engagement





# OUR IMPACT

## ADVANCING EDUCATIONAL EQUITY BY SUPPORTING STUDENT AND SCHOOL SUCCESS

Students and schools who work with City Year report improved outcomes in multiple areas—academic, social, emotional and attendance—validating City Year’s holistic approach and strengthening the case for more systemically under-resourced schools to have access to the resources and relationships that student success coaches can provide.

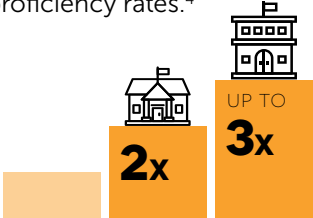
### VALIDATION OF OUR HOLISTIC APPROACH

A 2020 study by the Everyone Graduates Center (EGC) at the Johns Hopkins University School of Education, analyzing 2017-2018 data from 28 cities and 38,131 students, found that students who received support from City Year AmeriCorps members demonstrated improved social-emotional and academic outcomes.<sup>3</sup>



### ACADEMIC GAINS

A 2015 study by Policy Studies Associates in 600 schools in 22 school districts showed that City Year partner elementary schools – as compared with similar non-City Year schools – were two times more likely to improve on state English assessments and up to three times more likely to improve on math proficiency rates.<sup>4</sup>



### POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

City Year is contributing to positive learning environments that increase student engagement, voice and sense of belonging.



of partner principals agree that AmeriCorps members foster a positive learning environment in their schools.<sup>5</sup>

“[My AmeriCorps member] Maria makes me excited to come to school. City Year, I feel at home with them. I feel like I can tell them everything.” –Marcos, 5th Grade Student, Milwaukee

### NURTURING LEADERS WHO WORK ACROSS LINES OF DIFFERENCE

City Year alumni, now nearly 35,000 members strong, are serving and leading in schools and communities, making significant contributions as professionals and collaborators who can mobilize diverse groups to tackle complex challenges across a range of fields.

According to the 2020 City Year Alumni Survey, 91% of alumni agree that their City Year experience had a significantly positive impact on their lives, and 93% said City Year helped them to develop relationships with people who are from different backgrounds than their own.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Overview of the Everyone Graduates Center study, Connecting Social-Emotional Development, Academic Achievement, and On-Track Outcomes: A Multi-District Study of Grade 3 to 10 Students Supported by City Year AmeriCorps Members. Retrieved from: [https://www.cityyear.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/EGC\\_overview\\_FY20\\_05.20.pdf](https://www.cityyear.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/EGC_overview_FY20_05.20.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> Policy Study Associates. (2015.) Analysis of the Impacts of City Year’s Whole School Whole Child Model on Partner Schools’ Performance. Retrieved from: <https://www.cityyear.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/PSAstudy2015.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> Spring 2019 principal survey, n=407

<sup>6</sup> City Year Alumni Survey, April 2020, 21,786 alumni contacted; 20% response rate.



## RETURN ON INVESTMENT

City Year is made possible by public and private sector support, including federal funding from AmeriCorps, local contributions and private donations from corporations, individuals and foundations. **Every dollar invested is matched at least 1:1 by other resources.**



For schools we partner with, City Year is **78% more cost effective** than contracting with individual providers to deliver City Year's holistic set of services.<sup>7</sup>



**\$7 million in increased government revenue and cost savings** from new high school graduates in each class served by City Year.<sup>8</sup>



**17:1 return:** Every \$1 of federal taxes invested in AmeriCorps and Senior Corps returns over \$17 to society, program members and the government.<sup>9</sup>

*"All young people should get the advising, tutoring, and coaching they need to get on the college pathway that's right for them. And because of COVID-19, this work is especially urgent for the next few classes of graduating seniors. As the country focuses on the needs of these young people, supporting College Advising Corps, City Year, and Saga would be a great start."*

—Bill Gates, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

<sup>7</sup> In 2017, Deloitte Consulting LLP was engaged to aggregate and synthesize various industry and internal analyses to help City Year estimate and articulate ROI; City Year costs as compared to benchmark analysis of costs to provide similar services provided by a combination of individual providers.

<sup>8</sup> City Year cost savings based on an estimate of \$292,000 benefit to society per graduate from: The consequences of dropping out of high school. (2009). Center for Labor Studies, Northeastern University. Retrieved from: [https://repository.library.northeastern.edu/downloads/neu:376324?datastream\\_id=content](https://repository.library.northeastern.edu/downloads/neu:376324?datastream_id=content).

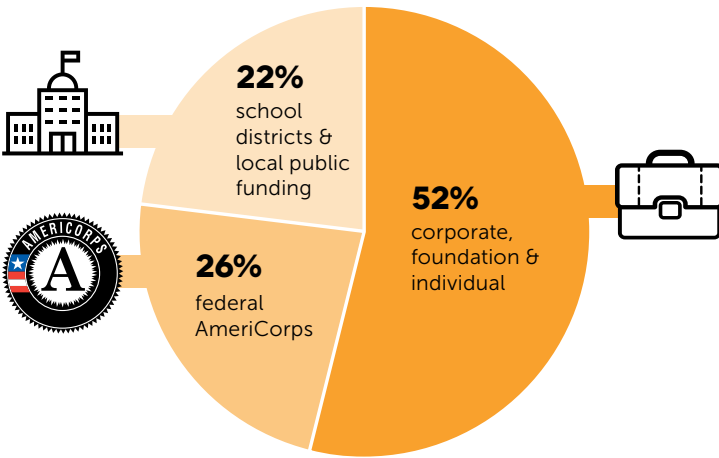
<sup>9</sup> AmeriCorps and Senior Corps: Quantifying the Impact. (2020). Retrieved from: <https://voicesforservice.org/research-and-reports/national-service-produces-171-return-on-investment/>





# HOW WE'RE FUNDED

A proud member of the AmeriCorps national service network, City Year is supported by AmeriCorps, local school districts, and private philanthropy from corporations, foundations and individuals.



## CHARITY NAVIGATOR HIGHEST RANKING



Charity Navigator is America's premier charity evaluator. Since 2003, City Year has earned Charity Navigator's highest rating, certifying our commitment to accountability, transparency and responsible fiscal management. Less than 1% of rated organizations have received this distinction for at least 16 consecutive years, placing City Year among the most trustworthy nonprofits in America.



# OUR CITY YEAR AMERICORPS MEMBERS

City Year AmeriCorps members are inspiring young adults, ages 18–25, who share a commitment to a cause greater than themselves. While our corps members come from all walks of life, they bring to their service experience similar characteristics: they are deeply empathetic, they are strong at building relationships, and they cultivate a “growth mindset”—the belief that abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work.



**3,000 SERVING NATIONALLY**

**65%** people of color

**35%** African-American

**15%** Hispanic or Latino

**8%** Multi-ethnic

**6%** Asian

**62%** college graduates

**52%** Pell Grant eligible

**24%** First generation college students

Based on 2019–2020 data.

“Whether it is through our work with students or with our teammates, City Year has taught me that bringing together those of us who have different lived experiences will allow us to find strength in our diversity, and allow that strength to ripple across our schools and our communities.”

**CORNELIUS RHONE**  
(NEW YORK '19, '20)

Throughout their service year, City Year AmeriCorps members receive valuable training and professional development to help support their work with students and to help further their own personal and career goals. City Year AmeriCorps members receive ongoing coaching and feedback from City Year staff, as well as formal training sessions, guided reflection, peer learning and career support.

**Help City Year recruit its next corps of leaders!** For more information, visit [cityyear.org/joincorps](https://cityyear.org/joincorps).





## CITY YEAR ALUMNI

### NEXT GENERATION OF CIVICALLY ENGAGED LEADERS WHO CAN WORK ACROSS LINES OF DIFFERENCE

Upon completing their service with City Year, our remarkable alumni continue to serve and lead in our communities, nation and world. Now a network of nearly 35,000 strong, City Year alumni show up to help address some of the serious challenges our country is facing across systems—in education, healthcare, the economy and the environment—that are struggling with inequity and racial injustice. Our alumni are culturally competent, civically engaged and diverse changemakers who have experience bringing people together, working in collaborative teams, and taking action for the common good.

- ▶ According to a 2020 City Year alumni survey, **91% of alumni agree that their City Year experience had a significantly positive impact on their lives.**
- ▶ A longitudinal study conducted by Policy Studies Associates found that **City Year alumni excelled on every measure of civic engagement, had greater social capital, and were more likely to develop lasting relationships with people from different backgrounds,** as compared to similar service-minded peers.<sup>10</sup>
- ▶ Thousands of City Year alumni are contributing to a more diverse, prepared and committed talent pool for teaching positions and the education sector overall. Our 2020 alumni survey indicated that **52% of our alumni work in the educator sector, and 13% are classroom teachers.**

<sup>10</sup> Anderson, L.M., Fabiano, L. (2007.) The City Year Experience: Putting Alumni on the Path to Lifelong Civic Engagement.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION



[CITYYEAR.ORG](http://CITYYEAR.ORG)



[@CITYYEAR](https://twitter.com/CITYYEAR)



[CITYYEAR.ORG/BLOG](http://CITYYEAR.ORG/BLOG)

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City Year helps students and schools succeed, while preparing the next generation of civically engaged leaders who can work across lines of difference. Diverse teams of City Year AmeriCorps members provide support to students, classrooms and the whole school. Schools that partner with City Year are up to two to three times more likely to improve in English and math assessments, and the more time students spend with AmeriCorps members, the more they improve on social, emotional and academic skills— skills that help students thrive in school and contribute to their community.

A proud member of the AmeriCorps national service network, City Year is supported by AmeriCorps, local school districts and private philanthropy. City Year partners with public schools in 29 communities across the U.S. and through international affiliates in the U.K. and South Africa.



NATIONAL STRATEGIC PARTNERS

abbvie



COMCAST  
NBCUNIVERSAL

Deloitte.



NEW YORK LIFE  
FOUNDATION



NATIONAL PARTNERS

aramark

BainCapital



Celanese

INSPIRE  
CHANGE

Santander

STARBUCKS  
FOUNDATION

TACO BELL  
FOUNDATION

VERTEX

THE  
VERTICES  
FOUNDATION