

Email Response from Katie Friedman:

Q: What specific marketing tools are used to bring in host organizations?

A: The Mayors Caucus is a network of 275 municipalities in the Chicago region. Within this network, there are 131 that have adopted our [Greenest Region Compact](#), which is both a pledge to support 49 consensus sustainability goals and a tool that can help local governments create their own locally-specific sustainability plans. We also have an [Environment Committee](#), which is a collaborative group of mayors and municipal staff that meet monthly to discuss topics related to local environmental action. When we are recruiting for Greenest Region Corps host organizations, we just use our organizations' existing networks – including our internal email lists for Greenest Region Compact Adopters and Environment Committee Members. I've attached the info sheet that we provide to interested host sites which explains the commitment of the program. Our best marketing tool is actually our members themselves. During their year of service, members attend professional conferences and other events throughout the region and have a chance to network and organically share the work that they are doing in communities. This is the main way that other communities learn about our program. We have primarily grown through word of mouth.

Q: Do some host organizations apply every year? If so, how do you continue these connections?

A: Yep! We have a really high retention rate of communities. In the past 3 years, our program has not only grown by 50%, increasing from 8 to 12 members, but also retained 90% of host site partners. Two sites have added an additional volunteer to their team. We applied for 20 positions in the upcoming year. The reasons communities come back for another year is because our members do important work and demonstrate the value of the program. Host sites provide matching funding of \$20,000 and receive about a year of full-time staff hours in return. It's a pretty fantastic deal. Members have completed very high-level sustainability work, including writing sustainability plans, compiling green house gas inventories, securing grant funds, and providing policy research and recommendations to city councils. Many communities hire consultants to do this work.

Q: Can you expand on how expenses are covered with federal AmeriCorps, Serve Illinois Commission, and the AmeriCorp grants?

A: AmeriCorps funding comes from the national government and is funneled through the Serve Illinois Commission, which is housed in the Illinois Department of Public Health. The Serve Illinois Commission then distributes the funds to individual programs throughout the state of Illinois. We receive about \$16,000 per member from AmeriCorps. We pay our members an \$18,500 'living allowance' for about 10 months of service, so the funds from AmeriCorps cover most of a member's living allowance. Then each participating host community contributes \$20,000, which covers all other expenses, including the remainder of the living allowance, health insurance, payroll taxes, travel and training, GRCorps branded professional clothing, and then admin costs to cover my and Edith's salaries and benefits, travel, supplies, etc.. I've included a breakdown of those costs below. After a member completes their full service term, they are eligible to receive a \$6,000 education award, which can be used towards student loans

or tuition. This comes directly from the federal government and is not funneled through Serve IL or the Mayors Caucus.

I will mention that we *strongly* dislike working with AmeriCorps, and would love to find an alternative way to fund the program. However, it has been very difficult to find a sustainable source of funding to cover this kind of a program. If you have any ideas or knowledge about potentially partnering with Universities, I'd be very interested.

Per Member Revenue & Costs					Living allowance to volunteer	health ins	workers comp	FICA	fed payroll tax (3.95%)	state payroll tax	payroll service fee	background check	admin	travel	training	clothing	Commission Fixed Amount	recognition costs	Total cost per volunteer	
Per Member Revenue	Vol #	Serve Illinois	Host	Total Revenue per volunteer																
Member Revenue	20	16,300.00	20,000.00	36,300.00	18,500.00	4,400.00	500.00	1,415.25	272.00	711.00	156.00	90.00	8,862.5	700.00	195.75	200.00	180.50	120.00	36,300.00	
Member Cost																				

Q: How many people are a part of the staff?

A: Just me and Edith, and we are each only partially covered by GRCorps funds. We both work on other grant-funded projects at the Mayors Caucus as well.



Joseph T. Tamburino  
Mayor, Village of Hillside  
Executive Board Chairman

Lori E. Lightfoot  
Mayor, City of Chicago  
Executive Board, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair

Kevin Wallace  
Mayor, Village of Bartlett  
Executive Board 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair

John F. Mahoney  
Mayor, Village of Palos Park  
Executive Board Treasurer



## About Hosting a GRCorps Member 2021/2022



*To host a GRCorps member for service in 2021/22, action is needed by November 10, 2020.*

### What is the GRCorps?

The GRCorps is a team of talented emerging sustainability professionals that was created with the support of a grant from AmeriCorps (through the [Serve Illinois program](#)). AmeriCorps supports voluntary service to communities to address a wide variety of community needs. The Mayors Caucus designed this program specifically to help communities address the common sustainability goals of the [Greenest Region Compact \(GRC\)](#).

Our third [GRCorps](#) is made up of 12 dynamic college graduates serving GRC communities. They began work alongside municipal staff and civic leaders in October 2020. Our first two classes of the GRCorps have done a remarkable amount of quality work for diverse municipalities and partners that serve municipalities. Read about some of their work [here](#). GRCorps members are beginning their careers in sustainability and receive ongoing training and support through the USEPA and the Mayors Caucus.

### What work do GRCorps members do?

Any meaningful work related to the [GRC](#) that is important to your community can potentially be done by a GRCorps member. Most of the GRCorps members are serving their host communities by coordinating sustainability tasks, developing sustainability plans and tracking accomplishments. Some GRCorps members are conducting outreach to residents, managing communication about sustainability, conducting research, and organizing events. One GRCorps Member is currently working with the Caucus' [Age Friendly Communities Collaborative](#).

The AmeriCorps program requires full-time GRCorps members to complete 1720 of service, including modest requirements for training and additional community service, like on Veteran's Day. This equals about 11 months of full-time work. They will be available for full-time service from October 2021 through about September 2022, depending on their pace towards completion of required hours.

The Caucus will work with Host communities to recruit qualified candidates for all GRCorps host communities and match candidates to the needs of your position. The GRCorps is attracting highly-qualified college graduates and career-changers. Host communities will make final selection of candidates and provide direct supervision for the full term of service.

### What is the cost?

Municipalities are required to share the cost of the GRCorps members' living allowance, health insurance, travel and other fringe costs. **This cost is expected to be \$20,000 for the 11 months of service.** The AmeriCorps grant to the Mayors Caucus will cover the remainder of the cost to support the GRCorps member and administer the program. A municipality may 'share' the cost of a full-time

GRCorps member with another municipality or host organization and pay \$10,000 for 5 1/2 months of service, if a suitable partner can be found.

The Caucus will manage recruitment, training, administration, benefits and payroll. GRCorps members will receive a living allowance of \$18,000, health insurance, training, and a travel allowance for professional development opportunities. The AmeriCorps program will directly pay the GRCorps members an additional award of about \$6,000 upon successful completion of their full-time term of service. GRCorps members may use that [Segal AmeriCorps Educational Award](#) for educational expenses.

### **How do I request a GRCorps member?**

The Caucus will submit a grant request in November of 2020 to Serve Illinois/AmeriCorps requesting funding for each municipal and partner organization that expresses interest in hosting a GRCorps member, for the 2021/22 cycle. ***Please make a simple request*** with a very brief description of the nature of the work to be done is needed for the application using this [Expression of Interest form](#). ***If the Caucus secures funding and if the host organization secures local approval, parties will enter into a formal agreement in August 2021.*** Hosts must pay the \$20,000 cost share at that time.

### **What commitment is required?**

Once the Caucus secures grant funding Serve Illinois/AmeriCorps in July/August of 2021, the Caucus will enter into a formal agreement with Host communities to support and manage a GRCorps member for the term of the service year (October – September).

Host communities must participate in candidate selection and a half-day of interviews at a downtown location, or remotely. After initial training in early October, host communities will be responsible for providing supervision and meaningful work on a day-to-day basis. Office supplies, a computer and any local travel within the community is the responsibility of the Host community.

GRCorps members will be needed for regional projects and periodic training up to 80 hours. These hours will count towards the 1720 hour total but will be assigned at the discretion of the Mayors Caucus.

One GRCorps Member from the cohort must be selected to serve in Illinois' Disaster Corps. That volunteer will be required for 3 days of mandatory training in Chicago. This training may be helpful to the host community, but service hours will be reduced by the training hours (about 24 hours). Further, any hours of deployment by the Disaster Corps member will not be available to the host community.

*For more information visit the [GRCorps page](#) or contact [emakra@mayorscaucus.org](mailto:emakra@mayorscaucus.org) 630-327-4193. To reserve a spot for a GRCorps Member, please fill out this [Expression of Interest Form](#).*

*The Greenest Region Corps can demonstrate our collaborative strength to “get things done” – underscoring both the [motto of the Serve Illinois AmeriCorps program](#) and the attitude of GRC communities working collaboratively to address the goals of the GRC.*



## The Greenest Region Corps

The [Greenest Region Corps](#) is a partnership between the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and AmeriCorps that aims to pair talented young professionals with municipalities and partner agencies. During a year of service, these individuals help build capacity for sustainability-related projects and initiatives at their respective host sites.

GRCorps Members work individually at their host sites under the supervision of local staff personnel. The nature of the position allows members to become fully immersed in the challenges and opportunities of a single community. However, the strength of the Corps is its capacity to function as a team. Members participate in weekly team meetings, which create opportunities to identify common goals and best practices across the region and share resources, knowledge, and expertise. Most importantly, these meetings -- and the structure of the Corps in general -- encourage members to collaborate and support each other across community boundaries, leveraging their collective strengths and experience for greater impact.

## Examples of Corps Member Projects and Accomplishments

Municipal Plan Development - *Members collaborate and communicate across departments to identify goals and develop plans to reach future objectives. See examples of these products below:*

- [Village of Round Lake Beach Sustainability Plan](#)
- [Village of Round Lake Beach Wetland Management Plan](#)
- [Village of Round Lake Beach Wetland Plan Overview](#)
- [Village Round Lake Beach Natural Areas Management Plan](#)
- [Village of Hoffman Estates Sustainability Plan](#)
- [City of Waukegan Sustainability Plan Framework](#)

Grant Applications – *In 2019-2020, Members secured over \$200,000 in grant funding for their communities.*

- Metropolitan Mayors Caucus -- [Illinois Science and Energy Innovation Foundation Grant](#) - \$135,000 awarded
- [SWALCO USDA Grant Application](#) - \$90,000 awarded
- City of Waukegan – [ComEd Green Region Grant](#) - \$3,150 awarded

*Note: Members also applied for grants from the IEPA and AARP in late 2020. We have not yet heard back from these organizations.*

Best Practice Checklists – *Last year, one GRCorps Member helped develop an 'EV Readiness Checklist', which identified best practices for municipalities to consider in preparing for an increase in electric vehicles. To create the checklist, the member facilitated 17 listening sessions with municipal leaders and experts across the region.*

- [EV Readiness Checklist](#)



Community Engagement and Events- *Members partner with school districts, city staff, and consultants to develop programs and help plan both virtual and in-person events to engage with community members, students, and local businesses.*

- [City of Evanston Sustainable Business Recognition Program](#)
- [City of Evanston Experience Climate Change Project](#)
- [City of Evanston Earth Week Programming](#)
- [City of Highland Park Restaurant Composting Initiative](#)
- [Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Earth Day Flyer and Webinar](#)

Policy Research and Recommendations – *Members research local policy initiatives and present them to City Councils and Village Boards for approval. Members also draft municipal resolutions for Board and Council approval.*

- [City of Highland Park Backyard Chicken Keeping Recommendations](#)
- [City of Highland Park Backyard Chicken Keeping Presentation for City Council](#)
- [Village of Hawthorn Woods Sustainability Plan Resolution](#)
- [City of Waukegan Mayors Monarch Pledge Resolution](#)
- [City of Waukegan Earth Week Resolution](#)
- [City of Waukegan National Pollinator Week Resolution](#)

Survey Development – *Members design and administer surveys to gauge community interest on different initiatives. Surveys and summaries of survey findings in two different communities are linked below.*

- [Village of Hawthorn Woods Survey Outreach](#)
- [Village of Hawthorn Woods Survey Results](#)
- [City of Waukegan Sustainability Survey](#)
- [City of Waukegan Survey Results](#)

Asset and Story Mapping – *Members creatively utilize GIS to map community assets or tell a story about their communities. Check out the maps below.*

- [Cook County Solid Waste Story Map](#)
- [SWALCO Food Composting Site GIS Map](#)
- [City of Highland Park Sustainability Map](#)

Data Analysis and Inventories – *Members collect and analyze data for a variety of uses, including cost-benefit analyses, greenhouse gas inventories, and climate risk analyses.*

- [Village of Park Forest Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report](#)
- [Village of Park Forest Greenhouse Gas Emissions Summary](#)
- [Village of Park Forest Climate Risk Analysis](#)
- [City of Evanston EV Charging Infrastructure Data Briefing](#)
- [SWALCO Cart Tag Technical Summary Report](#)

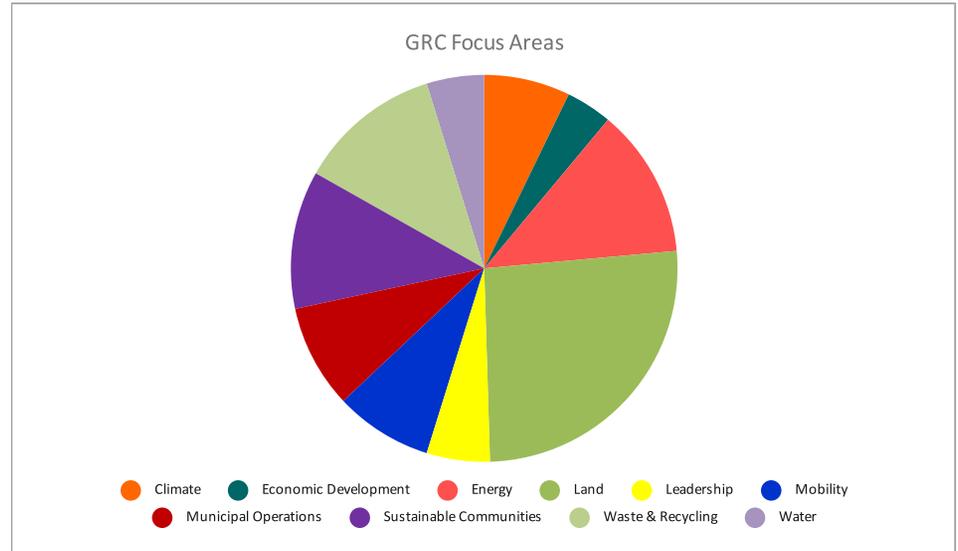


Communications Materials – Members create a variety of communications materials, including press releases, informational brochures and flyers, website design, and social media posts. Some examples are linked below.

- [City of Evanston Green Infrastructure Brochure](#)
- [Village of Hawthorn Woods Guide to Aging in Place](#)
- [Village of Hawthorn Woods Environmental Initiatives Brochure](#)
- [Village of Hawthorn Woods Pollinator Garden Flyer](#)
- [Village of Hawthorn Woods Native Plant Tour Brochure](#)
- [City of Waukegan ComEd Press Release](#)
- [City of Waukegan CEJA Press Release](#)
- [City of Waukegan Pollinator Bingo Cards](#)
- [Cook County Earth Month Blog Post](#)
- [Village of Park Forest Sustainability Programs Flyer](#)
- [Village of Park Forest Sustainability Milestones Poster](#)
- [Village of Park Forest REC Poster](#)
- [Village of Round Lake Beach Wetlands & You Booklet](#)
- [Village of Round Lake Beach Wetland Informational Flyer](#)
- [Metropolitan Mayors Caucus COVID-19 Resources Webpage Design](#)
- [Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Climate Adaptation Webpage Post](#)
- [SWALCO COVID-19 Informational Flyers](#)

## GRCorps 2020-2021 Member Project Metrics

	Objectives / Strategies Addressed
Climate	15
Economic Development	8
Energy	26
Land	54
Leadership	11
Mobility	17
Municipal Operations	18
Sustainable Communities	24
Waste & Recycling	25
Water	10
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>208</b>



Addressed? (Y/N)	Greenest Region Compact Goals	# Objectives Addressed per Goal
 <b>Climate</b>		
Y	· Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	5
Y	· Maintain clean and healthful air	2
Y	· Develop resiliency to climate change impacts	5
Y	· Engage the community in climate change mitigation and adaptation	3
 <b>Economic Development</b>		
Y	· Promote innovation and a competitive workforce	3
Y	· Cultivate local and sustainable development, jobs, and businesses	5
 <b>Energy</b>		
Y	· Use energy for buildings and facilities efficiently	9
Y	· Advance renewable energy	8

Y	· Reduce energy consumption	2
Y	· Enact policies that support clean energy	4
Y	· Engage the community in clean energy practices	3

 **Land**

Y	· Encourage strategic development that upholds sustainability principles	6
Y	· Conserve, restore and enhance natural features and ecosystems	8
Y	· Support networks of accessible well-used and enjoyable parks	4
Y	· Sustain a robust urban forest canopy	15
Y	· Sustain beautiful landscapes that provide ecosystem services	10
Y	· Achieve greater livability through sustainable land use and housing policies	4
Y	· Cultivate a conservation ethic in the community	7

 **Leadership**

Y	· Enlist support for GRC2 goals through regional, state and national leadership	5
Y	· Advocate for policies that align with and advance the GRC2	3
Y	· Work collaboratively towards a sustainable region	3

 **Mobility**

Y	· Support safe and effective active transportation	3
Y	· Maintain a diverse, safe, and efficient transportation network	2
Y	· Support efficient transportation that uses resources wisely	4
Y	· Integrate sustainability into transportation policies, programs, and regulations	2
Y	· Promote public and sustainable transportation choices	1

check these

 **Municipal Operations**

#ERROR!	· Lead by demonstrating sustainable values and practices	#ERROR!
#ERROR!	· Integrate sustainability into all municipal operations	#ERROR!
#ERROR!	· Operate a safe, clean and efficient fleet	#ERROR!
#ERROR!	· Collect and manage data to advance sustainability	#ERROR!

 **Sustainable Communities**

#ERROR!	· Promote cultural vibrancy in the community	#ERROR!
#ERROR!	· Foster a culture of health, safety, and wellness	#ERROR!
#ERROR!	· Increase access to sustainably grown local food	#ERROR!
#ERROR!	· Sustain community principles that are welcoming, inclusive and equitable	#ERROR!
#ERROR!	· Promote a sustainable identity for the community	#ERROR!

#ERROR!	· Ensure local policies and codes support sustainability	#ERROR!
#ERROR!	· Cultivate community values based on principles of sustainability	#ERROR!



**Waste & Recycling**

#ERROR!	· Support sustainable material management	#ERROR!
#ERROR!	· Recycle materials across all sectors	#ERROR!
#ERROR!	· Divert waste from landfills	#ERROR!
#ERROR!	· Enact policies that cause sustainable material management	#ERROR!
#ERROR!	· Engage the community in waste reduction and recycling	#ERROR!



**Water**

#ERROR!	· Use and distribute water efficiently	#ERROR!
#ERROR!	· Protect and improve and water quality	#ERROR!
#ERROR!	· Manage water system assets sustainably	#ERROR!
#ERROR!	· Optimize the use of natural and built systems to manage stormwater	#ERROR!
#ERROR!	· Practice stewardship of water resources	#ERROR!
#ERROR!	· Enact policies to protect water resources	#ERROR!
#ERROR!	· Engage the community in water stewardship	#ERROR!

**Name:**  
**Host Site:**  
**Year:**

Instructions: Fill out the GRC Framework in the following Category sheets. Enter a 'Y' next to the GRC objectives and strategies that you have addressed through your work. In the project description box, write a small description about the project(s) that you completed related to the GRC objective or strategy.

**Note: DO NOT edit this 'Tallies' Sheet. The charts and graphs below will auto-populate based on your entries in the Category sheets**

	Objectives / Strategies Addressed	
Climate		0
Economic Development		0
Energy		0
Land		0
Leadership		0
Mobility		0
Municipal Operations		0
Sustainable Communities		0
Waste & Recycling		0
Water		0
<b>TOTAL:</b>		0

GRC Focus Areas

Addressed? (Y/N)



## Greenest Region Compact Goals

# Objectives  
Addressed per Goal

### Climate

N	· Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	0
N	· Maintain clean and healthful air	0
N	· Develop resiliency to climate change impacts	0
N	· Engage the community in climate change mitigation and adaptation	0



### Economic Development

N	· Promote innovation and a competitive workforce	0
N	· Cultivate local and sustainable development, jobs, and businesses	0



### Energy

N	· Use energy for buildings and facilities efficiently	0
N	· Advance renewable energy	0
N	· Reduce energy consumption	0
N	· Enact policies that support clean energy	0
N	· Engage the community in clean energy practices	0



### Land

N	· Encourage strategic development that upholds sustainability principles	0
N	· Conserve, restore and enhance natural features and ecosystems	0
N	· Support networks of accessible well-used and enjoyable parks	0
N	· Sustain a robust urban forest canopy	0
N	· Sustain beautiful landscapes that provide ecosystem services	0
N	· Achieve greater livability through sustainable land use and housing policies	0
N	· Cultivate a conservation ethic in the community	0



### Leadership

N	· Enlist support for GRC2 goals through regional, state and national leadership	0
N	· Advocate for policies that align with and advance the GRC2	0
N	· Work collaboratively towards a sustainable region	0



### Mobility

N	· Support safe and effective active transportation	0
N	· Maintain a diverse, safe, and efficient transportation network	0
N	· Support efficient transportation that uses resources wisely	0
N	· Integrate sustainability into transportation policies, programs, and regulations	0
N	· Promote public and sustainable transportation choices	0



### Municipal Operations

 **Municipal Operations**

N	· Lead by demonstrating sustainable values and practices	0
N	· Integrate sustainability into all municipal operations	0
N	· Operate a safe, clean and efficient fleet	0
N	· Collect and manage data to advance sustainability	0

 **Sustainable Communities**

N	· Promote cultural vibrancy in the community	0
N	· Foster a culture of health, safety, and wellness	0
N	· Increase access to sustainably grown local food	0
N	· Sustain community principles that are welcoming, inclusive and equitable	0
N	· Promote a sustainable identity for the community	0
N	· Ensure local policies and codes support sustainability	0
N	· Cultivate community values based on principles of sustainability	0

 **Waste & Recycling**

N	· Support sustainable material management	0
N	· Recycle materials across all sectors	0
N	· Divert waste from landfills	0
N	· Enact policies that cause sustainable material management	0
N	· Engage the community in waste reduction and recycling	0

 **Water**

N	· Use and distribute water efficiently	0
N	· Protect and improve and water quality	0
N	· Manage water system assets sustainably	0
N	· Optimize the use of natural and built systems to manage stormwater	0
N	· Practice stewardship of water resources	0
N	· Enact policies to protect water resources	0
N	· Engage the community in water stewardship	0