

**Tony Evers**  
Governor

**Christine Beatty**  
Board Chair

**Jeanne Duffy**  
Executive Director  
608-261-2716



101 East Wilson St., 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Madison, WI 53703

[ServeWisconsin@wisconsin.gov](mailto:ServeWisconsin@wisconsin.gov)

[www.servewisconsin.wi.gov](http://www.servewisconsin.wi.gov)

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## SERVE WISCONSIN

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CONTACT: Kyle Clower

PHONE: 608-267-9893

EMAIL: [kyle.clower@wisconsin.gov](mailto:kyle.clower@wisconsin.gov)

## 25th Anniversary of AmeriCorps Celebrated by Congresswoman Gwen Moore swearing in 400 new AmeriCorps members

Milwaukee, WI – 400 AmeriCorps members and alumni from throughout Wisconsin came together to mark the 25th anniversary of the national service program at the Milwaukee County Zoo on Friday, October 11, including nearly 50 Dane County AmeriCorps members from Partners for After School Success, Achievement Connections, and Schools of Hope.

Congresswoman Gwen Moore, an AmeriCorps VISTA alumna, enthusiastically swore in the members to “get things done for America” with the AmeriCorps pledge and described for the new AmeriCorps members how her leadership was impacted by her service, stating “I learned the value of self-help, coalition building, cooperation, and mobilization. I realized that great things can be accomplished with the collective strength of community.”

Following the AmeriCorps pledge, Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes spoke to the attendees regarding the impact of AmeriCorps service on Wisconsin and presented a proclamation from Governor Tony Evers celebrating the 25th Anniversary of AmeriCorps in Wisconsin.

The afternoon programming kicked off with remarks from Chester Spellman, the Director of AmeriCorps with the Corporation for National and Community Service, who highlighted the legacy of AmeriCorps service in Wisconsin, describing that more than 26,000 Wisconsin residents have served nearly 40 million hours as AmeriCorps members since 1994 and that this year alone, over 1,300 AmeriCorps members will serve at more than 400 locations throughout Wisconsin. “For more than two decades, Americans who want to serve have been pledging to “get things done” as AmeriCorps members,” said Spellman. “As AmeriCorps marks its 25th anniversary, it’s an honor to watch a new generation speak those same words today in Wisconsin. Through their dedication and sacrifice, I know our nation is in good hands.”

AmeriCorps alumni in government participated in a panel on leadership and how their current service to the people of Wisconsin was influenced by their AmeriCorps service, with the panel featuring State Representative David Bowen (Milwaukee), State Representative Jonathan Brostoff (Milwaukee), State Representative David Crowley (Milwaukee), State Representative Amanda Stuck (Appleton), and Tawsif Anam, Regional Director for Senator Ron Johnson.

The theme of leadership and the impact of service was also featured in presentations by Joel Brennan, Secretary of the Department of Administration, and Dr. Alex Gee. Jeanne Duffy, Executive Director of Serve Wisconsin, said “we hope to both inspire you and encourage you to think critically on you how you approach service and leadership.” Duffy continued, “The tone you AmeriCorps members set in your service locations matters. Good, strong leaders help themselves and others to do the right things. This is an opportunity for you learn values-centered leadership skills that you can use to become effective leaders now and in the future.”

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*Serve Wisconsin works with AmeriCorps programs throughout the state of Wisconsin to addresses human, educational, environmental, public safety and homeland security needs. AmeriCorps members are given the opportunity to enrich the lives of the people and communities they serve and their own lives through professional and personal development. Serve Wisconsin is governed by 21-member citizen body appointed by Governor Evers. For more information visit <https://servewisconsin.wi.gov>. AmeriCorps is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), a federal agency that engages millions of Americans in service through AmeriCorps and Senior Corps, and leads the nation’s volunteering and service efforts. For more information, visit [www.NationalService.gov](http://www.NationalService.gov).*