



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Hundreds Urge Senator Collins to Fully Support AmeriCorps & AmeriCorps Senior**

**Caribou, Maine, July 31, 2025** – More than 340 organizations and individuals from Caribou to Lubec to York – led by Maine Council on Aging, Goodwill Northern New England and Center for the Advancement of Rural Living – are urging continued funding for AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors in the 2026 federal budget. In a letter to Senator Susan Collins, chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, they also raised concerns about the ongoing withholding of congressionally approved funds and highlighted the impact of funding decisions on critical community services in the state.

The letter emphasizes the vital role AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors play in communities across Maine, preventing isolation, improving health outcomes for older Mainers, protecting natural resources, supporting the outdoor recreation economy, and meeting needs in many of Maine’s rural communities. Yet, since April, AmeriCorps grantees have faced significant challenges in planning and operating effectively due to a series of destabilizing events.

“Individuals and communities across Maine depend on AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors,” the letter states. “AmeriCorps Seniors prevents isolation, improves health, keeps older Mainers in their homes and allows them to service their communities. AmeriCorps members across the state are protecting our natural resources and \$3.4 billion outdoor recreation economy through their service, delivering firewood to families experiencing heat insecurity, and supporting rural communities to increase capacity.”

The coalition underscored the efficiency and significant return on investment of federal AmeriCorps funding. In 2024, \$2.2 million in AmeriCorps grants managed by Volunteer Maine leveraged an additional \$1.3 million in in-kind and cash. Furthermore, the UMaine AmeriCorps Senior Companion Program is estimated to save up to \$12 million in long-term care costs annually, a substantial portion of which is typically covered by Medicaid. Since its inception, more than 7,400 Maine residents have served 11 million hours, earning over \$26.8 million in education awards.

The letter urges immediate action to restore stability to AmeriCorps and reaffirm Congress’s strong, bipartisan commitment to sustaining this vital national service program. Specifically, they call on Congress to:

Immediately release the FY 2025 AmeriCorps funds held by the Office of Management and Budget that were appropriated by Congress in the FY 25 Continuing Resolution passed in March. The withholding

of these funds has already led to delayed or denied funding for organizations with fully approved grants, jeopardizing jobs, critical services, and the education benefits thousands of AmeriCorps members rely on.

Provide at least level funding for AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Senior programs in the FY 2026 appropriations bill. National service has historically enjoyed bipartisan support for its measurable value to communities, its role in strengthening local workforces, and its ability to provide Americans meaningful pathways into serving our communities.

With growing needs in Maine, including addressing educational needs, supporting isolated older Mainers, strengthening rural communities, and protecting the state's natural resources, this is a critical time to invest in AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors.

As a longtime supporter of AmeriCorps and a member of the National Service Congressional Caucus, the signatories expressed their appreciation for Sen. Collins's past support and urged her to remain committed to ensuring AmeriCorps can continue to meet the needs of Mainers.

A copy of the letter is available [here](#).

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### **About Maine Council on Aging**

The Maine Council on Aging is a broad, multi-disciplinary network of more than 135 organizations, businesses, municipalities, and older Mainers working to ensure we can all live healthy, engaged, and secure lives in our homes and community settings. For more information:

[www.maineCouncilonaging.org](http://www.maineCouncilonaging.org).

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