



October 7, 2024

VIRGINIA LEARNS ANNOUNCES \$240,000 AMERICORPS PLANNING GRANT AWARD

Funding will support a high-impact tutoring program to impact Virginia's schools.

RICHMOND, VA - Virginia Learns, a statewide nonprofit focused on K-12 education, has been awarded a \$240,000 AmeriCorps planning grant to develop a high-impact tutoring program aimed at improving educational outcomes for underserved students in Virginia.

The grant will support the planning and development of "AmeriCorps Nextcelerate," an initiative designed to close achievement gaps in math and English through intensive, evidence-based tutoring methods. The program will leverage AmeriCorps members to provide consistent, one-on-one and small-group support to students in selected schools across Virginia.

Dr. Robert Nomberg, President and CEO of Virginia Learns, expressed enthusiasm for the opportunity: "This planning grant from AmeriCorps is a game-changer for our organization and the students we serve. It will allow us to develop a comprehensive framework for deploying AmeriCorps members as tutors, mentors, and positive role models in schools where additional support is critically needed. We're excited to build on the success of our existing Nextcelerate High-Impact Tutoring program and create new pathways for both student achievement and workforce development."

The planning grant is part of a larger \$2 million investment by AmeriCorps to support the development of future national service programs across Virginia. Serve Virginia, the state service commission, coordinates the annual grant funding process.

"AmeriCorps offers a critical mechanism for leveraging federal funding to meet community needs, benefitting communities across Virginia," said **Serve Virginia Director Kathy J. Spangler**. "The Virginia Learns award was part of planning grants totaling \$2 million to support the planning and development of future AmeriCorps programs."

During the planning period, Virginia Learns will focus on tailoring its tutoring model to address specific needs in Virginia schools, building partnerships with school divisions and community organizations, securing matching funds, and developing recruitment and training strategies for AmeriCorps members.

AmeriCorps, as the largest funder of national service in the country, plays a crucial role in connecting organizations with individuals to address pressing community challenges. The planning grant awarded to

Virginia Learns represents a significant step towards creating a sustainable, high-impact tutoring program that will help students in Virginia reach their full potential.

Serve Virginia aspires to build a culture of service and volunteerism in all corners of the Commonwealth by inspiring individuals and organizations to engage, connecting them with the resources they need to make a difference and celebrating the tremendous impacts we make together. Learn more at ServeVirginia.org.

For additional information contact: Contact: Robert Nomberg at Robert@virginialearns.org.

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Virginia Learns is a nonpartisan nonprofit and statewide education operating foundation. Through aligned leadership, we inform and influence local and state decision makers; amplify the voices of those most impacted by education policy decisions; and advance state and local partnerships that bring needed change and positive results. Virginia Learns is the only business group whose sole mission is to strengthen education. We accomplish this goal by creating a trusting and collaborative relationship with businesses, educators, and policymakers so we can create the workforce Virginia needs and set students up for success in school, work, and life. Learn more at VirginiaLearns.org

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AmeriCorps, the federal agency for national service and volunteerism, provides opportunities for Americans to serve their country domestically, address the nation's most pressing challenges, improve lives and communities, and strengthen civic engagement. Each year, the agency places more than 200,000 AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers in intensive service roles; and empowers millions more to serve as long-term, short-term, or one-time volunteers. Learn more at AmeriCorps.gov