

Washington Reading Corps

1. **Purpose:** The mission of the Washington Reading Corps (WRC) is to improve the reading abilities of young students in grades PK–5 across Washington State through research-based tutoring strategies. The WRC supports struggling readers through effective collaborations among schools, families, community members, national service, businesses and state partners.
2. **Description of services provided:** In 2018-19, WRC schools, community centers, and early learning sites receive the support of 131 AmeriCorps national service members (WRC members) who provide:
 - **Tutoring and Early Childhood Development:** WRC members and volunteers work with students grades PK–5 identified as needing reading assistance and/or reading readiness skills, and children in early learning centers to increase kindergarten preparedness through one-on-one and small group tutoring sessions.
 - **Volunteer Generation:** WRC members assist schools and early learning sites to recruit, train, manage, and recognize volunteers. Volunteers provide one-on-one and small group tutoring in reading and reading readiness before, during, and after school during the school year.
 - **Family Involvement:** WRC members organize family involvement activities that support literacy improvement in the home, school, and community and develop a family involvement plan. These family activities involve students identified as struggling readers and their parents and/or caregivers.
3. **Criteria for receiving services and/or grants:** WRC schools are selected through a competitive process that evaluates past performance with implementing the WRC program, and/or readiness to benefit from the placement of WRC members to support literacy development. Priority is given to schools that have a high free and reduced lunch population and have been identified for additional support through state and federal guidelines.

4. **Beneficiaries in 2018-19 School Year:**

# of School Districts:	38
# of Schools:	73
# of Students:	4,605
Other:	8

# of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs):	.30
# of contractors/other staff associated with this funding:	01

FY19 Funding:	State Appropriation:	\$950,000
	Federal Appropriation:	\$0
	Other fund sources:	\$0
	TOTAL (FY19)	\$950,000

5. **Are federal or other funds contingent on state funding? If yes, explain.** Yes. The fixed amount grant of \$1.86 million in federal funds from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) is leveraged by both state and local funds of \$1.31 million. This state funding is critical to the continuation of the program and thus the funding from the federal funding source. FY 1998–99 was the pilot year for funding.
6. **State funding history:**

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
FY18	\$950,000	\$839,839
FY17	\$950,000	\$878,368
FY16	\$950,000	\$877,034
FY15	\$950,000	\$902,826
FY14	\$950,000	\$909,829
FY13	\$950,000	\$949,995
FY12	\$950,000	\$946,097

7. **Number of beneficiaries (e.g., schools, students, districts) history:**

Fiscal Year	# of Schools	# of Districts	Number of AmeriCorps	Number Students Served	#Community Volunteers
FY19	73	38	131	4605	1736
FY18	108	46	150	4639	2757
FY17	89	39	150	4133	2760
FY16	74	42	153	3935	1307
FY15	66	47	128	4678	3890
FY14	56	24	56	3746	936
FY13	100	48	260	8063	3746
FY12	92	50	260	6512	n/a

Programmatic changes since inception (if any): Starting in FY 2006, direct grant funding was no longer provided directly to schools, due to a reduction in WRC state funding. Prior to FY 2006, schools received minimal state grant funds from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) for program implementation (including assessment materials), in addition to the services provided by their AmeriCorps members.

We are seeing the following changes in the program and among the AmeriCorps members since the inception of WRC:

- Increased rigor of member and volunteer training in scientifically-based reading research.
- Technical assistance provided via webinar trainings and site visits by OSPI and Washington Service Corps staff.
- Development of early learning partnerships.
- Enhanced involvement of WRC members in schools with parent/family literacy events.
- Member support for school recruitment of community volunteers and their involvement in tutoring and literacy development.

8. Evaluations of program/major findings:

From 2018-19

- The Washington Reading Corps (WRC) continued to contract with RMC to evaluate the program impact on student literacy development.
- WRC members participated in two and one-half days of member training on how to support student literacy development, led by the Association of Educational Service District Literacy Coordinators and OSPI staff.
- Service Corps elected to shift their delivery system by beginning to develop a scripted 1:1 (tutor: student) tutoring pilot.
- Students successfully exiting the WRC program raised their reading skills by at least one grade level or meet benchmark and showed improvement in attitudes and behaviors towards reading.
- All volunteer tutors were trained and reported that the training they received improved their ability to provide services to students.

9. Major challenges faced by the program:

- If state funds are not provided, Washington will be unable to leverage the federal funds provided from the National Corporation for Community Service and the program will sunset.
- As a result of state funding cuts in FY 2006, OSPI no longer provides grants to schools and therefore cannot require schools to use a common assessment. Funding to schools would provide resources for schools to purchase and implement a common instrument to better measure student performance.
- The WRC was not awarded the federal grant in 2013, greatly reducing the number of members for the state. The WRC applied for and received 56 unfunded slots from CNCS to provide member services with the Washington state funding and school match for 2013–14.
- The National Corporation for Community Service has been recommended for dissolution and if this agency should be dissolved, the WRC program would be supported only by state funds and the program would be reduced in scope and impact.

10. Future opportunities:

Starting in the spring of 2019, WRC and OSPI staff began drafting a 1:1 tutoring program for WRC members to pilot in the late winter/early spring of 2020. The new tutoring

program will infuse the WRC program with elements from the Minnesota Reading Corps to increase student outcomes and AmeriCorps Member Involvement.

11. **Statutory and/or Budget language:**

Budget Proviso: ESSB 6032, Sec. 513 (6) - \$950,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2018 and \$950,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2019 are provided solely for the Washington reading corps. The superintendent shall allocate reading corps members to schools identified for comprehensive or targeted support and school districts that are implementing comprehensive, proven, research-based reading programs. Two or more schools may combine their Washington reading corps programs.

12. **Other relevant information:**

- WRC members have the potential to be future education leaders.
- Nearly 60 percent have an interest in teaching after their year of service.
- Nearly 20 percent of WRC members plan to have a career in education policy or administration.
- WRC Project Supervisors and members meet with 100 percent of the sites participating in the WRC and discuss plans for, and progress toward building capacity and sustainability of the early learning and reading support programs.
- With the re-awarding of the grant in 2014–15, the interest and request for Washington’s WRC sites regained numbers and scope.

For more information visit the Washington Reading Corps site at:
Washington Reading Corps Program
Washington Reading Corps (WRC)

13. **List of schools/districts receiving assistance:** See OSPI [website](#).

14. **Program Contact Information:**

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