



Washington Office of Superintendent of **PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

Washington Reading Corps Proviso

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 2019-20, WRC schools, community centers, and early learning sites received the support of 85 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.

Beneficiaries in 2019-20 School Year:

Number of School Districts: 26

Number of Schools: 58
Number of Students: 2,612
Number of Educators: 0
Other: *Name other...* 0

Number of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs): 0.20 FTE
Number of contractors/other staff associated with this funding: 1 Contract

FY20 Funding: State Appropriation: \$950,000
Federal Appropriation: \$0
Other fund sources: \$0
TOTAL (FY20) \$950,000

4. Are federal or other funds contingent on state funding?

- No
 Yes, please explain.

In FY 2018, Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) awarded \$1.3 million per a year to Employment Security Department for the WRC program for a three year grant, based on the state commitment of \$780,000 per a year through this proviso. CNCS required funding but did not require a match in funds from the state or other entities.

5. State funding history:

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
FY20	\$950,000	\$914,504
FY19	\$950,000	\$839,839
FY18	\$950,000	\$698,728
FY17	\$950,000	\$888,598
FY16	\$950,000	\$907,781
FY15	\$950,000	\$902,826
FY14	\$950,000	\$909,829
FY13	\$950,000	\$949,995
FY12	\$950,000	\$946,097

6. Number of beneficiaries (e.g., school districts, schools, students, educators, other) history:

Fiscal Year	Number of School Districts	Number of Schools	Number of Students	Number of AmeriCorps	Number of Other
FY20	26	58	2,612	85	N/A
FY19	38	73	4,605	131	1,736
FY18	46	108	4,639	150	2,757
FY17	39	89	4,133	150	2,760
FY16	42	74	3,935	153	1,307
FY15	47	66	4,678	128	3,890
FY14	24	56	3,746	56	936
FY13	48	100	8,063	260	3,746
FY12	50	92	6,512	260	N/A

7. Programmatic changes since inception (if any):

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.

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 following changes are occurring 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 2019-20**

- Washington Service Corps in partnership with OSPI staff oversaw the development of the “Reading Power” tutoring program for grades K-4. This tutoring program infused the WRC program with elements from the Minnesota Reading Corps model (1:1 tutoring {tutor: student}) and established best practices to increase student outcomes and AmeriCorps Member Involvement.
- 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.
- Students successfully exiting the WRC program raised their reading skills by at least one grade level or met 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.
- The Washington Reading Corps continued to contract with RMC to evaluate the program impact on student literacy development.

9. **Major challenges faced by the program:**

Recruitment of WRC members is the responsibility of WA school districts who contribute \$5,000 of support for the WRC member (supplemented with federal and state funding), limiting the number of districts that have access to members. In spring 2020, school building closures and hastily-assembled remote learning plans impacted the ability of WRC members to provide services to students in the schools.

10. **Future opportunities:**

Maintain support and enthusiasm for Washington Reading Corps during the 2020-21 school year, as the delivery model of education and tutoring shift in response to remote and hybrid learning schedules during the outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus.

The new grant from CNCS commencing in FY21 provides funding regardless of fiscal support from the state or other entities. The CNCS grant is providing 1.3 million dollars per a year for a three year cycle to the WRC program.

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

ESSB 6168, Sec. 501 (4)(c) - \$950,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2020 and \$950,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2021 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. **Schools/districts receiving assistance:**

See [OSPI’s Grantee List](#)

14. **Program Contact Information:**

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