

COVID-19 Response Service Award

WisCorps – La Crosse, WI

While they initially had a plan to deploy an AmeriCorps disaster response team this spring to address damage caused by storms and flooding, when COVID-19 started spreading this spring, WisCorps pivoted and redirected their disaster relief efforts to assist those impacted by the pandemic in the La Crosse area.

The WisCorps staff reimagined the service they would be providing, discovering that many local nonprofit organizations lost virtually all their regular volunteers due to safety concerns, as they were often retired or had underlying medical conditions that forced them to stay at home.

WisCorps designed their relief efforts to have their AmeriCorps members completing relief projects and other community support efforts in collaboration with these agencies.

As a result of their service, 385 meals and over 600 pounds of groceries were delivered to the elderly and high-risk individuals, numerous home repairs and outside maintenance projects for seniors and others in need, community gardens were planted and maintained, and multiple additional relief projects were completed, as well as the removal of over 270 pounds of flood debris as part of the original mission of the crew.

Following the initial deployment of their COVID-19 disaster relief crew, WisCorps has continued to answer the call to serve the people of Wisconsin and to apply the lessons they learned regarding safety practices through deployment of their conservation crews and providing modified environmental day camps to supplement learning during virtual education.