



Service for Climate Resilience and Economic Opportunity

From tornadoes to floods to fires, climate impacts are worsening in every corner of the United States. Small, rural communities have some of the lowest capacity to respond to these impacts. While many adaptation interventions are currently being implemented in highly resourced urban and suburban areas, rural communities have yet to benefit from these initiatives due to a lack of capacity to engage in climate resilience projects. In many rural areas, chronic dis-investment has forced a younger, talented workforce to relocate, leaving much of rural America without the advanced job skills needed to support climate resilience work.

To address these challenges, the American Society of Adaptation Professionals (ASAP) is in the process of planning a national AmeriCorps program that will increase the capacity of rural communities to confront specific local climate adaptation challenges, which might address workforce development, universal broadband access, emergency, and disaster response networks or ecological restoration projects. The goal of this program is to create the conditions for rural communities to be able to access training, educational, technical, financial, and economic resources, and to create positive, sustainable resilience impacts.

Sample Service Activities

The program will utilize existing ASAP and partner resources to create two outcomes: highly trained workforce members and more climate-resilient rural communities. Sample service activities include:

- Working with the community to assess readiness to plan and implement climate change interventions.
- Engaging the community in climate change planning and implementation.
- Engaging local government staff to streamline climate resilience opportunities into community planning and implementation.
- Resilient workforce development activities.

We will prioritize recruiting people with lived experience of climate impacts and those who live in the community.

Resources for Service Members and Sites

- We will design the program to reduce financial barriers for participating communities while offering attractive member benefits that provide a comfortable standard of living.
- Service members will plug directly into existing ASAP resources and programs; ASAP will also adapt specific programs to meet the particular needs of service members. Resources and programs include: Peer Learning, Mentorship, Training, and Leadership Development.
- Program staff will work with service members, communities, and employers to maximize opportunities for service members to continue to live and work in the community and contribute to ongoing adaptation and resilience efforts.
- We will support regional connectivity and learning, leveraging our network to strengthen connections between communities to build support and economies of scale for future work.
- We will provide training and technical assistance for service members and participating communities to leverage public and private funding and finance to support ongoing adaptation and resilience work in their communities.

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