



## *WA 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 2021-22, WRC schools, community centers, and early learning sites received the support of 52 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 2021-22 School Year:**

Number of School Districts: 14

Number of Schools: 21  
 Number of Students: 526  
 Number of Educators: 0  
 Other: 6 - Community Based Organizations

**Number of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs): .69**

**Number of contractors/other staff associated with this funding: 1**

**FY22 Funding:** State Appropriation: 950,000  
 Federal Appropriation: 0  
 Other Fund Sources: 0  
 TOTAL (FY22) 950,000

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

Yes, in FY 2021, Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) awarded \$1.3 million per year to Employment Security Department for the WRC program for a three-year grant, based on the state commitment of \$700,000-\$800,000 per a year through this proviso. CNCS required a commitment of state funding but did not require a match in funds from the state or other entities.

**5. State funding history:**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Amount Funded</b>	<b>Actual Expenditures</b>
2022	\$950,000	\$934,086
2021	\$950,000	\$429,537
2020	\$950,000	\$914,504
2019	\$950,000	\$839,839
2018	\$950,000	\$698,728

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

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Number of School Districts</b>	<b>Number of Schools</b>	<b>Number of Students</b>	<b>Number of AmeriCorps</b>	<b>Number of Other</b>
FY22	14	21	526	52	6
FY21	18	32	249	43	N/A
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.

In the 2021-22 school year, 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 based on the Science of Reading.
- OSPI provided technical assistance.
- 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:

Washington Service Corps, in partnership with OSPI staff, saw the implementation of “Reading Power” tutoring program for grades K-4. Washington Reading Corps members were trained and coached on usage of the “Reading Power” program via online platforms. Simultaneously Washington Reading Corps members provided 1:1 tutoring through online, in-person, and hybrid platforms.

Washington Reading Corps collected and analyzed data on the impact of the Reading Power Program and implementation. In the past, data for all students tutored by the WRC were collected in CEDARS and recorded.

This year, an ESD contractor collaborated with WRC to train service members in “Reading Power”.

## 9. Major challenges faced by the program:

1. The WRC program faces challenges in recruiting service members.
2. Schools must pay a fee for agreeing to host WRC Service Members.

## 10. Future opportunities:

Increase in Reading Corps stipends to recruit and retain more reading corps members. Focus on pathways for service members to become educators in the state.

Maintain support and enthusiasm for Washington Reading Corps during the 2022-23 school year. Support Employment Security and Washington Reading Corps staff to continue refine and elevate the Reading Corps Program. This includes an expansion to a K-12 student population with a focus on high impact tutoring.

The grant from CNCS continues into its second year and 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 5693, Sec. 501(4)(c) \$950,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2022 and \$950,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2023 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:**

N/A

**13. Schools/districts receiving assistance:**

See [OSPI's grantee list](#).

**14. Program Contact Information:**

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