

On-screen: Backdrop with CDC and HHS logos placed in a pattern, speaker title text: Mandy K. Cohen, MD, MPH. Director, CDC.

Dr. Mandy Cohen: Hi everyone, I'm Dr. Mandy Cohen, Director of the CDC.

At CDC, we're committed to protecting health and improving lives in every community. And through innovative partnerships like the Public Health AmeriCorps, CDC is investing in the talented people who power our important mission. We know that having a talented, trusted, diverse public health workforce enables public health agencies at the state, tribal, local, and territorial levels to provide essential services and to respond to health emergencies so communities can thrive.

In 2021, we partnered with AmeriCorps to launch Public Health AmeriCorps, a groundbreaking, multi-year initiative to build and train the next generation of public health leaders.

Public Health AmeriCorps was made possible from funding from the American Rescue Plan, which allowed CDC to use these resources to meet local communities' unique and immediate needs and build our country's public health infrastructure to ensure we're ready for future threats.

Together, CDC and AmeriCorps have achieved more than we could have on our own. We've capitalized on AmeriCorps' people power and infrastructure, while leveraging CDC's expertise as the country's leading public health agency to address the most pressing health challenges at the community level while creating pathways to public health-related careers.

Since the launch of Public Health AmeriCorps, more than 4,700 AmeriCorps members have added much needed capacity to health departments, community-based organizations, schools, and more helping advance more equitable health outcomes across the country.

Public Health AmeriCorps members are at the forefront of solutions to America's health threats, like the opioid epidemic and the maternal health crisis. They're supporting their peers as recovery specialists, connecting young families to critical resources, creating safer communities for young people, and responding to disasters.

Public Health AmeriCorps members often come from the communities they serve, which is vital for effective, culturally competent health interventions. On average, AmeriCorps members are more diverse than the public health workforce at large, are early in their careers, and join Public Health AmeriCorps to gain skills and experience that support their professional development.

Through Public Health AmeriCorps, CDC and AmeriCorps are creating pathways to public health careers for people with diverse backgrounds and lived experience.

Thanks for your commitment and service to public health! Together, we're making a real difference in protecting health and improving lives!