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Volunteer Mississippi appreciates your support of National Service Programs in our great state! We look forward to working with you and seizing opportunities for growth together.

So, what's going in April 2020?

NEW PROGRAM OFFICER:

Same face, different place! We'd like to welcome Jin Joo Crosby as our new Volunteer Mississippi Program Officer! She will begin her National Service Journey with us on May 1. Jin Joo comes to VM from the University of Southern Mississippi where she has served at the Program Coordinator of the USM TRIAD AmeriCorps Program for many years. She has vast experience in National Service and program management, and we are so happy to have her aboard! Welcome, Jin Joo!

EVALUATION AND DATA COLLECTION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

We know that many of you are concerned about how COVID-19 affects not only your member service but the data you are able to collect for your performance measures, reporting and/or evaluation. Sue Hyatt, our new data consultant, will work with each of you about the status of your program's data collection plan, help you brainstorm ways to finish out data collection for this program year, and describe what you have been able to do.

Sue has reviewed grant application and progress reports; they will help her get up to speed on the specifics of your program before she talks to you. On your 1:1 call, she will want to hear more about your program and what your members do, talk about the status of your data collection plan including wins and challenges, and identify any support you may need.

Please use her [online scheduler](#) to set up a 1:1 Zoom call at a time that works best for you. After you pick a time, you will get an email that gives you all the information you need to log in. Feel free to include any other program staff on the call that you want.

AMERICORPS START UP SERIES:

On our last Program Director Call, ARM Director Ronjanett Taylor praised the AmeriCorps Start-Up Webinar Series, stating that was "absolutely rejuvenating!" This twelve-part web series is designed to support staff and programs in their understanding of AmeriCorps Basics that will help with program start up and management. This series is ideal for new program staff, new operational programs, planning grantees, and even experienced program staff who would like a refresher. If you'd like to participate, register [here](#) and take a listen to [previous recordings](#). It's a wonderful opportunity to learn more!

AMERICORPS CONSULTANT TEAM:

The 19-20 program year has been one for growth and change. The AmeriCorps Consultant Team (comprised of Amy Salinas, Amy Porter, Jennifer Cowart, and Kris Tecce) has played a crucial role in assisting programs bend and flex. Their guidance has been invaluable to the Commission and to programs alike. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with them, and we appreciate them in so many ways. If you have any follow up questions or have specific items that need to be buttoned up, please reach out to them through the middle of May. Their time and energy has been such an asset to everyone - thank you, thank you, thank you!

DISASTER RESPONSE & RECOVERY FUND:

2020 has been quite a year for our state. Disasters have many, many faces and range from tornadoes to pandemics to flooding. And every single Mississippian has felt the impact of all of these very different disasters. As such, the Community Foundation for MS and the MS Commission for Volunteer Service have set up the State's *official* Disaster Response & Recovery Fund so that each and every Mississippian has the opportunity to make the best of these many incredibly tough situations.

MS nonprofits are working with you and your neighbors every day to help with lost income, to connect children with educational resources, and support first responders, health care workers, senior citizens, and veterans. MS nonprofits will connect your generosity directly with those that need it in order to cover

immediate needs like food, medical supplies, basic hygiene needs, temporary housing, clothing and short-term economic security.

We encourage any and all corporations, foundations, families, and individual Mississippians to give a tax-deductible donation by going to www.formississippi.org and clicking on RESPONSE & RECOVERY DONATE NOW button.

GOOD STORIES:

The MS Alliance of Nonprofits and Philanthropy (the Alliance) and VM are collecting success stories and "good news" from our volunteer and service families to communicate the positive activity and heroic efforts you all have done during the COVID-19 pandemic. Share your stories, pictures, write-ups, etc. with Gary Matthews at gmatthews@ihl.state.ms.us

REMINDERS:

All queries and correspondence about AmeriCorps should be directed to acms@ihl.state.ms.us.



VOLUNTEER MISSISSIPPI

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