



# Board of Commissioners

*Jason W Boyd, Administrator*

---

## NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Jason Boyd  
Telephone: (440) 350-2745  
Email: [jason.boyd@lakecountyohio.gov](mailto:jason.boyd@lakecountyohio.gov)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 19, 2022

### LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AWARDED AMERICORPS GRANT

PAINESVILLE, OH, May 19, 2022 – The Board of Lake County Commissioners announced today that it has received an AmeriCorps Seniors demonstration grant of nearly \$115,000 to support senior volunteer service. The grant will expand the Lake County Volunteer Network’s presence in the county, which was previously unserved by an AmeriCorps Seniors project. These new grant funds are made possible from the historic \$1 billion investment in AmeriCorps, the federal agency for volunteerism and national service, through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

“Lake County was one of only three grantees awarded in the state of Ohio,” said Commissioner John Hamercheck. “This grant will utilize senior volunteers to specifically focus on support for seniors who have been impacted by the pandemic.”

The Lake County Volunteer Network, formally RSVP Lake County and now part of the Board of Commissioners, will leverage the skills and experience of volunteers to help increase food security, as well as increase social support and improve capacity for independent living for vulnerable and/or isolated seniors in Lake County.

“Much of this work will occur in collaboration with the Lake County Council on Aging,” said Commissioner John Plecnik. “This is just another example of nonprofits and agencies coming together in Lake County to meet the needs of some of our most vulnerable citizens.”

For the past year, thousands of AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers across all 50 states and U.S. territories have continued their service, quickly adapting to meet the changing needs caused by the pandemic. The dedicated volunteers of AmeriCorps Seniors have persisted to support communities as they respond and recover from the impact of COVID-19, developing new ways to deliver the same services to keep both themselves and those they serve safe.

AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers stay healthy and active through service, improving their own lives as they improve the lives of others. A growing body of research affirms the numerous mental and physical health benefits of volunteering. “I am thrilled at the opportunity to offer more meaningful and impactful volunteer opportunities to individuals aged 55 and older with these new AmeriCorps Senior funds,” said Cristen Kane, Volunteer Services Coordinator for the Lake County Volunteer Network. If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities in Lake County, please email Cristen Kane at [cristen.kane@lakecountyohio.gov](mailto:cristen.kane@lakecountyohio.gov) or call 440-350-5360.

###