CECorps - COVID-19 Update

Community Engineering Corps (CECorps) staff appreciates our volunteer’s patience and persistence during these challenging times. Effective June 1, 2020, CECorps will no longer have a travel ban in place and instead will seek to follow state, county, and local guidelines. Please note that CECorps supports “Safer at Home” practices and considers its work to be non-essential.

As we navigate this next phase of lifted restrictions, we continue to hold staff, volunteers, and our community’s health of paramount importance.

FAQs

Now that there is not a travel ban, what would CECorps like us to do while considering travel to the communities we work with?

CECorps supports “Safer at Home” and considers our work to be non-essential. If volunteers choose to travel or visit their communities, the following guidelines must be followed for any travel related to CECorps activities.

- Express permission to visit the community, community partner, or project site is expected from the community contact. Despite lifted restrictions, some communities may feel that the risk is still too great to accommodate volunteers or may request a limited presence of volunteers. Where permission is not obtained, traveling to the community is strictly prohibited.
- Email notification of travel plans must be made by the project lead or REIC to the assigned CECorps program engineer. The email should include:
  - Date of travel/visit
  - Purpose of visit
  - Volunteers attending
  - Community contact cc’d
- Volunteers choosing to travel on behalf of CECorps assume the potential risk of contracting COVID-19. Volunteers are individually responsible for taking proper health precautions, including in the purchase and use of proper personal protective equipment (PPE) and the maintaining of social distancing. All state, county, and local COVID related restrictions are to be followed.
• Consult and be familiar with the following resources. Understand that there may be conflicting information and in these cases, the most strict precautions must be followed.
  o Counties and local governments resources

What is CECorps doing in light of COVID-19?
CECorps continues to work toward our mission of bringing underserved communities and volunteer engineers together to advance local infrastructure solutions.

• New project applications are still being accepted, and new volunteer teams are still being formed to respond to the needs of our clients.

• Many of our projects can move forward in a remote style and we are encouraging our teams to continue their work to assist their communities and complete their projects to the best of their ability. Teams are finding creative ways to gather data remotely, either through the client or through other resources.

• Our student and professional volunteers are connecting virtually, continuing to produce designs and reports, and engaging with an array of educational resources that allow them to produce deliverables for our clients and communities.

What are CECorps' options for Remote Support and other alternatives?
CECorps' commitment to our communities should continue through remote project work as long as quality can be maintained. If you are unsure the first best step is to schedule a call with your Program Engineer. CECorps has limited grant funding that may be used for project team virtual needs.

What if my community would like to postpone or cancel the project due to COVID concerns?
CECorps staff considers our work to be more critical than ever. Helping to support healthy communities through advancing infrastructure is an important role to play. However, as a community-driven organization, the needs of the community come first. To navigate changes to your project, please contact your program engineer.
What if my team can't continue due to members affected by COVID or other reasons? CECorps staff understands that our volunteers are navigating significant changes due to COVID considers our work to be more critical than ever. If your team is struggling to continue or having other challenges, please contact your program engineer. We are here to help!

Has CECorps identified any roles we can play as volunteers to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic? CECorps is not responding to specific healthcare or facility needs with regards to COVID-19; the mission, projects, and goals of the program still seek to provide essential engineering services for communities in need, and those needs may ultimately be influenced by COVID-19. New project opportunities that conform to the standards of the program will be considered as normal. Each organization involved in CECorps have their own responses to COVID-19.

- EWB is crowdsourcing for ideas, volunteers, and stories regarding COVID-19 responses. Check out: https://ewb-usa.force.com/VolunteerVillage/s/covid-19
- AWWA is hosting webinars, policies, and reports pertaining to the impact of COVID-19 throughout the USA. Check out: https://www.awwa.org/Resources-Tools/Resource-Topics/Coronavirus
- ASCE is providing COVID-19 related resources such as live webinars, COVID-19 Community Calls on their Plot Points podcast, and technical papers on pandemics. Check out: https://collaborate.asce.org/covid-19/home