



DHS News

Newsletter of the Allegheny County
Department of Human Services



March 2021

Kudos: KEYS Service Corps AmeriCorps

America's Service Commissions' recent publication, [*Innovative State Service COVID-19 Response Programs*](#), has recognized the work of KEYS Service Corps AmeriCorps, part of the DHS Office of Community Relations (OCR). KEYS was one of two programs in Pennsylvania and one of 79 programs in the country to be showcased.

The publication states, "For this project, America's Service Commissions sought to identify and recognize programs in each state and territory that have been particularly resilient throughout the pandemic by effectively innovating, adapting, and responding to these ever-changing times." KEYS innovations that were recognized by the publication include "[implementing] programming to help alleviate social isolation and loneliness of adults" and "[encouraging] elderly individuals to participate in volunteerism projects and [providing] them with technology training and assistance."

In addition to the national recognition, Giri, a KEYS member, received the Pennsylvania AmeriCorps Member of the Year Award. This award recognizes an AmeriCorps member who, over the course of their service, made significant contributions to Pennsylvania through their overall service efforts. Giri was nominated because of his passion, flexibility, and innovative ideas, which include establishing robotics, chess, and garden programming at his service site.