

Get Involved: Be Safe, Be Ready

The [Arizona State Citizen Corps Council \(AzSCCC\)](#) promotes the “Be Safe, Be Ready” public awareness campaign in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s [Ready](#) initiative.

Ready advocates public involvement and highlights volunteer opportunities available within the five Arizona Citizen Corps programs. Citizens can begin to get involved by [finding a Citizen Corps Council](#) in their community.

There are 36 registered Arizona Citizen Corps Councils. Citizen Corps includes five partner programs - [Community Emergency Response Team \(CERT\)](#); [Volunteers in Police Service \(VIPS\)](#); [Fire Corps](#); [Medical Reserve Corps](#); and [USA on Watch](#) (Neighborhood Watch).

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program** educates people about disaster preparedness and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, and disaster medical operations. Using their training, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event and can take a more active role in preparing their community. The program is administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

The **Fire Corps** promotes the use of citizen advocates to enhance the capacity of resource-constrained fire and rescue departments at all levels: volunteer, combination and career. Citizen advocates can assist local fire departments in a range of activities including fire safety outreach, youth programs, and administrative support. Fire Corps provides resources to assist fire and rescue departments in creating opportunities for citizen advocates and promotes citizen participation. Fire Corps is funded through DHS and is managed and implemented through a partnership among the National Volunteer Fire Council, the International Association of Firefighters, and the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

USA on Watch offers an expanded Neighborhood Watch Program (NWP) which incorporates terrorism awareness education into its existing crime prevention mission, while also serving as a way to bring residents together to focus on emergency preparedness and emergency response training. Funded by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Neighborhood Watch is administered by the National Sheriffs' Association.

The **Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Program** strengthens communities by helping medical, public health and other volunteers offer their expertise throughout the year as well as during local emergencies and other times of community need. MRC volunteers work in coordination with existing local emergency response programs and also supplement existing community public health initiatives, such as outreach and prevention, immunization programs, blood drives, case management, care planning, and other efforts. The MRC program is administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) works to enhance the capacity of state and local law enforcement to utilize volunteers. VIPS serves as a gateway to resources and information for and about law enforcement volunteer programs. Funded by DOJ, VIPS is managed and implemented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

The mission of the Arizona State Citizen Corps Council is to foster the development, growth and sustainability of Citizen Corps efforts by increasing public awareness, sharing information, promoting training, and encouraging partnerships to make Arizona safer and better prepared to respond to the threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues, and disasters of all kinds.

(Source: [Citizen Corps](#))