

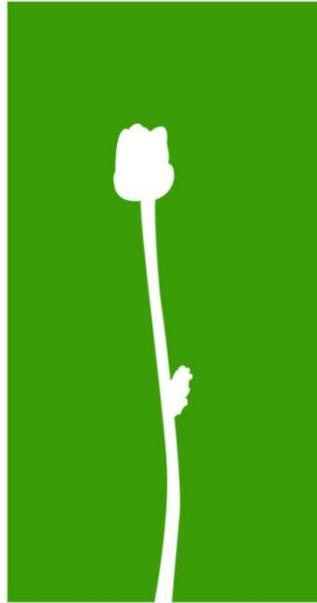


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C L U S T E R   C O N F E R E N C E  
p e e r s . p r a c t i c e s . k n o w l e d g e . t o o l s



## Creating a Culture of Inclusion

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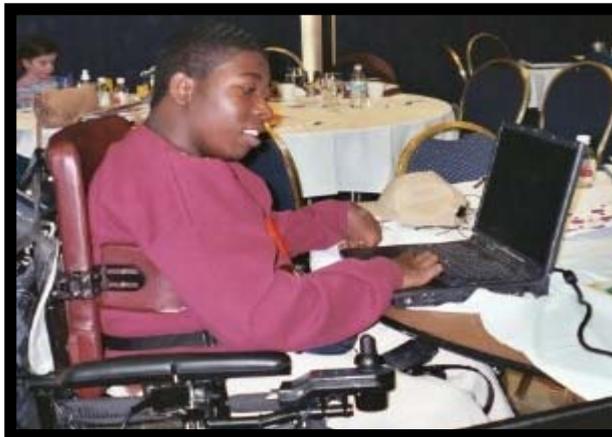


- CNCS discharges its mission *to improve lives, strengthen communities and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering* by providing opportunities for all Americans of all ages and backgrounds to engage.
- Since its inception, with the 1993 National Community Service Act, CNCS has been committed to the active participation of Americans with disabilities in all of its programs and initiatives.
- Thousands of people with disabilities serve in the CNCS three major programs: AmeriCorps, Senior Corps and Learn and Serve America.



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# Inclusion

- Each year the Corporation has, by statute, allocated approximately 5M for the active inclusion of individuals with disabilities in national service
- Funding has focused on three grant priority areas:
  - outreach
  - placement and reasonable accommodations and
  - training and technical assistance



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# The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act...

- ***more explicitly and more frequently*** emphasizes a commitment to the inclusion of people with disabilities as active participants in all national service programs and volunteerism...



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- Increases money for outreach and placement
  - Expands to all national service grant programs
- “...disability funds to any AmeriCorps State, AmeriCorps National, Senior Corps and Learn and Serve America program funded under the 2009 Kennedy Serve America Act. ... includes Education Award Programs, Indian tribes and U.S. Territories.”*



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# Some Highlights from The Act:

- ...collaborate with organizations with demonstrated expertise in supporting and accommodating individuals with disabilities, including institutions of higher education, to increase the number of participants with disabilities
- ...provide and disseminate information regarding methods to make service-learning programs and programs offered under the national service laws accessible to individuals with disabilities



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# Highlights, cont'd...

- ...assistance to carry out a national service program shall include a non-profit organization promoting competitive and non-competitive sporting events which enhance the quality of life for individuals with disabilities
- ...outreach to ...agencies and organizations serving veterans and individuals with disabilities...



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# In Summary

- Letter and Spirit of the SAA encourages
  - Partnering/Collaborating
  - Going outside of our usual comfort zones to improve lives and communities through service and volunteering
- How does the SAA affect your work?



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## Arizona Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism

### Efforts to Build an Inclusive National Service Community

#### Community Partnerships

- KEY: UCEDD – Northern Arizona University Institute for Human Development (NAU/IHD)
- Arizona National Service Inclusion Work Team
  - All streams of national service representation
  - Commission representation
  - Organizations that serve people with disabilities and self-advocacy groups
  - Connections to support networks for people with disabilities
  - Ongoing recruitment for team membership



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