



# ***Serve America Act***



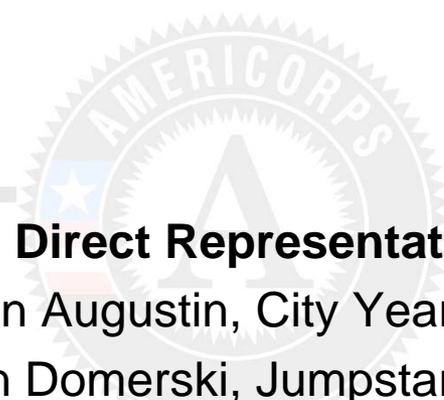
## **Combined Competitive Stream Funding: A New Opportunity for Collaboration**

Working Group Recommendations  
September 2009





## Working Group Members



### State Commission Representatives

- Bill Basl, WA State Commission, *and* Chair/ America's Service Commissions (ASC)
- Bernie Boudreau, Serve RI
- Tom Devine, Serve Wisconsin
- Paula Kaiser, Michigan Community Service Commission
- Adam Lounsbury, Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service
- Circe Olander, California Volunteers
- Mark Walter, New Yorkers Volunteer

### National Direct Representatives

- Alyson Augustin, City Year
- Karen Domerski, Jumpstart
- Jason Patnosh, National Assn. of Community Health Centers
- Peter Rumsey, Habitat for Humanity
- Ayanna Rutherford/ Tracey Williamson, Playworks
- Steve Niles, Goodwill Industries of Northern New England
- Jenise Tyrell, Public Allies

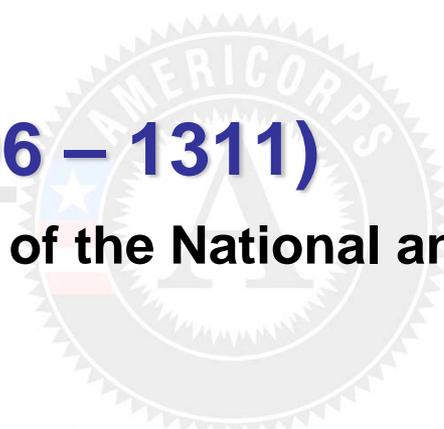




# SAA Requirements (Sec. 1306 – 1311)

From Sec. 1306 – 1311 (amends Sec. 129 of the National and Community Service Act):

- In the consideration of applications, the Corporation shall ensure the **equitable treatment of applicants** from urban areas, applicants from rural areas, applicants of diverse sizes (as measured by the number of participants served), applicants from States, and applicants from national nonprofit organizations.

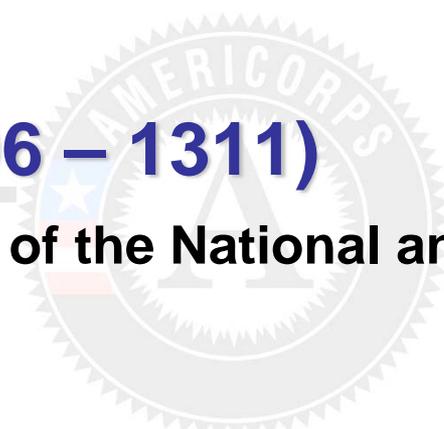




## **SAA Requirements (Sec. 1306 – 1311)**

From Sec. 1306 – 1311 (amends Sec. 129 of the National and Community Service Act):

- In the case of a nonprofit organization intending to operate programs in 2 or more States, a description of the **manner in which and extent to which the organization consulted with the State Commissions** of each State in which the organization intends to operate and the nature of the consultation.
- In making competitive awards, the Corporation shall **solicit and consider the views of a State Commission** regarding any application for assistance to carry out a national service program within the State.





# Principles of collaboration

The new requirements represent an opportunity to ...

- Build a **new culture** of communication, collaboration, and transparency between National Direct programs and State Commissions
- Promote **service as an effective, organized strategy** to meet local and national needs
- Permit State Commissions to provide **meaningful input** into selection process
- Utilize National Direct programs' **subject matter expertise** to solve local problems
- Ensure that National Direct programs **retain flexibility, ability to standardize**, and other practices that increase sustainability





# Principles of collaboration

The new requirements represent an opportunity to ...



- Build capacity of programs to **move towards specific Corps indicators** as outlined in SAA
- Assist states in **soliciting national programs to meet needs** in their locality
- Encourage **state-based promotion** and support for National Direct programs
- And **reduce administrative burden** for both states and national



# 360° Communication



State Commission promotes National Program locally

National Program develops plans for new operating site

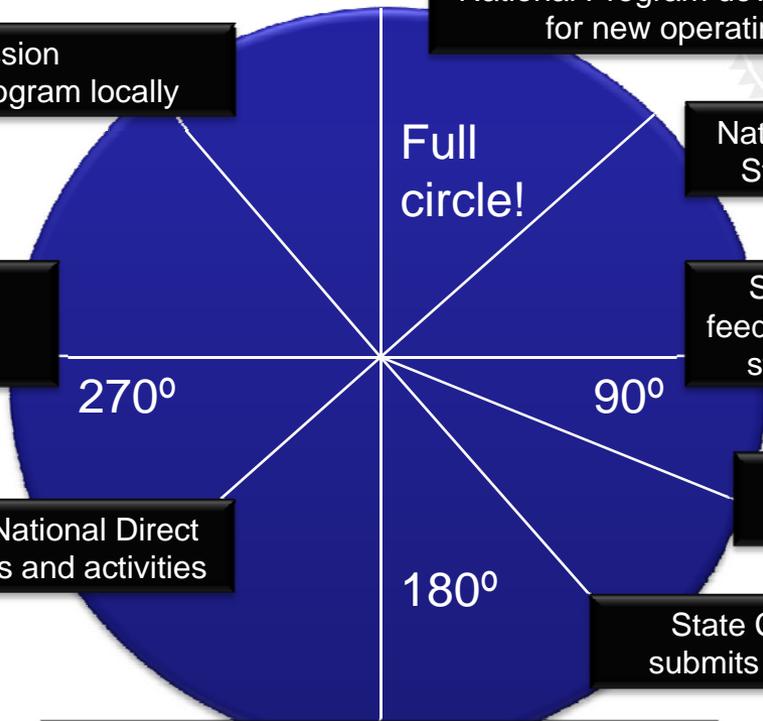
National program consults with State Commission on plans

State Commission provides feedback on needs, partnerships, state regulations, resources

National Program applies to CNCS for funding

State Commission reviews and submits recommendation to CNCS

CNCS advises National Direct and State Commission of funding decision



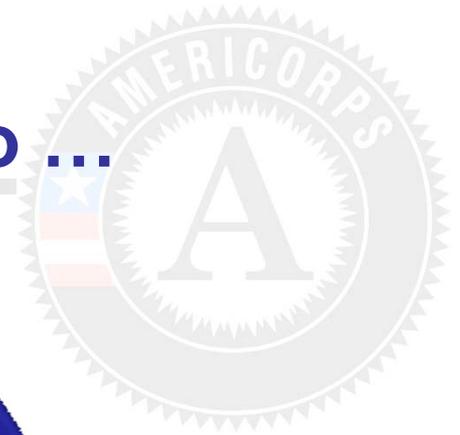
National Direct informs State Commission of local results and impact

State Commission supports National Direct integration into State trainings and activities





**360° Communication leads to ...**



**Effective use of  
AmeriCorps  
resources to  
meet local needs  
with quality  
service**





## Consultation Process

# Best Practice Recommendation from the Working Group

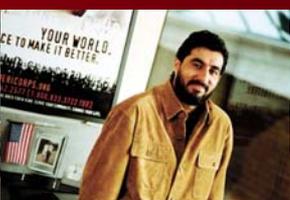




**Sept. 2009 – Dec. 1 2009**

**Step 1: National Direct Parent Organization submits information to State Commissions for operating site(s) in their state.**

- Brief Letter of Intent
- Consultation Form for proposed (or existing) operating site
- Copy of Home Page
- Parent Organization (local representatives) meet or otherwise continue to consult with State Commission, as needed and appropriate.





**Oct. 2009 – Jan. 2009**

**Step 2:** State Commission notifies National Direct Parent if anything in submitted materials requires further explanation.

*Example: If a National Direct proposes a 500 MSY placement, a third operating site proposed in a state, or a first-time AmeriCorps program, a State Commission may request further information.*





**Jan. 2010**

## **Step 3: State and National proposals are submitted in eGrants.**

- Parent briefly clarifies or self-certifies in eGrants that consultation has occurred with each State Commission.
- Parent will send a PDF copy of application to each State Commission where operating site(s) are located.



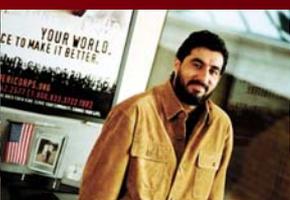


**Jan. 2010 – Mar. 2010**



**Step 4: National Direct proposals are reviewed.**

- 1) State Commission reviews National Direct consultation form and requests further information if needed. *Note: In 2010, the communication should occur prior to National Direct proposal submission to CNCS.*





**Jan. 2010 – Mar. 2010**

## **Step 4:** National Direct proposals are reviewed.

- 2) State Commission submits feedback to CNCS:
  - with a favorable/neutral/unfavorable recommendation
  - with a descriptive summary of program and reasons for support or lack of support
- 3) State Commission shares feedback with National Direct.





**Mar. 2010 – Apr. 2010**

**Step 5: CNCS notifies National Direct Parent and State Commission of preliminary funding scores from peer and staff review.**

- CNCS conducts Clarifications process.
- Where an issue emerges, CNCS will engage both the National Direct program and State Commission to resolve.





## **Pilot Year**

**This best practice recommendation takes into consideration that 2009 is a pilot year.**

**All aspects will be subject to review based on experience this year and whether the goals of the legislation are met, including:**

**timeline, expectations, and review process.**

