



DRAFT

September 21, 2009

Dear State Service Commission, State Volunteer Association and Volunteer Center Directors:

At the pre-conference workshop on June 21, 2009, held prior to the beginning of the National Conference on Volunteering and Service, we agreed that collaboration and partnership among state service commissions, state volunteer center associations and individual volunteer centers are critical to our impact as facilitators of service and volunteering. For example, given that the implementation of the Kennedy Serve America Act will formally begin on October 1, a significant amount of pre-planning and coordination stands before us as we begin to respond to the exciting expansions of existing national and community service programs as well as the new programs authorized in the Act.

One key new program created by the Serve America Act is the Volunteer Generation Fund. We believe from the discussions at the workshop that it's most important for State Commissions and State Volunteer Associations, Volunteer Centers and Actions Centers to begin formal discussions regarding planning how we could utilize financial resources that support the activities envisioned by this Fund. While many in the room had developed these partnerships, it was also clear that additional work needed to be prioritized to support the building of these relationships.

The following are links to connect to State Commissions by state, as well as volunteer centers, action centers and associations: State Commissions - <http://www.statecommissions.org>, click on Commissions; Volunteer Centers - **(insert volunteer centers link here)**. By virtue of receiving this communication, you are a leader in this field, and we ask you to take the initiative to begin, or to help continue, the discussions that will help move partnerships among these organizations forward. This is a shared leadership responsibility you have for your entity, and we are empowering you to take the steps necessary to rally like leaders around the potential importance of utilizing this Fund to help support volunteer efforts throughout your state. Can we count

on you to initiate the conversation or perhaps coordinate and host the meeting to bring these groups together?

As we go through the appropriations process, we ask each of you to pay particular attention to the budget levels for the Volunteer Generation Fund. As you face increased demands for additional volunteers primarily due to the current economic situation, this resource might be the key ingredient to enable more people to serve and to help address critical needs in your community. The level of funding in this part of the Act is largely a reflection on the importance associated to the work you do each day. We hope you will educate decision makers on the importance of these funds to your community.

At next year's national conference in New York City, we look forward to hearing about the partnerships you have developed and the work you are now able to do because of this Fund.

Sincerely,

Bill Basl
ASC

Brian Bolton
Volunteer Association of CA