

Fact Sheet



- Nation's largest grantmaker for volunteering
- Participants serve with 70,000 non-profits
- Engages 4 million Americans in service each year:
- 500,000 Senior Corps volunteers
- 75,000 AmeriCorps members
- 1.1 million Learn and Serve America students
- 2.2 million community volunteers

The Corporation for National and Community Service improves lives, strengthens communities, and fosters civic engagement through service and volunteering. As the nation's largest grant maker in support of service and volunteering, the Corporation engages four million Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service to their communities each year through the Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, VISTA, NCCC, and Learn and Serve America programs. Participants in Corporation programs and the community volunteers they help coordinate enable thousands of national and local nonprofit organizations, faith-based groups, schools, and municipal agencies to solve tough problems and meet local needs in education, the environment, public safety, disaster response, and other critical areas.

AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps provides opportunities for 75,000 Americans each year to give intensive service to their communities and country through three programs: AmeriCorps State and National, AmeriCorps VISTA, and AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps). AmeriCorps members tutor and mentor youth, build affordable housing, teach computer skills, clean parks and streams, run after-school programs, help communities respond to disasters, and build the capacity of nonprofit groups to become self-sustaining, among many other activities. AmeriCorps members in recent years have

stepped up their role in recruiting, training, and managing volunteers of all ages and backgrounds, supporting 2.2 million community volunteers in 2008 alone. In exchange for a year of full-time service, members earn a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award of \$4,725 that can be used to pay for college or graduate school, or to pay back qualified student loans. Since 1994, more than 574,000 Americans have given 718 million hours of service through AmeriCorps.

Senior Corps

Each year Senior Corps taps the skills, talents, and experience of nearly 500,000 Americans age 55 and older to meet a wide range of community challenges through three programs: RSVP, the Foster Grandparent Program, and the Senior Companion Program. RSVP volunteers help local police departments conduct safety patrols, participate in environmental projects, provide intensive educational services to children and adults, and respond to natural disasters, among many other activities. Foster Grandparents serve one-on-one as tutors and mentors to young people with special needs. Senior Companions help homebound seniors and other adults maintain independence in their own homes.

Learn and Serve America

Learn and Serve America provides an "on-ramp" to a lifetime of civic engagement for approximately 1.1 million students each year. The program awards grants to state education agencies, schools, nonprofit groups, and institutions of higher education to engage students in service activities linked to academic achievement. This type of learning, called service-learning, increases academic achievement while developing in young people the habits of citizenship. As part of its goal of making student service and service-learning a common practice across the country, Learn and Serve America provides resources to teachers, faculty members, schools, and community groups.

Other Programs and Initiatives

- The King Day of Service supports community organizations in their efforts to engage local citizens in service on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday.
- The National Conference on Volunteering and Service is the premier annual gathering of leaders of the volunteering and national service world.
- The President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll honors colleges and universities for the commitment of their students, faculty, and staff to community service.
- The Corporation's Resource Center provides training and technical assistance to national service programs and nonprofit organizations seeking to expand their volunteer capacity.

President's Call to Service

Even before taking office, President Obama called on all Americans to make an ongoing commitment to serve their communities and country. A resounding response to this call to service occurred on the King Day of Service, January 19, when an estimated one million people turned out to serve at more than 13,000 projects, more than double the number of participants and projects for the 2008 event. President Obama's service agenda focuses on encouraging service and active citizenship among all Americans, increasing the effectiveness and capacity of the nonprofit sector, and developing innovative approaches to service and volunteering. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act signed by President Obama on February 17 provided \$200 million to support up to 13,000 AmeriCorps members serving in distressed communities. The Corporation for National and Community Service provides support for the Obama administration's goal of fostering a culture of citizenship, service, and responsibility and helping all Americans to answer President Obama's call to service.

Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act

Legislation passed by bipartisan majorities in both houses of Congress calls for a sweeping expansion of national service that will engage millions of Americans in meeting national needs and solving local problems through volunteer service. The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act will set AmeriCorps on a path to increase from 75,000 to 250,000 members by 2017; establish a Summer of Service program for students in sixth through 12 grades; expand eligibility for Senior Corps programs; and create Silver Scholarships and Encore Fellowships for older Americans. The Act will strengthen America's civic infrastructure through the creation of grant programs to invest in social innovation, support volunteer mobilization, and build nonprofit capacity. The new law is also designed to strengthen the management, cost-effectiveness, and accountability of national service programs by increasing flexibility, consolidating funding streams, and introducing more competition.

More Information

To learn more about the Corporation or any of its programs, visit www.nationalservice.gov or call 202-606-5000.

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1201 New York Ave., NW ★ Washington, DC 20525
202-606-5000 ★ www.NationalService.gov