



# The Corporation for National and Community Service

*The Corporation for National and Community Service connects Americans of all ages and backgrounds with opportunities to give back to their communities and their nation through voluntary service. More than 2 million Americans serve their fellow citizens each year through the Corporation's three main programs: Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America. In partnership with nonprofit groups, faith-based organizations, schools, and other public agencies, participants in these programs tutor children, build and renovate homes, provide immunizations and health screenings, clean up and preserve the environment, serve on neighborhood crime-prevention patrols, and respond to disasters. They also recruit and manage volunteers and otherwise help to build the strength and effectiveness of nonprofit organizations. The Corporation, a federal agency, is a proud part of the USA Freedom Corps.*

## FACT SHEET

### **President's Call to Service**

The Corporation and its programs are a proud part of the USA Freedom Corps, a broad-based initiative by President Bush to coordinate citizen volunteer efforts both here and abroad. Announced in the 2002 State of the Union address, USA Freedom Corps reflects the President's desire to foster a "culture of service, citizenship, and responsibility."

President Bush, in that same speech, called on all Americans to devote the equivalent of at least two years of their lives – 4,000 hours – to service and volunteerism. National service programs are one way to answer the President's call. AmeriCorps gives citizens the opportunity to perform intensive service over an uninterrupted period, while Senior Corps taps the skills, talents, and experience of older Americans to help solve pressing social problems. Learn and Serve America, which links classroom studies with service in the community, is an important and effective way of instilling the habits of good citizenship and fostering a lifelong ethic of service.

### **Senior Corps**

Through its three programs, Senior Corps taps the skills, talents, and experience of more than half a million Americans age 55 and over to meet a wide range of community challenges, including homeland security. 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 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.

### **AmeriCorps**

More than 50,000 Americans are serving their communities 20 to 40 hours a week through AmeriCorps. Most AmeriCorps members are selected by and serve with local and national organizations like Habitat for Humanity, the American Red Cross, City Year, Teach for America, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and Boys and Girls  
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Clubs, as well as with a host of smaller community organizations, both secular and faith-based. In exchange for a year of service, AmeriCorps members earn an education award that can be used to pay for college or to pay back student loans. About half the members also receive a small living allowance and health benefits.

AmeriCorps operates in a decentralized manner that gives a significant amount of responsibility to states and local nonprofits. Roughly three-quarters of all AmeriCorps grant funding goes to Governor-appointed State Commissions, which respond to local needs and select nonprofit groups to receive the funding. Most of the remainder of the grant funding is distributed by the Corporation directly to multi-state and national organizations through a competitive grants process.

AmeriCorps also administers two programs that operate somewhat differently but are still designed to assist and increase the effectiveness of nonprofit organizations and public agencies. AmeriCorps\*VISTA, which has approximately 6,000 members, focuses on eradicating poverty and helping to meet the needs of people living in low-income communities nationwide.

AmeriCorps\*NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) is a residential program for more than 1,200 members ages 18 to 24. Based on a military model, the program sends members in teams of 10 to 14 to help nonprofit groups provide disaster relief, preserve the environment, build homes for low-income families, and meet other challenges. Because members are trained in CPR, first aid, and mass care, and because they can be assigned to new duties on short notice, they are particularly well-suited to meeting the emerging homeland security needs of the nation.

## Learn and Serve America

Learn and Serve America provides grants to schools, colleges, and community organizations to enrich learning through community service. For example, students may conduct food drives or help out in soup kitchens while studying nutrition. This type of learning, called service-learning, improves communities while preparing young people for a lifetime of responsible citizenship. In addition to providing grants for such activities, Learn and Serve America also sponsors a scholarship and recognition program for outstanding community service by young Americans. Approximately 1.5 million students are involved in service-learning programs supported by the Corporation.

## More Information

For more information on the Corporation or any of its programs, call 202-606-5000 or visit [www.nationalservice.org](http://www.nationalservice.org). For more information on the USA Freedom Corps and the President's Call to Service, call 877-USA-CORPS (877-872-2677) or visit [www.usafreedomcorps.gov](http://www.usafreedomcorps.gov).

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