



Climate Change Adaptation Plan

2014

Corporation for National and Community Service 2014 Climate Change Adaptation Plan

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I. Agency Policy Statement

Commitment

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) is an independent Executive Branch Agency. Our mission is to engage Americans in service and volunteering across the country to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement.

CNCS is committed to fulfilling our responsibilities under Executive Order (E.O.) 13514, *Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance*, and E.O. 13653, *Preparing the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change*. CNCS will continue to promote programs dedicated to emergency management support, environmental stewardship, and energy conservation.

Vision

The CNCS vision for adapting to climate change is threefold. First, CNCS will model awareness and preparedness in protecting our national service resources across the nation. Second, CNCS will continue to prepare national service members to assist in mitigating the effects of climate change, and in responding to potential disasters caused by climate change. Third, CNCS will collaborate with other federal agencies to ensure the coordination of federal efforts.

Goals

1. Model and improve awareness and preparedness.
 - a. Create an agency working group on Climate Change adaptation.
 - b. Distribute Climate Change Adaptation Plan documents to all staff and to national service participants.
 - c. Design and deliver annual required training for all staff on the CNCS Continuity of Operations Plan.
2. Prepare national service participants to mitigate the effects of climate change and respond to potential disasters caused by climate change.
 - a. Add Climate Change Adaptation elements to national service orientation.
 - b. Measure performance of national service participant activities using current environmental stewardship and disaster management performance measures.
 - c. Plan and implement a climate change taxonomy to categorize and measure climate change adaptation impact of current efforts.

3. Collaborate with other federal agencies to ensure coordination of efforts.
 - a. Continue to engage in collaborations focused on disaster management or environmental stewardship.
 - b. Create new models and programs focusing on climate change adaptation with existing partners.
 - c. Identify and cultivate new strategic partnerships focused on climate change adaptation interventions.

Strategic Approaches

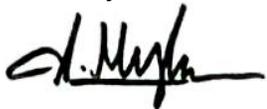
CNCS supports 47 State Offices and five AmeriCorps NCCC campuses located throughout the country that are leased and supported by General Services Administration (GSA). CNCS works closely with GSA when obtaining new space so the space meets challenges posed by climate change. CNCS has developed a comprehensive Continuity of Operations Plan to ensure safety and continued operations in the event of a disaster affecting its property and operations.

CNCS is the nation's largest grant maker for service and volunteering and pursues programs that focus on Disaster Management support and Environmental Stewardship. Through AmeriCorps and Senior Corps, 5,800 national service participants are poised to assist with disaster response, recovery, mitigation, and preparation in the event of disasters caused by climate change.

In addition, 96 AmeriCorps programs focus on environmental stewardship. Of these, 34 are solely focused on environmental issues including climate change. More than 10,000 AmeriCorps members are working on environmental stewardship projects in their communities. CNCS also supports 24 AmeriCorps VISTA programs that focus on environmental stewardship as it impacts poor communities. Seventy-one AmeriCorps VISTA members are working on these issues.

CNCS hopes to assume an even larger role in collaborating with other agencies to ensure rapid response and improved preparation across the nation.

Sincerely,



Asim Mishra
Chief of Staff
Corporation for National and Community Service

II. Vulnerability Assessment

A. Mission

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) is a federal agency that engages more than five million Americans in service through Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and the Social Innovation Fund and leads President Obama's national call to service initiative, United We Serve.

As the nation's largest grantmaker for service and volunteering, CNCS plays a critical role in strengthening America's nonprofit sector and addressing our nation's challenges through service.

CNCS harnesses America's most powerful resource – the energy and talents of our citizens – to solve problems. CNCS believes that everyone can make a difference. From grade school through retirement, CNCS empowers Americans and fosters a lifetime of service.

The mission of CNCS is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering.

Climate change could have an effect on our agency's capacity to fulfill this mission. For example, an increased risk of floods, increased frequency of coastal and riverine flooding, permanent flooding of coastal lands, and changes in frequency, intensity, duration, and impact on communities from extreme weather events could have an effect on the capacity of CNCS to operate its programs.

Based on the effects of such climate changes, affected communities may not be able to sustain the nonprofit infrastructure through which we meet our goals. As a result, CNCS might redirect resources to supplement state and local efforts as required by limited capacity.

Average rises in temperatures, more frequent and/or longer heat waves, and changes in precipitation or water availability could also affect the capacity of CNCS and its partners to operate programs, and the ability of national service participants to deliver services and build capacity. As average temperatures rise and there is an increased demand for cooling, the facilities that host national service members and volunteers may be strained. Higher temperatures and reduced precipitation could cause a migration of citizens from states and localities with insufficient water supplies to states and localities with more stable water supplies.

Climate change could also cause issues related to freshwater resources. According to the *National Action Plan*, rainfall amounts are expected to decline in some areas and increase in others, while the proportion of precipitation that falls as snow decreases. Rainfall and storms are expected to be more intense. The *National Action Plan* further highlights that in some areas rising sea levels are projected to

inundate water infrastructure, posing significant challenges for managers of freshwater resources and ensuring adequate water supply will be more difficult. All of these climate-change related impacts pose risk to our ability to accomplish our mission, operations, and programs.

These risks include, but are not limited to risks to physical assets and real property; operations; human health and safety; physical and mission security; infrastructure and support systems; and external coordination. These impacts could affect both the CNCS headquarters operations, and the operations of its state offices and campuses.

CNCS could also be affected by changes in insect/disease vectors, humidity, wind patterns, large scale atmospheric circulation, and ocean circulation.

CNCS's organizational structure, and our focus on disaster management support, allows CNCS to efficiently deploy resources to mitigate, respond, and recover from climate-change based impacts across the nation. CNCS has already developed public and private partnerships, including FEMA Corps, to expand these activities, and is capable of further expansion as new partnership opportunities become available.

B. Rationale for Risk Assessment

The Third National Climate Assessment notes that climate change is affecting every region of the country and key sectors of the U.S. economy and society. CNCS is well positioned to continue to combat the threats climate change presents. In particular, CNCS's environmental efforts are designed to reduce the harmful effects of climate change. CNCS disaster management activities are also poised to assist communities proactively and following a for climate change-caused disasters. Our Continuity of Operations Plan will ensure that we are able to sustain operations should climate change affect our offices and staff.

III. Current State: Programs, Policies, Plans, and Additional Action

Currently, 97 AmeriCorps programs focus on environmental stewardship. Of these, 34 are solely focused on environmental issues including climate change. More than 10,000 AmeriCorps members are working on environmental stewardship projects in their communities. Each year CNCS invests more than \$25 million on these projects. CNCS also supports 24 AmeriCorps VISTA programs that focus on environmental stewardship as it impacts poor communities. Seventy-one AmeriCorps members are working on these issues.

Because of efforts of members working in Environmental Stewardship programs, in 2012:

- 2,166 Housing units were weatherized or retrofitted

- 2,388 Energy audits were conducted
- 196,131 Individuals receiving education in energy-efficiency other environmental stewardship topics.
- 1,017,918 acres of parks have been improved

In addition, in 2014, AmeriCorps invested \$2 million to implement projects focused on building community resilience in the face of climate change in California. Throughout the state, 48 AmeriCorps members are expected to contribute more than 60,000 hours to support at least 100 local climate action projects.

In addition to programs focused on environmental stewardship efforts and activities, 16 AmeriCorps programs and 4,600 national service members are currently trained and deployable to support disaster response, recovery, and mitigation. Of those 4,600 national service members, 1,200 members are AmeriCorps NCCC and non FEMA- specific. All members are capable of deploying alongside a FEMA mission assignment, or independently within a region or state.

AmeriCorps projects dedicated to disaster services help communities prepare and mitigate the risks of natural disasters, but are also among the first to deploy to areas to respond to hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding, fires, and the like. More than 110,000 participants in CNCS's programs have contributed over 10 million hours to relief, recovery, and rebuilding efforts in response to Hurricane Katrina. These recovery programs assisted more than 3 million people, recruited or managed 650,000 volunteers, completed nearly 55,000 damage assessments, refurbished over 10,500 homes, constructed 2,000 new homes, served 1.6 million meals, and distributed more than 6,000 tons of food.

CNCS strategies start with the assumption that all climate change-related disasters are local. CNCS focuses on enhancing and adding value to what already exists in communities and infrastructure by working in partnership with State Service Commissions, local governments, nonprofits, and faith-based organizations. To fulfill that mission, CNCS prioritizes disaster programming in its grant-making and project selection.

A. Programs

CNCS funds a variety of programs that allow for citizens to become AmeriCorps members or Senior Corps volunteers and contribute to communities nationwide in a variety of focus areas. CNCS's focus areas include disaster services, economic opportunity, education, environmental stewardship, healthy futures, and veterans and military families.

AmeriCorps programs that directly relate to disaster services and environmental stewardship can be found in this report's accompanying Appendix, listed as Figure 1. The programs outlined in Figure 1 manage climate risks and expand upon community climate resiliency in the short and long term.

AmeriCorps State and National

AmeriCorps State and National supports a wide range of local service programs that engage thousands of Americans in intensive community service each year. CNCS provides grants to a network of local and national organizations and agencies committed to using national service to address critical community needs. Each of these organizations and agencies, in turn, uses their AmeriCorps funding to recruit, place, and supervise AmeriCorps members nationwide.

In Fiscal Year 2013 alone, 64 AmeriCorps State and National programs across the country have incorporated disaster service work and training into their member's activities. Because of the efforts of members working in these programs in 2012, 921,863 individuals received assistance in disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and/or mitigation.

AmeriCorps State and National programs are open to U.S. citizens, nationals, or lawful permanent resident aliens age 17 and older. Members may serve full- or part-time over a period not to exceed 12 months. Individuals can serve as AmeriCorps members in every state, U.S. territory, and on tribal reservations.

AmeriCorps VISTA

VISTA was founded as Volunteers in Service to America in 1965 as a national service program designed specifically to fight poverty in America. In 1993, VISTA was incorporated into the AmeriCorps network of programs. Members make a year-long, full-time commitment to serve on a specific project at a nonprofit organization or public agency. They focus their efforts to build the organizational, administrative, and financial capacity of organizations that fight illiteracy, improve health services, foster economic development, and otherwise assist low-income communities.

AmeriCorps NCCC

AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) strengthens communities and develops leaders through direct, team-based national and community service. In partnership with nonprofits—secular and faith based—local municipalities, state governments, federal government, national and state parks, Indian tribes, and schools, members complete service projects throughout the region they are assigned. Drawn from the successful models of the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s and the U.S. military, AmeriCorps NCCC is built on the belief that civic responsibility is an inherent duty of all citizens and that national service programs work effectively with local communities to address pressing needs.

Since 2000, AmeriCorps NCCC national service participants have suppressed or contained wildfires on over 1.3 million acres of land. Corps members have planted 2.8 million trees, educated 62,000 people on sustainability and energy conservation, and outfitted 2,400 homes/buildings with energy efficient modifications.

Disaster Services Unit

CNCS's Disaster Services Unit (DSU) has agency-wide responsibility for coordination of CNCS disaster services activities. The DSU provides expertise, ongoing support, and access to a network of dedicated volunteers. CNCS subscribes to the belief that all disasters are local. Our focus is on enhancing and adding value to what already exists in communities and infrastructure, working in partnership with State Service Commissions, local governments, nonprofits, and faith-based organizations. From forest fires and floods, to hurricanes and tornadoes, to terror attacks and oil spills, participants in CNCS programs have provided critical support to millions of Americans affected by disasters since 1994.

B. Policies

CNCS has developed a robust Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) which is reviewed and revised on an annual basis. Interruption in operations due to climate change will be managed in the same way as any other condition that affects business operations at headquarters or in CNCS's field offices. The COOP assures that critical business operations can continue, or if stopped, can be re-established as soon as possible.

The COOP includes a disciplined plan for activation, and clearly defined roles and communication protocols. Any climate change-related cause for invoking the COOP would likely be calamitous in nature, and would affect every federal agency and business in the region, not just CNCS. However, CNCS is confident that operations can be maintained through the COOP in a circumstance of threat by emergency conditions caused by climate change such as fire, floods, extreme weather or temperature, or disease.

C. Plans

Please see Appendix.

D. CNCS Climate Change Adaptation Working Group

To fulfill the objectives of the President's Executive Order 13653, *Preparing the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change*, CNCS will create an internal working group tasked with addressing climate change impacts on the agency's ability to carry out its mission. The group will focus on two objectives:

1. Review the latest climate reports for scientific insights on climate change impact and mitigation.
2. Synthesize impact and mitigation science with regional and national knowledge of CNCS's current infrastructures, policies, and grantee portfolios to continually refine and expand upon CNCS's annual climate adaptation and strategic sustainability performance plans.

The working group will meet monthly and consist of staff members from each region and our national headquarters in Washington, D.C.

IV. Significant Risks

Climate change presents the same degree of risk to CNCS operations as it does to citizens in general. In addition, CNCS is well-positioned to respond to the impacts of climate change by virtue of its mission. Unlike a federal agency that supports significant or risk-laden infrastructure such as bridges, power plants, or national defense resources, CNCS is a grant maker and does not manage or support infrastructure beyond CNCS office space. CNCS does not envision any significant risks to the agency or its operations as a result of climate change except as climate change affects the operations of the federal government and the nation as a whole.

V. Cost-Benefit of Improvements

CNCS works through GSA with respect to agency suppliers, supply chain, real property investments, and capital equipment purchases. CNCS has no plans to update agency policies for leasing, building upgrades, relocation of existing facilities and equipment, and construction of new facilities but defer to and will coordinate with the GSA's Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

VI. Interagency Coordination

CNCS frequently collaborates with federal agencies, and has a number of active AmeriCorps initiatives operating in coordination with the Department of Education, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Homeland Security, and others. Moreover, the AmeriCorps NCCC Advisory Board includes a number of Cabinet-level secretaries.

In 2013, President Obama issued a Presidential Memorandum that established the Task Force on Expanding National Service. The Task Force calls for new public-private partnerships to create more national service opportunities. Through this Task Force, CNCS has collaborated with 17 Federal agencies in an effort to identify methods and funding that can help effectively support an agency's mission through the use of national service participants.

CNCS continually seeks pathways to assist other federal agencies and their missions through the use of AmeriCorps programs. Expanding upon the current network of more than 75,000 AmeriCorps members and 300,000 Senior Corps volunteers, CNCS seeks to grow the national service network in order to support individuals and families in economic recovery, rebuilding after disaster, improving local at-risk ecosystems, furthering education outreach, and providing healthy futures for children and families across the country.

CNCS also participates in several external task forces and councils, including the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), the Department of Justice's Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the White House Council on Women and Girls, My Brother's Keeper, and the public-private collaboration supporting the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC).

Perhaps most relevant to climate change and disaster preparedness was CNCS' 2012- 2013 contributions to the Hurricane Sandy Task Force. CNCS collaborated extensively during this period with the Department of Homeland Security's FEMA office to deploy AmeriCorps members to Sandy-affected areas for disaster relief and volunteer coordination.

CNCS is also collaborating with a variety of federal agencies to expand STEM AmeriCorps, an initiative announced by President Obama in 2013 designed increase the outreach and quality of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics education efforts. CNCS believes that an expanded investment in STEM education will help ensure the nation's future thought leaders will have the proper foundation and training to think innovatively about issues such as climate change and natural disaster.

As noted in this report's Opportunities for Support section, interagency, state, nonprofit, and private sector collaboration is essential to effectively leverage Federal resources and expand upon the strides each agency is capable of making in preparing American infrastructures for climate change.

VII. Barriers

A. GSA Control

Aside from our Continuity of Operations Plan, CNCS is limited in its capacity to engage in efforts related to real property and infrastructure since these assets are secured and maintained through GSA.

- B.** Several other federal agencies are currently operating service corps for various purposes across the nation. Support for the development of common requirements, reporting metrics, and coordination of these corps will lead to more efficient and effective deployment in response to climate change.

VIII. Policy and Funding Reform

CNCS is not engaged in policies or funding programs that may, even unintentionally, increase the vulnerability of natural or built systems, economic sectors, natural resources, or communities to climate change related risks. CNCS programs focus on education, disaster services, healthy futures, environmental stewardship, and veterans and military families. We focus on resilience in all of these sectors.

IX. Opportunities for Support

CNCS supports a number of disaster response and conservation-focused corps of AmeriCorps members. AmeriCorps members are actively participating in hundreds of conservation programs, working to prevent and correct dozens of forest fires each year, and contributing to the restoration of our nation's wetlands and shorelines.

CNCS is able to support local nonprofits, corporations, communities, and other Federal agencies in the implementation of their Climate Change Adaptation Plans through the engagement of AmeriCorps members and the expansion of disaster response and conservation-focused corps through the creation of new activities, or through the expansion of projects already happening across

the country.

As the effects of climate change become more evident, crisis response and recovery will become increasingly central to climate change adaptation operations at both the local and federal level. CNCS has already developed public and private partnerships, including FEMA Corps, to expand these activities, and is capable of further expansion as new partnership opportunities become available. CNCS also envisions a federal staff that is more geographically flexible and trained to respond and manage disasters caused by climate change. Our infrastructure, particularly our technology infrastructure will need to be more flexible and mobile so we can respond where we are the most needed.

AmeriCorps members are able to carry out our nation's climate change adaptation plans to communities throughout the country, working with institutions such as nonprofit organizations, states, public schools, higher education institutions, and local emergency response units. AmeriCorps members can build protection for roads, homes, schools, and other infrastructure, to best prepare for the effects of extreme weather and climate change.

AmeriCorps NCCC is especially well-suited for disaster services. Operating in six-week spikes, AmeriCorps NCCC teams are able to rapidly deploy nationwide to the areas of greatest need and attention following a natural disaster.

In 2012 CNCS partnered with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to implement FEMA Corps, a unit of AmeriCorps NCCC. In 2013, the first corps of approximately FEMA Corps members specifically trained to respond to disasters nationwide was deployed to provide capacity to FEMA to support communities affected by Hurricane Sandy in New York and New Jersey.

Additionally, AmeriCorps Disaster Response teams (A-DRT), supported by FEMA through Mission Assignment and a Disaster Response Cooperative Agreement with CNCS, provided volunteer management, donations management, mucking and gutting, debris removal, and early recovery efforts to affected communities following the storm and continuing through the present.

After many responding non-profits demobilized, AmeriCorps members from across CNCS programs remained in Hurricane Sandy-affected territory for months, coordinating the activities of thousands of volunteers, displaced persons, and debris clean-up. The CNCS Disaster Services Unit is currently working to restructure the Disaster Response Unit Cooperative Agreement. This restructuring will allow for contributions from other federal agencies (beyond DHS) and the private sector to support a national service response to disasters and a strong commitment to long term recovery.

The A-DRT members are also able to provide disaster services sponsored by state governments. Arrangements like this allow disaster service corps the flexibility to operate in areas without a

Presidential declaration of emergency.

Through similar partnerships with other Federal agencies, states, nonprofits, higher education institutions, and communities, CNCS is capable of helping prepare the American people and infrastructure for extreme weather and climate change by constructing protective barriers around infrastructures to prevent erosion and damage from flooding and storms.

CNCS will continue to pursue new partnerships and opportunities that ensure the resiliency of the American people and infrastructure through the utilization of national service programs and members. CNCS's diverse programs allow for a variety of climate interventions that could advance our nation's climate, energy, and preparedness objectives.

Appendix: Climate Change Adaptation Plan

Program	Climate Risk Addressed	Desired Outcome	Maturity	Timeline
Disaster Services Unit	<p>Through AmeriCorps Disaster Response Teams, grantees and State Service Commissions, CNCS's Disaster Services Unit (DSU) helps communities prepare and recover from natural disaster and extreme weather, often associated with climate change.</p> <p>With 4,200 AmeriCorps members active and available for deployment with just 24 hours' notice, AmeriCorps DRT's are an agile force of the federal government that delivers disaster relief, volunteer coordination, and family preparation for our nation's most disaster-stricken areas.</p>	For families and communities to be adequately prepared prior to a natural disaster, and to safely and quickly recover afterwards.	Active	Ongoing
AmeriCorps NCCC	<p>AmeriCorps NCCC is a full-time team-based residential program for men and women ages 18-24. Since 2000, AmeriCorps NCCC members have planted over 2.8 million trees, restored 420 miles of riverbanks, preserved 1,750 acres of dunes, and burned 120,000 acres of land in prescribed burns to prevent fires.</p> <p>In 2012, NCCC collaborated with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and created a new unit of AmeriCorps members called FEMA Corps. These teams are devoted solely to FEMA disaster preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery efforts.</p>	To prepare and assist communities faced with natural disaster, to create energy efficiencies through assessments, kits, and education.	Active	Ongoing
AmeriCorps	AmeriCorps programs are helping numerous communities mitigate and adapt to the myriad risks of climate change. Programs work to help families and communities respond to temperature extremes by reducing energy consumption and carbon emissions. They address sea level rise by restoring wetlands and creating riparian buffers to reduce the risk of flooding. They are reducing invasive species such as Tamarisk from wetlands in the Southwest, which	The outcomes of these programs range from reduced carbon emissions to more resilient, disaster-prepared communities.	Active	Ongoing

	<p>Programs also are supporting local institutions and governments by fostering the creation of climate action and adaptation plans. Additionally, AmeriCorps members respond to the increasing number and impact of natural disasters, helping communities respond and recover.</p>			
<p>Senior Corps</p>	<p>Senior Corps volunteers, primarily individuals participating in RSVP, have a long history of assisting with natural disasters, including tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, and wildfires.</p> <p>Volunteer and grantee roles include setting up volunteer reception centers to support affected communities, helping to recruit and coordinate additional community volunteers and resources, assisting in shelters, helping to connect displaced community members to services, and lending hands on support for first responders and victims. Senior Corps RSVP volunteers also help with disaster preparedness by assisting with training and raising awareness. Senior Corps volunteers also assist in monitoring local water supplies to ensure public health and safety.</p>	<p>For families and communities to be prepared for natural disaster, to organize volunteers and reunite families following a disaster, and to protect local communities from harmful contaminants in community water supplies.</p>	<p>Active</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>