National Service in Alabama

Corporation for NATIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE

At a time of great social need, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) engages millions of Americans in focused, sustained service to solve community problems, improve the lives of our nation's most vulnerable citizens, strengthen nonprofits and communities, and transform their own lives. Nationwide, CNCS:

- Engages more than **5 million Americans** in results-driven service through **70,000** community and faith-based organizations each year, supporting America's civic infrastructure of food banks, homeless shelters, youth centers senior homes, state service commissions, and volunteer centers at a time of increasing demand for services.
- Places **tens of thousands** of teachers, tutors, and mentors into America's lowest performing schools, helping children learn the skills they need to graduate and be successful in the 21st century economy.
- Leverages **$800 million** in non-federal resources each year to strengthen impact on communities.
- Strengthens America's nonprofits by mobilizing more than 3 million community volunteers each year.
- Provides **tens of thousands** of young adults a living allowance, work skills, and educational support to help them graduate, go to college, and find work, saving taxpayer dollars.
- Supports Governor-appointed **State Service Commissions** in every state to engage citizens in solving critical problems.

Impact in Alabama

More than **18,000** citizens of all ages and backgrounds serve in CNCS programs Senior Corps, AmeriCorps or Learn and Serve America in Alabama. Serving through **1,400** nonprofits, schools, public agencies or faith-based groups across the state, these citizens tutor and mentor at-risk youth, assist veterans and military families, provide health services, restore the environment, respond to disasters, build homes, and recruit and manage volunteers. This year CNCS is committing more than **$10,830,000** to support 1,400 nonprofits and communities.

- **Senior Corps** engages more than **11,000** Alabama seniors who annually contribute more than **2,426,530** hours valued at more than **$51,830,660** through Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, and RSVP. Last year they:
  - Provided **620** frail seniors assistance to help them live independently in their own homes and gave respite services to **316** caregivers
  - Tutored or mentored more than **1,700** children and youth with special or exceptional needs
  - Helped more than **1,300** community organizations expand their reach and impact on community challenges
- **AmeriCorps**, including **VISTA** and **NCCC**, engages more than **380** Alabama citizens in intensive, results-driven service to meet education, environmental, health, economic and other pressing community needs. Last year they:
  - Tutored or mentored more than **85,340** disadvantaged children and youth
  - Provided more than **401,440** hours of service valued at more than **$8,574,780**
  - Recruited more than **24,580** volunteers
  - Raised more than **$5,120,000** in cash or in-kind resources for the organizations they serve
  - Strengthened the reach and impact of **Alabama** affiliates of the Habitat for Humanity, Teach for America, and other national nonprofits and state and local organizations including YWCA, United Way, Birmingham Reads and Alabama Department of Senior Services
  - Since 1994, more than **5,500** Alabama residents have served more than **8 million** hours and have qualified for Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards totaling more than **$14,660,000**.
- **The Social Innovation Fund (SIF)** mobilizes public and private resources to grow promising, innovative community-based solutions that have evidence of compelling impact in three areas of priority need: economic opportunity, healthy futures, and youth development.
  - To date, the SIF has awarded **$95 million** to **16** intermediary grantmakers in **10** states, which have made subgrants to nearly **150** subgrantees in **33** states and the District of Columbia, leveraging **$250 million** in additional private and non-federal dollars in matching funds.
    - In Alabama, **two** organizations have received SIF subgrants totaling more than **$384,000**.

Alabama Project Highlights

- Impact Alabama was incorporated in June 2004 as the state's first nonprofit organization dedicated to developing and implementing substantive service-learning projects in coordination with students from twenty-five universities and colleges throughout Alabama. Impact's signature initiatives are coordinated and implemented by a corps of 26 **AmeriCorps** members. During the 2010-11 year, these members and the 600+ volunteers they recruited provided free vision screenings to 32,174 low-income, preschool-aged children, all of whom are receiving follow-up care coordinated by another AmeriCorps program, Sight Savers America. Our members and volunteers also prepared tax returns for 4,321 working families statewide, helping them to claim $8.2 million in refunds and save $1.3 million in commercial preparation fees.

- In alignment with United Way Worldwide, the AmeriCorps **VISTA** project at United Way of Central Alabama in Birmingham focuses on core issues that strengthen individuals and families, with financial stability, the cornerstone for individuals and families to acquire basic needs, housing, education and career opportunities. With Assets for Independence grants and utilizing the services of 13 AmeriCorps VISTA members, the project successfully secured $1,188,347 Federal dollars and $1,188,347 matching local funds for income eligible Alabama workers to purchase a first home, pursue post-secondary education or secure a small business with earned-income savings from an Individual Development Account. Over the past five years, 156 IDA investors have purchased assets valued at $9,321,754.

- On April 27, 2011, the second deadliest tornado on record affected 85% of Marshall County residents, making Alabama number one in the nation for violent tornadoes. Because of previous disaster preparedness training, nearly 200 Marshall County **RSVP** volunteers immediately responded to help their neighbors. Volunteers prepared and distributed meals to storm victims and relief workers, opened their homes as temporary shelters, cut down trees, opened access and removed debris from homes, put tarps on roofs, repaired damaged homes, performed intake/needs assessments and continue to work with long term recovery committees. Their 11,219 service hours valued at $240,000 was applied toward in-kind matching funds for FEMA disaster awards for Marshall County. The impact of RSVP volunteers allowed residents to remain in the community until services were restored six weeks later.

- AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (**NCCC**) has completed over 428,000 hours of service in Alabama since 2000. Among other accomplishments, NCCC has recruited or coordinated 46,280 volunteers, assisted 71,103 families in disaster areas, cleared unwanted brush or exotic vegetation from 177 acres of land, completed 3,000 damage or needs assessments, and constructed 14 homes. Recent project highlights include NCCC's collaboration with Habitat for Humanity of Tuscaloosa. Since the April 2011 tornadoes, three NCCC teams have constructed two new homes and refurbished six homes, allowing 38 tornado survivors to move back into their communities. The teams have removed 2,500 pounds of debris in tornado-devastated areas and coordinated the efforts of 242 volunteers.

- **Learn and Serve America** provides grants to schools, colleges, and nonprofit groups to engage more than 6,400 Alabama students in community service linked to academic learning and the development of civic skills. One example is the Learn and Serve Alabama Program (LSAP). LSAP provides subgrants to local K-12 school systems and schools in order to provide students the opportunity to engage in structured, hands-on service projects that meet community needs and help develop personal, civic, and academic skills. Seventeen subgrant activities currently involve health, seatbelt safety, hunger/homelessness awareness, teenage pregnancy prevention, mentoring, peer helping, service through the arts, community gardens, and life skills. LSAP operates during the regular school year and summer. LSAP engages over 5,000 students throughout Alabama each year.