

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 Illinois

More than **84,000** citizens of all ages and backgrounds serve in CNCS programs Senior Corps, AmeriCorps or Learn and Serve America in Illinois. Serving through **2,600** 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 **\$28,810,000** to support 2,600 nonprofits and communities.

- **Senior Corps** engages more than **17,000** Illinois seniors who annually contribute more than **3,569,900** hours valued at more than **\$76,253,130** through Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, and RSVP. Last year they:
  - » Provided **820** frail seniors assistance to help them live independently in their own homes and gave respite services to **405** caregivers
  - » Tutored or mentored more than **4,900** children and youth with special or exceptional needs
  - » Helped more than **2,500** community organizations expand their reach and impact on community challenges
- **AmeriCorps**, including **VISTA** and **NCCC**, engages more than **2,600** Illinois 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 **89,360** disadvantaged children and youth
  - » Provided more than **1,565,890** hours of service valued at more than **\$33,447,390**
  - » Recruited more than **36,700** volunteers
  - » Raised more than **\$19,430,000** in cash or in-kind resources for the organizations they serve
  - » Strengthened the reach and impact of **Illinois** affiliates of the Habitat for Humanity, Teach for America, and other national nonprofits and state and local organizations including American Red Cross, Youth Build, Illinois Public Health Association and Children's Home Association
    - » Since 1994, more than **28,000** Illinois residents have served more than **33 million** hours and have qualified for Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards totaling more than **\$83,550,000**.
- **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 Illinois, **15** organizations have received SIF subgrants totaling more than **\$2.3 million**.

## Illinois Project Highlights

- Since 2010, 17 City Year Chicago **AmeriCorps** members have provided targeted interventions to 189 9th and 10th grade students at Chicago Talent Development Charter High School in Chicago's West Garfield Park community. The Diplomas Now model is centered on the Early Warning Indicators (EWI) of attendance, behavior, and course performance to keep students on track to high school graduation. City Year members deepen impact by working all day with the same cohort of students and participating in weekly EWI data meetings. For targeted "off track" students in FY11, those achieving a 90% attendance rate increased over the year, 90% of surveyed teachers credited AmeriCorps members with improving student behavior, and 62.5% ended the year on track in two or more core subject classes.
- The Prairie State Legal Services AmeriCorps **VISTA** program supports eight VISTAs who serve 37 counties in northern Illinois. These VISTA members address various community needs including identifying strategies to reduce the foreclosure rate and recruiting pro bono attorneys to represent individuals who were denied public benefits. The Kane County Foreclosure Helpdesk was developed by the VISTAs, including drafting language, finding space, developing policies, recruiting pro bono attorneys and training staff to manage the program. In the past year, 1301 homeowners received assistance with their loans totaling over \$100,000,000. In Rockford, the Veterans Drop-In Center supported 440 vets in 2011. VISTA members trained 18 staff pro bono attorneys who are now certified by the US Department of Veteran Affairs to represent vets in all facets of their claims for benefits.
- Foster Grandparents in Alton are making a difference in the lives of fourth graders. A recent study showed 37% of fourth graders in the Alton School District did not meet state reading goals, scoring ten points below the state average on ISAT reading tests. Senior Services Plus, Inc., the **FGP** sponsor, partnered with the school district to place FGPs in the classroom, providing one-to-one tutoring for the students. In the 2010-2011 academic year, 66 Grandparents tutored 462 fourth grade students, with 94% of these students showing an improvement in reading participation and reading skills. In addition, 88% of the students showed an increase in overall academic performance in math, science, and social studies.
- AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (**NCCC**) has completed over 98,000 hours of service in Illinois since 2000. Among other accomplishments, NCCC has recruited or coordinated 1,350 volunteers, restored nine historical cemeteries, planned or conducted 12 community activities, supported four archeological sites, and completed over 10,500 tax returns. Recent project highlights include NCCC's support of the Shawnee National Forest in Jonesboro. NCCC members assisted in the reconstruction of approximately 1 mile of hiking/equestrian trail in the Panther Den Wilderness. Construction of a new trail includes clearing brush, small trees, and shrubs from the new trail corridor, excavating soil to construct side hill trail tread, and finishing the backslope and outslope of the trail.
- **Learn and Serve America** provides grants to schools, colleges, and nonprofit groups to engage more than 64,000 Illinois students in community service linked to academic learning and the development of civic skills. One project involves students from the Chicago School of Professional Psychology who served as mentors/tutors for disadvantaged youth at Erie Neighborhood House in Chicago. Erie House serves predominantly Latino families in Chicago's West Town, Humboldt Park and Little Village communities. In this mentoring program, the Chicago School students focused on academics, promoting the youth's education and personal advancement, including preparation for college and beyond. The Chicago School of Professional Psychology serves over 800 participants each year.