National Service in Montana

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 Montana

More than **7,900** citizens of all ages and backgrounds serve in CNCS programs Senior Corps, AmeriCorps or Learn and Serve America in Montana. Serving through **1,200** 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 **$12,080,000** to support 1,200 nonprofits and communities.

- **Senior Corps** engages more than **5,300** Montana seniors who annually contribute more than **1,639,820** hours valued at more than **$35,026,640** through Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, and RSVP. Last year they:
  - Provided **1,000** frail seniors assistance to help them live independently in their own homes and gave respite services to **66** caregivers
  - Tutored or mentored more than **4,000** children and youth with special or exceptional needs
  - Helped more than **1,100** community organizations expand their reach and impact on community challenges
- **AmeriCorps**, including **VISTA** and **NCCC**, engages more than **1,400** Montana 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 **10,970** disadvantaged children and youth
  - Provided more than **774,330** hours of service valued at more than **$16,539,650**
  - Recruited more than **20,320** volunteers
  - Raised more than **$7,780,000** in cash or in-kind resources for the organizations they serve
  - Strengthened the reach and impact of **Montana** affiliates of the Salvation Army, Campus Compact, and other national nonprofits and state and local organizations including Student Conservation Association, Inc., Montana Conservation Corps, Jobs for Montana's Graduates Foundation and Big Sky Watershed Team
  - Since 1994, more than **7,200** Montana residents have served more than **6.7 million** hours and have qualified for Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards totaling more than **$15,090,000**.
- **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.

Montana Project Highlights

- To help low-income families reduce their heating bills during Montana's long winters, Governor Schweitzer tasked the Montana Commission on Community Service, in 2005, with creating the Warm Hearts Warm Homes initiative. In 2011, 188 Montana Conservation Corps (MCC) **AmeriCorps** members weatherized 1,556 homes, helping homeowners save $184,048 to $225,523 in the first year and a projected $900,000 - $1,125,000 in future energy bills. MCC provided each family conservation tips to help them further reduce long-term energy costs. Recognizing that winter emergencies can also be a challenge, families were given an emergency starter kit. Montana Energy Corps joined the Warm Hearts Warm Homes initiative three years ago. Since Warm Hearts Warm Homes began, AmeriCorps members have weatherized more than 10,000 homes statewide in all 56 counties and 7 reservations.

- Two AmeriCorps **VISTA** members serving with the Billings-Metro VISTA Project supported the Billings Montana Community Garden and Food Security Initiative to help people in poverty improve their lives and the community through gardening and healthy local food systems, resulting in 989 new clients served, 50 volunteers recruited and trained, and $366,871 in cash and in-kind resources raised in addition to $253,012 in leveraged funds. They worked in partnership with the community to address food access gaps, create a Food Policy Council, and develop several community gardens including one at a 20-unit transitional housing facility for formerly homeless veterans. In an effort to increase access by low-income residents to food resources, the VISTA members developed a Food Access Resources brochure which was distributed to over 12,500 community members.

- The Missoula MT **Senior Corps** Action Task Force, comprised of 84 RSVP, FGP, and **SCP** volunteers assisted the City/County Health Department H1N1 Flu Pandemic project to provide nearly 20,000 vaccinations. According to Ellen Leahy, Director of the Missoula City/County Health Department, "MSC has been the backbone of our efforts to get folks vaccinated". Trained teams of volunteers provided project management, outreach, placements and mobilization of 180 other community volunteers. With this intergenerational effort, 84 volunteers led by RSVP volunteer Norman Moeller served 717 hours in conjunction with high school students, college students, community members and medical personnel. Moeller was recognized for his leadership of this outstanding impact by receiving three prestigious awards and a proclamation from Missoula Mayor John Engen, "RSVP Volunteer Norman Moeller Day".

- AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (**NCCC**) has completed over 88,000 hours of service in Montana since 2000. Among other accomplishments, NCCC has constructed 18 homes, refurbished 12 homes for disaster victims, planted 10,899 trees or native plants, recruited or coordinated 601 volunteers, and suppressed or contained fires on 49,829 acres of land. Recent project highlights include NCCC's collaboration with the City of Helena. The city's open space forests have experienced significant mountain pine beetle related tree mortality, which has created a wildfire and wind-throw hazard associated with the presence of multi-thousands of dead trees immediately adjacent to residential neighborhoods and recreational trails. An NCCC team removed forest fuel loads and restored forest health through forest fuel reduction and tree thinning.