Corporation for NATIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Puerto Rico 2011-2012

MEETING COMMUNITY NEEDS IN PUERTO RICO.

More than 2,900 people of all ages and backgrounds are helping to meet local needs, strengthen communities, and increase civic engagement through national service in Puerto Rico. Serving with more than 130 national and local nonprofits, schools, faith-based organizations and other groups, these citizens tutor and mentor children, support veterans and military families, provide health services, restore the environment, respond to disasters, increase economic opportunity, and recruit and manage volunteers. This year, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) will commit more than $9,000,000 to support Puerto Rico communities through national service initiatives including:

Senior Corps: More than 1,800 seniors in Puerto Rico contribute their time and talents in one of three Senior Corps programs. Foster Grandparents serve one-on-one as tutors and mentors to more than 2,400 young people who have special needs. Senior Companions help more than 3,600 homebound seniors and other adults maintain independence in their own homes. RSVP volunteers conduct safety patrols for local police departments, protect the environment, tutor and mentor youth, respond to natural disasters, and provide other services through more than 75 groups across Puerto Rico.

AmeriCorps: This year AmeriCorps will provide more than 300 individuals the opportunity to provide intensive, results-driven service to meet education, environmental, health, economic, and other pressing needs in communities across Puerto Rico. Most AmeriCorps grant funding goes to the Governor-appointed Puerto Commission for Volunteerism & Community Service, which in turn awards grants to nonprofit groups to respond to local needs. Most of the remainder of the grant funding is distributed by CNCS directly to multi-state and national organizations through a competitive grants process. Other individuals serve through AmeriCorps VISTA, whose members help bring individuals and communities out of poverty by serving full-time to fight illiteracy, improve health services, create businesses, and increase housing opportunities, and AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps), a 10-month, full time residential program for men and women between the ages of 18 and 24.

In exchange for their service, AmeriCorps members earn an education award that can be used to pay for college or to pay back qualified student loans. Since 1994, more than 4,800 Puerto Rico residents have served more than 10 million hours and have qualified for Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards totaling more than $13,500,000.

Learn and Serve America: Learn and Serve America provides grants to schools, colleges, and nonprofit groups to engage more than 850 Puerto Rico students in community service linked to academic learning and the development of civic skills. This type of learning, called service-learning, strengthens communities, improves academic engagement, and prepares young people for a lifetime of responsible citizenship. Learn and Serve America also provides curricula and other resources to teachers, faculty members, schools, and community groups.

The Corporation for National and Community Service is a federal agency that improves lives, strengthens communities, and fosters civic engagement through service and volunteering. CNCS annually engages more than five million Americans in service to meet local needs through Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America, and leads President Obama's national call to service initiative, United We Serve. To learn more visit NationalService.gov or Serve.gov or call 202-606-5000 or TTY 1-800-833-3722.