

EDWARD M. KENNEDY SERVE AMERICA ACT
CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

TRANSCRIPT OF
PUBLIC LISTENING SESSION

Thursday, May 14, 2003

1:05 p.m. to 3:47 p.m.

Midlands Technical College Airport Campus
West Columbia, South Carolina

RONALD E. BLACKWELL, Court Reporter
(423) 543-3598

PARTICIPANTS:

SANDI OLIVER, Vice President, Student Services
Midlands Technical College

NICOLA GOREN, Acting CEO, CNCS

FRANK TRINITY, ESQUIRE, General Counsel, CNCS

ERIC TANNENBLATT, ESQUIRE, Member of Board of Directors, CNCS

MICHAEL HERRINGTON, Director of NCCC

KRISTIN McSWAIN, Chief of Program Operations

Invitees and Members of the Audience

C O N T E N T S

| | PAGE |
|---|-------|
| Opening Remarks by Ms. Oliver | 5-6 |
| Opening Remarks by Ms. Goren | 7-14 |
| Legislation Overview by Mr. Trinity | 14-31 |
| Opening Remarks by Ms. McSwain | 31-32 |
| Public Input by members of the audience | |
| Comments by John Turner | 34-37 |
| Comments by John Bosma | 37-40 |
| Comments by John Snyder | 40-44 |
| Comments by Rebecca Smith | 44-45 |
| Comments by Carole Poyner | |
| Comments by Lauren Collier | 45-48 |
| Comments by Beverly Hiott | 50-53 |
| Comments by Audrina Flowers | 53-54 |
| Comments by Katie Fox | 54-57 |
| Comments by Maria Brown | 57-60 |
| Comments by Dean Slade | 60-62 |
| Comments by Elizabeth Schuler | 62-64 |
| Comments by Court Pickett | 64-67 |
| Comments by Kathryn Barton | 67-70 |
| Comments by Dominic Barrett | 74 |
| Comments by Wendy Conklin | 75-76 |
| Comments by Jeremy Foreman | 76-79 |
| Comments by Martha Heggins | 79-82 |
| Comments by Tom Kester | 81-82 |

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Comments by Valerie Smith | 82-89 |
| Suzanne Piper | 89-90 |
| Comments by Gwenda Green | 91-93 |
| Comments by Jackie Kennedy | 93-94 |
| Comments by Terry Linder | 95-97 |
| Comments by Whitney Wortsing | 97-100 |
| Comments by Karen Irick | 100-101 |
| Comments by Melena Favor | 101-102 |
| Comments by Anna Richardson | 102-103 |
| Comments by Ashley Manus | 103-105 |
| Comments by Whitney Wortsing | 105 |
| Comments by Rosa Dingle | 105-106 |
| Comments bu Dorothy Moyers | 106-108 |

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MS. OLIVER: Good afternoon. I am Sandi Oliver, I'm
3 vice president of the student development services at
4 Midlands Technical College and we'd like to welcome all of
5 you on this beautiful afternoon on behalf of our president,
6 Doctor Sonny White and the faculty, staff and students of
7 MTC.

8 This is a wonderful opportunity for us. When we
9 saw that President Obama had recently signed off on Serve
10 America Act on April 21st we were very excited about that, we
11 have a very strong commitment to serve as a service learn
12 community service at our college, we have an organization
13 called "MTC Cares", they're working on out the serve and
14 learn (inaudible) in our different programs and the student
15 advisory board feels as strongly about community service that
16 they've organized that as one of their organizing principles
17 under the their goals for the organization and request that
18 every student organization on campus have a least one
19 community service activity per year if not more. In our
20 mission statement we are dedicated to serve the economic
21 development and social vitality of the community so anything
22 that (inaudible) the students' learning and development with
23 service to community is a real win win so we're delighted to

1 host the organization this evening or this afternoon and have
2 on campus the representatives from the Corporation for
3 National and Community Service and to kick off this local
4 regional activity to listen to concerns and issues and
5 opportunity for our country and our region so thank you and I
6 hope you all have a wonderful afternoon and at this time I'll
7 turn it over to Nicky Goren, the CEO for the Corporation for
8 National and Community Service. Nicky?

9 MS. GOREN: Thank you. Good afternoon everyone.

10 (Audience responds)

11 MS. GOREN: I am Nicky Goren, the acting CEO of the
12 Corporation for National and Community Service, we're very
13 excited to be here in Columbia, South Carolina.

14 Before I get started and go over what we're going
15 to do today, there are a couple of people that I would like
16 to acknowledge and have greet you, the first is Suzanne
17 Piper. Suzanne is the chair of the South Carolina Commission
18 on National Community Service.

19 Suzanne, I'm going to invite you up to say hello.

20 MS. PIPER: Welcome to everyone and I wanted to say
21 a particular welcome to our corporation staff, it's great to
22 have a room full of those with servants' hearts.

23 On behalf of our governor, Mark Sanford and the
24 South Carolina Commission on National Community Service I
25 wanted to read the governor's proclamation that was issued

1 this week for our state.

2 "Whereas, service to others is a hallmark of the
3 American character throughout the nation's history, citizens
4 have worked to help meet challenges by volunteering in their
5 communities, which is now, more than ever, due to the current
6 economic downturn and whereas, since the inception in 1994
7 the AmeriCorps' national service program, which includes
8 Americorps' VISTA and AmeriCorps' NCCC, has engaged more than
9 five hundred and seventy-four thousand men and women of all
10 ages and backgrounds in meeting a wide range of community
11 needs while promoting the ethic of service and volunteering,
12 whereas, after their terms of service AmeriCorps members
13 nationwide remain engaged in their communities as volunteers,
14 teachers, public servants and nonprofit leaders and whereas,
15 the 2009 observance of AmeriCorps Week draws attention to the
16 important work done by former and current AmeriCorps members.
17 Now, I therefore, Mark Sanford, Governor of the great state
18 of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 9th through 16th,
19 2009 as AmeriCorps Week throughout the state and encourage
20 all South Carolinians to express appreciation to AmeriCorps
21 members and the other volunteers across the state for their
22 commitment to service and to help promote the spirit of
23 volunteerism in our families and communities".

24 (Applause)

25 MS. GOREN: Thank you, that's very exciting, please

1 convey our thanks to the Governor.

2 This is AmeriCorps week, we're thrilled to be
3 starting these listening sessions during AmeriCorps week. We
4 were in Missouri yesterday for the first listening session,
5 we had a very robust constructive dialog there, we're looking
6 forward to the same today.

7 I also want to recognize one of our board members,
8 the Corporation for National Service is a federal agency, we
9 have an unusual structure in that we have a board of
10 directors, our board are Presidentially appointed, Senate
11 confirmed members and today we have Eric Tanenblatt with us,
12 who flew in from Atlanta to be a part of this session today.
13 Eric is with the law firm of McKenna, Long and Aldridge in
14 Atlanta, has a long history in national service, was part of
15 Hands-On, Georgia and since joining the board our board has
16 taken on a leadership role in our management and governance
17 committee and has been just a huge source of wisdom and
18 support to me and to leadership of the Corporation so we're
19 very appreciative and I want to invite Eric to say a few
20 words as well.

21 MR. TANENBLATT: I'll just bring greetings from
22 here but I want to, you know, thank you all for coming out,
23 first, thank the Midlands Technical College for hosting us
24 today but this is a very exciting time, as you all know, in
25 our nation, given the recent signing of the Serve America

1 Act. The board, my fellow board members and the Corporation
2 are very excited about the opportunities we have, we have a
3 very engaged board. I want to acknowledge John Turner, a
4 fellow Georgian, who heads our state commission in the state
5 of Georgia, for coming out today to South Carolina but this
6 is a tremendous -- this session today and sessions we're
7 having around the country are extremely valuable as we
8 implement the Serve America Act and hear thoughts from people
9 that are actually around the country that are engaged in
10 service activities across the country so I look forward to
11 your comments and thank you for hosting us today.

12 MS. GOREN: Thanks, Eric. So before I get started,
13 I just want to start getting a sense of who's in the room. I
14 know we have Georgia represented and of course South
15 Carolina, how many South Carolina, from South Carolina here?

16 (Audience responds)

17 MS. GOREN: Wow, okay, how many Georgia?

18 (Audience responds)

19 MS. GOREN: Any other states? Any other states
20 represented here today?

21 MEMBER OF AUDIENCE: North Carolina.

22 MS. GOREN: North Carolina, great. Well, we're
23 starting to get input from across the country, the goal here
24 was to have them strategically located, locate these sessions
25 so that we can get as much input as possible.

1 I want to thank all of you for coming out here
2 today, I want to thank Midland Technical College, this is a
3 great venue for this and I want to thank, in particular, the
4 Corporation's state office team from South Carolina led by
5 Cathy Sharp, for pulling this together, we've pulled these
6 together on a very short turnaround and we're very pleased to
7 have their support.

8 Just to give you a little overview of national
9 service in South Carolina, in 2008, 2009 the Corporation has
10 committed more than fifteen million dollars to support
11 national community service in South Carolina, we have more
12 than five thousand seniors serving through Senior Corps in
13 this state, we have more than four hundred and ten AmeriCorps
14 members and more than thirty-six thousand South Carolina
15 students involved through Learn and Serve so that's pretty
16 significant and as Eric said, the Serve America Act is only
17 going to expand those opportunities as we go forward.

18 I also want to get a quick show of hands, how many
19 people here are representing AmeriCorps state and national?

20 (Audience responds)

21 MS. GOREN: Okay, how many are specifically
22 representing state commissions?

23 (Audience responds)

24 MS. GOREN: Great. How many VISTA?

25 (Audience responds)

1 MS. GOREN: How many Learn and Serve?

2 (Audience responds)

3 MS. GOREN: Senior Corps?

4 (Audience responds)

5 MS. GOREN: Great, we have a really good mix so I
6 think we'll -- I anticipate we'll be getting input on a lot
7 of different things so as Eric said, this is truly an
8 historic time for our field, for national service, it started
9 with President Obama, or President Elect Obama at that time,
10 coming into the inauguration and clearly making service and
11 volunteering a cornerstone of his agenda and of his inaugural
12 weekend by putting out a call to service around Martin Luther
13 King Day, going out and serving with his new administration
14 and basically along with all of you and all the efforts we've
15 put together over the last few years, making it the largest
16 King Day of service in our nation's history and that was the
17 starting point and since then we've seen just increased
18 support, the very swift passage of the Serve America Act in a
19 record five weeks with bipartisan support, both House and
20 Senate, Republicans, Democrats and what we really are seeing
21 is, a growing consensus among our leaders in this country and
22 our communities that national community service and
23 volunteering are not just nice but absolutely critical to
24 addressing the issues that this country is facing right now
25 and today we're here to get input on implementation of this

1 very big Act, it changes a lot of things in our current
2 programming and it also adds a lot of new initiatives and
3 we're also seeking input as part of this for our new
4 strategic plan. The board of directors of the Corporation is
5 charged with putting together a strategic plan, our current
6 strategic plan expires in 2010 so it's time now to plan to
7 have a new five year strategic plan that will basically
8 replace the one that's in place now and it's a good time for
9 that, it's change in administration, we have the new Serve
10 America Act, we have a big increase in funding for national
11 community service so it's actually the right time to be
12 looking at the strategic plan for the next five years so
13 we're going to be using the input we get through these
14 sessions for that as well.

15 In a couple of minutes Frank Trinity, our general
16 counsel that we like to refer to him as "Professor Trinity",
17 is going to do a quick overview of just the -- a high level
18 overview of what's in the Serve America Act, I'm sure a lot
19 of you have seen it but there's a lot in there and we're
20 going to do a quick overview and then Kristin McSwain, who is
21 down here and will be up here shortly, as our chief of
22 program operations will moderate the discussion and she'll go
23 through kind of how we're going to manage the discussion
24 today.

25 Generally speaking, the objectives of the Serve

1 America Act were fivefold; Number one, expanding
2 opportunities for Americans to serve; number two, breaking
3 down silos between our current programs; three, reducing
4 unnecessary burden for our grantees; four, demonstrating
5 outcomes and impact and finally, five, seating and driving
6 innovation in the nonprofit sector and as most of you know,
7 the Act does not take effect until October 1st of 2009 but we
8 need to be thinking now about all the steps we need to take
9 in order to implement it on the time line over the next year
10 with different things taking effect at different times but --
11 or being implemented at different times but October 1st is
12 our target date for a lot of these things and we can't do it
13 without your input. These are -- there's a lot of complex
14 things in this bill, there's a lot of new programs that, you
15 know, we really -- you're the people on the ground, you're
16 the people doing this every day, you're the people who
17 translate the policy into action and so it's really really
18 critical that we get your input through these sessions.

19 You may have seen that we tried to organize the
20 thinking around this, around those five topics that I just
21 mentioned and we had put out, through our Federal Register
22 notice and on our web site, a list of questions that we were
23 hoping to get answers to, obviously we seek your input on
24 anything you care to give us input on but we're looking to
25 try and organize our thoughts around those questions and hope

1 that they'll prompt some thinking on your part and we're
2 great to see such a great turnout and we'll be -- this is
3 really the first step in the process, we're going to be
4 seeking input through these public sessions, I'll be talking
5 about some conference calls we're having at the end, we've
6 also launched a new web tool to get online feedback so this
7 is a -- this is going to be a several month process where
8 you'll have many opportunities, don't see this as your only
9 opportunity, this is just the beginning so thanks in advance
10 to all of you for participating and I am going to turn it
11 over to Frank.

12 MR. TRINITY: Thank you, Nicky.

13 So it's great to be here, we're going to go over
14 the three hundred and eighty page Serve America Act in twenty
15 minutes so pay attention.

16 In addition to this presentation, which the
17 PowerPoint will be posted on the Corporation's web site later
18 today we hope but there's a thirteen page summary which goes
19 into a little bit more detail that's already posted and we're
20 working on frequently asked questions and also a side by side
21 document which we'll go through, what is the current law and
22 how does it change, line by line so those are going to be on
23 our web site but the summary is up right now as well as the
24 bill itself, if you go on the NationalService.org and type
25 onto the legislation box it will take you there.

1 I'm echoing what Nicky said about there having been
2 bipartisan support for this bill. Having participated in the
3 process over the first few months of this year, I never saw
4 such cooperation and communication about the cross the aisles
5 and between the House and Senate, a law doesn't get passed in
6 five weeks without that unprecedented level of cooperation
7 and when I was listening to the members of Congress rise on
8 the floor of the House and the Senate, member after member
9 spoke in support of national community service programs and
10 it was something that was coming from their hearts because
11 they had observed the great work that you do day in and day
12 out and I think, as Nicky said, there's now a national
13 consensus that national and community service is really a key
14 strategy in addressing the challenges that our country faces
15 so I wanted to thank you for all of the work that you do.

16 Nicky had already talked about some of those major
17 themes and as I go through the PowerPoint I'll bring them up
18 as I go through the slides so let's talk about a few caveats
19 at the beginning so the Serve America Act is what's known as
20 an authorizing amendment and what that means is, the Congress
21 made amendments to the National Community Service Act and the
22 Domestic Volunteer Service Act so we have two laws and at the
23 end of the Serve America Act there are authorization of
24 appropriations where Congress says how much money is
25 authorized for each of the programs and I just wanted to be

1 very clear that those amounts are in the authorizing statute
2 but that's not the end of the story, that Congress has an
3 appropriations process and that begins with the President's
4 budget each year and then the committees mark up drafts of
5 legislation and then ultimately Congress passes a fiscal year
6 appropriation so that's where Congress definitively decides
7 how much money will go to the programs.

8 Secondly, Nicky talked about the effective date
9 being October 1st. One question we've gotten a lot is, "I'm
10 serving in AmeriCorps now, does my education award go up
11 now?", and the answer is "No, the effective date means that
12 when we make grants and approve positions with fiscal year
13 2010 dollars, that's when the new amount will take effect".

14 Let's go to Learn and Serve America, it's the first
15 program that's mentioned in the statute, a major change there
16 is that the funding streams are switched around a little bit
17 so currently there's a school based community based and
18 higher education. The Serve America Act takes community
19 based and folds it into a new part three and the school based
20 and higher ed are left pretty much alone. Now, within the
21 school based allocation the amount percentage of the funds
22 goes down a little bit and there's a small state minimum of
23 seventy-five thousand dollars for a state education agency
24 but that only kicks in if the overall Learn and Serve
25 appropriation is fifty million dollars.

1 There are some changes to the matching requirements
2 and there's some additional flexibilities in the use of funds
3 that are outlined here.

4 Within higher education any grantee must be meeting
5 the federal work study minimum, it's currently seven percent
6 of funds being used for community service activities, that
7 can get waived by the Secretary of Education but that sends a
8 clear message that federal work study is very important to
9 the executive branch and you can only get our money if you're
10 meeting the federal work study minimum.

11 Secondly, the Serve America Act creates a new
12 authority, which is to work with the Department of Education
13 to recognize outstanding institutions of higher education,
14 outstanding in the area of service and there's authority to
15 designate up to twenty-five institutions of higher education
16 for special recognition as well as eligibility for grant
17 funds, then this new part three, it's called "Innovative
18 service Learning programs", that would include the community
19 based programs as they currently are set up, moves them into
20 a new funding stream and then creates authority for a couple
21 of new programs, one is the summer of service program. The
22 summer of service program involves rising six to twelfth
23 graders who perform a hundred hours of service in a summer
24 and for that service they are eligible for an education award
25 of five hundred dollars so it's a hundred hours, five hundred

1 dollar education award. Secondly, there's a semester of
2 service which does not have an education award, it is just a
3 grant program and that allows high school students serving at
4 least seventy hours in a semester doing outreach in the
5 community.

6 Youth engagement zone is also a new grant program
7 and that would be either school based or community based
8 involving high school students again reaching out into the
9 community.

10 The longitudinal study is a ten year study, right
11 now within AmeriCorps we're already, I think, ten years --
12 more than ten years into a longitudinal study showing the
13 effects of a year's service on an individual, we're tracking
14 them essentially through their post-AmeriCorps lives and we
15 think that this will be a valuable tool to show how service
16 learning can change the students that actually participate.
17 The 2010 President's budget that was released recently
18 designates one million dollars to start this longitudinal
19 study.

20 Now we'll talk about AmeriCorps. The big headlines
21 with this Serve America Act is that it expresses Congress'
22 support for increasing the AmeriCorps program to two hundred
23 and fifty thousand positions by the year 2017, that will be
24 more than a threefold increase over what is currently in
25 existence. Now, there is language in the Serve America Act

1 recognizing that that number is really dependent upon
2 Congress appropriating enough money and also there being
3 enough quality positions to attain that number.

4 The third bolt is important, it includes all
5 AmeriCorps positions and by AmeriCorps it means a position
6 that has an educational award associated with it so that
7 would include the current AmeriCorps State National, VISTA
8 and the National Civilian Community Corps but it would also
9 include the Summer of Service positions I just mentioned as
10 well as some other positions that are authorized in Subtitle
11 "H", some fellowship -- a fellowship program and a Silver
12 Scholar's program so the key thing there is that the
13 definition of AmeriCorps has now been expanded to include
14 programs that are newly authorized in the Serve America Act.
15 There's also -- Congress expresses a goal, it's not a
16 requirement, a goal of reaching for fifty percent full time
17 positions. Right now overall we're in the high forty -- I
18 think, forty-seven, forty-eight percent and we've been around
19 there for about three or four years, pretty much holding
20 steady but Congress wants us, every year, to report how we
21 are doing in that percentage and are we -- you know, are we
22 working towards that fifty percent number.

23 The funding for AmeriCorps State National has
24 changed under the Serve America Act to merge the two
25 competitive funds, the state competitive dollars as well as

1 what's called national direct and they will be merged
2 together, there will be some input and coordination involved
3 for national directs that want to propose a project in a
4 given state but that will be one competition and the state
5 formula was increased by two percent. There's also a minimum
6 of six hundred thousand dollars for each state under the
7 formula process, currently it's a five hundred thousand
8 dollar minimum. In addition, each program will be capped at
9 eighteen thousand dollars per position, per full time
10 position, right now we manage the cost per member on a
11 national basis, you know, we have to tell Congress how many
12 grants we've approved and what the average cost per member is
13 for all the grants that we approve. Commissions are given an
14 allocation and commissions are to reach a certain goal over
15 their whole portfolio, this is a new provision in the Serve
16 America Act which is actually program by program so there'll
17 be much more scrutiny on each grant subgrantee's costs and
18 there's a provision of a waiver up to nineteen point five
19 thousand but nothing beyond that.

20 The other headline within the Serve America Act
21 with AmeriCorps' new service corps, originally the Kennedy-
22 Hatch bill would have authorized these outside of Subtitle
23 "C", the State National funding but ultimately all the new
24 service corps are brought into State National, they're
25 eligible just like all the other currently funded AmeriCorps

1 programs and the categories for these service corps are
2 education, healthy futures, clean energy, veterans and
3 opportunity corps, which is about economic disadvantage.

4 The Serve America Act also says that program models
5 like Professional Corps or intermediary models that are
6 currently funded, they would still be eligible under the
7 Serve America Act and the Congress directs the Corporation,
8 each year when we put out our funding announcement, to
9 designate a least two of these five service corps for special
10 consideration.

11 There's a prohibition on us giving a grant to
12 another federal agency, which is a longstanding prohibition
13 but there's also recognition that we can work with federal
14 agencies for us to provide education awards to a service
15 program that might be supported by another federal agency,
16 there's also authority to enter into a cost share agreement
17 where another federal agency would give us money to support a
18 program under our authority so VISTA currently has that cost
19 share authority and this would expand it to the State
20 National program and then thirdly, there's authority for a
21 fixed amount of grants within AmeriCorps.

22 What are fixed amount grants? Well, I'll try to
23 give a one minute background on this.

24 Most grants are cost reimbursement grants where you
25 have a budget, it has -- each line is for a particular

1 purpose and has the particular amount, you negotiate that and
2 then you have to essentially keep your receipts to document
3 that you spent it for that purpose and that amount and
4 there's a lot of work involved in negotiating budgets. With
5 a fixed amount grant, we figure out what it would actually
6 cost to run your program and if you have a full time member
7 that's getting a living allowance of eleven thousand or
8 twelve thousand and would give you an amount close to that,
9 we have a high degree of confidence that just by running the
10 program of full time members, if we give you a grant amount
11 that's close to the living allowance you're going to have to
12 use our money for a permissible purpose and we won't have to
13 make you document how you spent every dollar in the grant,
14 you won't have to show us how you documented your match and
15 so this will be a greatly simplified financial reporting, it
16 would allow everyone to focus more on outcomes and running
17 good programs.

18 A couple of other changes I wanted to highlight in
19 the Serve America Act, one is on tutor qualifications in
20 AmeriCorps. We went through rule making a few years ago and
21 we decided that to be a tutor in AmeriCorps you must either
22 have a high school diploma or pass a proficiency test, the
23 Serve America Act would limit it to having a high school
24 diploma so we're going to be looking at that closely and the
25 definition of tutoring in our regulation focused on intensive

1 work in an academic setting focused on academic outcomes in a
2 one on one or small group setting and it may be that some
3 people that are calling themselves tutors aren't actually
4 tutors in that definition so we do want to hear from you to
5 see if you're going to have issues with implementing that
6 provision and then there's a call upon the Corporation to try
7 to increase the number of people fifty-five and older in
8 AmeriCorps to strive for a ten percent number. Again, that's
9 not a requirement, it's aspirational but it expresses
10 Congress' desire on that.

11 State commissions get an increase in their
12 administrative grant for small states from one twenty-five
13 thousand to two hundred and fifty thousand and there's
14 permission to waive match for state commissions if a state is
15 having hardship or is just starting a new commission.

16 Our disability funds are currently restricted to
17 AmeriCorps programs, under the Serve America Act all national
18 service grant programs will be eligible for the disability
19 funds and they can help with Outreach, they can help with
20 reasonable accommodation and we're very excited about that
21 change.

22 National Service Trust, which funds the AmeriCorps
23 education award, we see that the amount increases from forty-
24 seven, twenty-five to five thousand, three hundred and fifty
25 and in future years will be tied to the Pell Grant amount so

1 this is the amount, fifty-three, fifty, that for positions we
2 approve with 2010 dollars -- so we have to -- first, we have
3 to get a 2010 appropriation and then with those dollars the
4 amount will be fifty-three, fifty, also current law says you
5 can get only two education awards no matter how long the term
6 so if you do two summer programs in AmeriCorps and you get
7 two education awards for the summer you're done under current
8 law. What this says is, you can actually receive up to the
9 value of twice a full time education award so this will help
10 people do a summer, maybe two summers and then be able to do
11 another full time term, it expands the types of uses of the
12 education award, particularly any GI Bill institution will be
13 eligible for the education award and then finally, anyone
14 who's fifty-five or older will be able to transfer the
15 education award to a child or to a grandchild. Yesterday we
16 had a lot of comments from folks that they urge that that be
17 expanded to an extended family or a child that the older
18 person might be tutoring, it's too late, the law got passed
19 and it was limited to children and grandchildren of the
20 person serving, we don't have any discretion to override
21 that.

22 The national Civilian Community Corps is a
23 demonstration project actually, it was established in 1992
24 and the Serve America Act makes it a permanent program, also
25 focuses it on disaster relief. Speaking of disaster relief,

1 there are several new provisions in the Serve America Act,
2 one is to allow an extension of an AmeriCorps term. When
3 Katrina hit, we had some programs that had second year
4 members who were just finishing up their second term and they
5 were running up against the end of their term and we were
6 asked, you know, could they go to New Orleans to help and
7 still be an AmeriCorps member and we had to say "no" at the
8 time so Congress heard us and they've made that change, you
9 can get a ninety day extension if that were to happen again.
10 There's also greater flexibility in working with nonprofit
11 organizations to get FEMA mission assignment money should
12 there be a presidentially declared disaster, also creates the
13 authority for a reserve corps to respond to disasters that
14 the Corporation can be more involved in training former
15 AmeriCorps members and veterans and have them all be prepared
16 to deploy and then if there's a local or a national disaster
17 we would have the authority to deploy.

18 Finally, there's a priority in the bill, in the
19 Act, that in grant selections if a program is focused on
20 disaster relief, that can be a priority consideration in
21 funding.

22 Subtitle "H" is our demonstration authority and
23 there are several new program authorities in the Serve
24 America Act, starting with the social innovation fund. The
25 social innovation fund is a presidential priority, it will

1 expand proven initiatives and also provide seed funding to
2 promising ideas. The idea is to leverage federal dollars
3 with private philanthropic and business dollars to
4 essentially scale up programs that have high promise.
5 There's a significant match requirement, it's dollar for
6 dollar and these grants are large, a million to ten million
7 dollars and the President's 2010 budget designates fifty
8 million dollars for the social innovation fund.

9 Secondly, the volunteer generation fund recognizes
10 that there really is a need to be intentional about
11 supporting volunteers, recruiting, managing, supporting them
12 and this would be grants to states, state commissions and
13 nonprofit organizations to do that, in the President's 2010
14 budget it designates ten million dollars for that program.
15 In addition, the Subtitle "H" now includes a nationwide call
16 to service under the Corporation's leadership and that each
17 year the 9/11 day would be a day of service, of remembrance
18 and volunteering. In addition, there are a couple of
19 fellowship programs where individuals can serve outside of
20 our regular grant structure and that's going to take some
21 work to develop that and one of the things we're looking to
22 do over the next few months is to get ideas about how that
23 might work. The idea is to reach organizations that are not
24 currently in any of our program structures and support more
25 of a decentralized approach.

1 Silver Scholars is another authority for people
2 fifty-five and older, Silver Scholars does include an
3 education award of one thousand dollars for three hundred and
4 fifty hours of service. The VISTA program has a few changes,
5 I would say of all the programs VISTA got changed the least,
6 there's a purpose statement change which is a focus on
7 sustainability, secondly the normal forty-five day review for
8 governors for each VISTA project, that's eliminated, we
9 weren't really hearing from governors so this will actually
10 speed up the ability to get VISTAs on the ground. The
11 postservice cash stipend increases some and that's pretty
12 much it for VISTA.

13 For Senior Corps, expands eligibility both in terms
14 of age and income, it increases the stipend to three dollars,
15 one caveat on that three dollar increase, it's dependent upon
16 availability of appropriations so we have to maintain the
17 previous year's volunteer levels before we can go to the
18 three dollars.

19 The definition of children that can be served by
20 foster grandparents is expanded, currently it's special and
21 exceptional needs under the Serve America Act, it would also
22 go to social, economic and other academic needs of children
23 so there's a greater number of children that will be eligible
24 for foster grandparents, within RSVP it puts that program on
25 a path to competition by the fiscal year 2013 and then this

1 is sort of inside baseball for Senior Corps, programs of
2 national significance is funds that are on top of prior year
3 levels and a certain percentage of those funds is designated
4 for existing programs in certain areas, this would say within
5 that structure at least twenty-five percent are for
6 organizations that actually haven't been funded by the
7 Corporation.

8 There are a host of administrative provisions, many
9 of which apply to all the Corporation's programs, let me go
10 over a few those.

11 There's greater authority for evaluation funding,
12 there's a new civic health assessment which is authorized
13 where the Corporation would work with the Census Bureau to
14 look at how communities are doing in a couple of areas,
15 volunteering, giving and voting. There's also a greater
16 emphasis on performance measures and we hope to get your
17 ideas on that, we've asked some questions about that in our
18 notice.

19 Children serving programs must consult with
20 parents, technical assistance is now consolidated into one
21 funding stream, that will help do more cross stream
22 programming, it establishes a strategic advisor for Native
23 American affairs and we'll be undertaking a consultation
24 process with tribes in the coming months.

25 There's authority to consolidate applications and

1 reporting requirements, we want to hear from you about that.

2 There are some changes to the criminal history
3 check which do not take effect immediately but we want to
4 hear from you about that and then if you're in a severely
5 economically distressed area, you can be relieved from having
6 any match requirement and so we'll need to work out the
7 details on what the definition of severely economically
8 distressed is.

9 Finally, volunteers. The mobilization of
10 volunteers is a presumptive criteria for funding that we're
11 really looking -- we will be looking for that in all grant
12 applications and then for AmeriCorps and other positions that
13 have education awards there's a directive to promote
14 citizenship among those participants. There's authority for
15 the CEO to assign programmatic functions to state commissions
16 if the CEO determines that that would be an efficient thing
17 to do and if the Corporation is undertaking a consultative
18 process, there's -- we've got some questions about that,
19 there's a requirement that we report to Congress within two
20 years, that report doesn't say you have to do something
21 within two years, it says if you do anything in the two years
22 you have to report what you did and what consultative process
23 you followed. There is no plan to do anything at the moment,
24 the idea is to have flexibility with the expansion
25 contemplated in the Serve America Act, there may be some

1 better ways to do things in the future but there's nothing on
2 the table at the moment and then there's a prohibition on
3 providing assistance to a project whose sole purpose is to
4 refer people to a federal assistance program, the key word
5 there is "sole purpose", we've gotten some questions about
6 that, you know, we do that in our program but it's not the
7 only thing we do. Well, then, you're not covered by that
8 provision.

9 In current law there is authority to make a
10 noncompetitive grant to Points of Light Foundation, under the
11 Serve America Act that's repealed. Points of Light is still
12 eligible for funding, it just would be on a competitive
13 basis, then there are some changes to strengthen our board of
14 directors, making their terms longer, giving them more
15 involvement in the budget setting and review of our CEO.

16 Before I close, I want to talk about a couple of
17 things that are not in the legislation, one is the combined
18 match for AmeriCorps, for AmeriCorps programs you know what
19 I'm talking about. A couple of years ago Congress allowed
20 programs to just have a combined match, it used to be two
21 separate matches, that didn't make it into the bill so we're
22 working with the appropriators to keep that combined match as
23 it has been in the past couple of years and then taxability
24 of the education award, we hear a lot about that. In fact,
25 Senator Hatch introduced a bill in January and there are

1 bills pending in the House that would exclude the education
2 award from taxable income. Because this bill moved so fast
3 through Congress, it didn't make it into the package, it
4 would have required a detour into some other committees so
5 that is still pending in the Congress and there has been no
6 action so before I close, just to remind you, if you go to
7 our web site, NationalService.org or gov and you click on
8 "Serve America" on the home page, it will take you to a
9 number of resources and to the extent that we hear from you
10 today about requests for clarification we can feed that into
11 our frequently asked questions that will be posted there
12 soon.

13 Thank you.

14 MS. GOREN: Great, thanks, Frank.

15 (Applause)

16 MS. GOREN: As Kristin comes up to take over, I
17 forgot to ask one other question in asking your affiliations.

18 In addition to representing our programs, how many
19 of you here are currently not affiliated with any of our
20 programs?

21 (Audience responds)

22 MS. GOREN: Wow, great, good, good, good.

23 Kristin, I turn it over to you.

24 MS. McSWAIN: Thank you. So as you can see from
25 Frank's presentation, we have an incredible amount of work in

1 front of us, not only talking about changing programs that
2 we've already been running for years but also implementing
3 new programs so the purpose of today is to hear from you
4 about how you think we should do that. We are accepting
5 comments, we are accepting questions, we will have answers to
6 some questions and for many questions not only will we not
7 have answers but we might ask you a few as well so let me
8 tell you how this is going to work but first, I've been asked
9 to do a couple of housekeeping things. Number one, if you
10 forgot to turn off your cell phone please do so. Number two,
11 if, after hearing all that and seeing everything that's in
12 the Serve America Act, at least in abbreviated form, you now
13 decide that you desire to make a comment, raise your hand.

14 (Audience responds)

15 MS. McSWAIN: Okay, that's helpful, good so I have
16 a list, we're going to go through the list first and once
17 we're done with the list then we'll allow others to come on
18 down and make their comments. There are eighteen names so
19 previously what I would have said to you was that we are
20 going to have three minutes of testimony but I think we're
21 going to do four so to my timekeeper, amend. Michael
22 Herrington our director of "N" triple "C" is going to be our
23 timekeeper so at three and a half minutes Michael is going to
24 raise the yellow folder, that means you have thirty seconds
25 left and then he's going to raise the red folder. Now, I was

1 a middle school teacher and when the red folder comes up,
2 it's time to let the next person speak.

3 Now, obviously hopefully we'll have a lot of time,
4 as you come up with questions I'm going to go through this
5 list and then as I said, we'll add other folks at the end. I
6 also want to just call three people at a time so that we're
7 ready to go and we'll keep things moving.

8 There may be some of you who brought written
9 testimony with you, if you did and would like to leave that
10 with us for the record, you can do so at the registration
11 table, where you came in, on your way out.

12 Any questions before we begin?

13 (No responses)

14 MS. McSWAIN: All right, excellent so here are
15 three people who are going to come and line up by the mike
16 down there. John Turner, John Bosma and Daniel or maybe
17 David Snyder. My apologies if I butcher your name.

18 (Pause)

19 MS. McSWAIN: John Turner.

20 MR. TURNER: Thank you.

21 Good afternoon, I'm John Turner, I'm the executive
22 director of the Georgia Commission for Service and
23 Volunteerism.

24 MS. McSWAIN: You know what, John, you might need
25 to hold that one.

1 MR. TURNER: How about that?

2 MS. McSWAIN: That's better.

3 MR. TURNER: Okay, great, thank you and I want to
4 thank the leadership of the Corporation for coming out and
5 giving us the opportunity to talk about the things that we
6 have seen in the Act that we would like to share with you.

7 The first thing I'd like to do -- and I know that
8 I'm going to run out of time very quickly but I want to give
9 you just a picture of where our starting point is in Georgia
10 and the first thing is that our phones have been ringing. We
11 have had a flood of interest, particularly since the
12 President signed the bill, in both AmeriCorps service and in
13 AmeriCorps grants and that's very heartening for us, it's
14 really gone off the charts in a lot of ways.

15 The second thing I want you to know is that our
16 nonprofits in Georgia are hurting, they've been damaged by
17 the economy, we're seeing furloughs, we're seeing programs
18 cut, we're seeing budgets slashed, at the same time our
19 AmeriCorps programs are reporting to us demand particularly
20 for social services has never been higher, those of our
21 programs that provide services like homeless services, food
22 pantries, those kinds of things are experiencing huge
23 increases in the demand for what they do. Our state, my
24 state commission is not exempt from the situation, we've had
25 a forty-four percent cut in our budget and the projections

1 are not very good for the future so that's where we're
2 starting from, it's a unique opportunity for us to have this
3 bill but it's also sobering to know the environment that
4 we're working from.

5 I want to talk about, very quickly, some of the
6 questions that you've posed and I want to do it a little bit
7 out of order, the first is demonstrating impact. My thought
8 on this is that the way the corporation and state commissions
9 could demonstrate the greatest impact is to get AmeriCorps
10 service and national service into areas that have the
11 greatest need and the least amount of resources. In Georgia
12 I'm sorry to say that our situation has turned on the head
13 with that, we have eighty percent of our AmeriCorps members
14 serving in the Metro Atlanta area and that's only fifty
15 percent of our state population so we're looking for ways to
16 even that out and the Serve America Act contains things that
17 we think can help us do that.

18 Standardized performance measures, I am in favor of
19 that, I think it's a good idea particularly if we can use a
20 combination of self nominated performance measures, some that
21 are standardized and then in my state and I think other
22 states as well we also require a standardized performance
23 measure, we think that this will increase accountability,
24 will streamline some of our reporting and will help us
25 demonstrate the impact that our AmeriCorps programs are

1 having.

2 Expanding opportunities to serve, I'd like to talk
3 just a little bit about our strategy here in Georgia. The
4 first thing, when we've taken a look at we've realized we
5 can't do it all, we've got to set some priorities so that's
6 what we're doing particularly with our board, we're
7 identifying need areas that our state is currently not
8 filling with AmeriCorps programming and environmental is one
9 of those -- thank you, Michael -- so we're adopting a two
10 prong approach rather than the one, we're going to preserve
11 the means for AmeriCorps programs to grow from the bottom up
12 because we think that's essential to what they really should
13 be but we're going to also combine that with a top down
14 approach where we, as a state commission, try to bring
15 together organizations in our state that have common
16 interests to see if we can find AmeriCorps program around a
17 common goal.

18 Thank you.

19 MS. McSWAIN: Thanks, John.

20 (Applause)

21 MR. BOSMA: My name is John Bosma and I'm with
22 Habitat For Humanity in Greenville County in South Carolina
23 and first, I want to say thank you very much for this
24 opportunity to provide some input today and I also want to
25 say thank you very much for how much of a difference that the

1 AmeriCorps program has made at Habitat Greenville, it's
2 become a very important part of what we do at Habitat
3 Greenville and we're very very appreciative of it and we're
4 committed to continuing to develop that partnership.

5 I actually did -- I actually completed a term about
6 four years ago, an AmeriCorps term with Habitat Greenville
7 and that's how I came on board and so I'm personally very
8 passionate about it. Well, what I'll try to do is, there are
9 really two areas that I tried to focus on, expanding service
10 opportunities is the first and so in, I guess, a few comments
11 and recommendations about that, just based on what we've seen
12 in recruiting members, coordinating members, everything like
13 that, increasing the living allowance for our members, we get
14 the sense that it would go a long ways just if what we're
15 trying to do is have more opportunities, have more folks
16 involved in AmeriCorps, I'm assuming that would certainly be
17 the case with Habitat, increasing the living allowance would
18 certainly make it more doable, I think, for a lot of folks,
19 We talked to some very good candidates who, once they really
20 start crunching the numbers, get a little bit concerned and
21 say "Well, it's just a little bit more than what I can do".
22 Along those lines one of the things that I actually ran into
23 when I was an AmeriCorps member was that I had some private
24 student loans that weren't able to be deferred and so that
25 nearly prevented me from doing an AmeriCorps term. If there

1 was any way -- now, I understand this would probably be
2 tricky because private student loans are always tricky but if
3 there's any kind of way to help with the deferring of those
4 loans -- I've talked to a couple of other candidates over the
5 last couple of years who have expressed similar concerns
6 about that and actually a couple of folks just weren't able
7 to do it because I'd given them a heads up, their private
8 loans wouldn't be deferred and then if there is any kind of
9 flexibility with the education award, the education award was
10 a huge incentive for me and it's something that I know has
11 been an infusion center for a lot of our great members and if
12 that was transferrable to relatives, if that was something
13 that could -- if that was something that could be transferred
14 to a spouse, I think that would go a long ways because
15 especially if we're looking at different demographics than
16 what, I guess, AmeriCorps has traditionally been, all of us
17 will try and have spouses, a lot of those folks won't always
18 be interested in the ed award so I guess another way to look
19 at it might be to reduce it into a stipend at the end, I
20 think this, it does, if that could happen for some of the
21 other AmeriCorps programs, that might be really beneficial.
22 Let's see -- and then -- and you know, just from an affiliate
23 standpoint, if we're going to be adding positions in the next
24 few years and I certainly hope we will because I think that
25 could be hugely beneficial to us, reducing the cash cost for

1 our affiliate would be -- would be enormously helpful so I
2 won't elaborate on that, that's pretty straightforward and
3 other than that, I'll just real quick -- I see the yellow
4 thing -- I also want to announce that if there's any way that
5 matching could be opened up a little bit more -- one of the
6 things that we do is, provide housing for our members and if
7 there was any way for that to kind of -- of course, matching,
8 if there's a uniform amount or something like that, that
9 would be really helpful. We also -- what we've been doing
10 lately is, trying to pay utilities and stuff like that for
11 our members so if that kind of stuff could go towards
12 matching, that would certainly help us and I imagine it would
13 probably help somebody other than us so there's the real
14 thing. Thanks a lot.

15 MS. McSWAIN: Wait, wait, wait, wait, don't go
16 away.

17 MR. BOSMA: Oh, yeah.

18 MS. McSWAIN: I have a followup question.

19 MR. BOSMA: Sure, okay.

20 MS. GOREN: So you said if the stipend or housing
21 could be as match, are you talking about for your state and
22 national members or your VISTA members?

23 MR. BOSMA: Really, either because what we've been
24 doing is, is, we actually are just starting the VISTA
25 program, we did it about five years ago but I wasn't around

1 at the affiliate then but we're getting back into VISTA and
2 we are planning on offering housing so to be honest with you,
3 I haven't been in on the report to say so I'm not sure how
4 that looks but as far as any kind of match on the national
5 direct, then that would definitely be helpful, I think.

6 MS. McSWAIN: Okay, thank you.

7 MR. BOSMA: Sure.

8 MR. SNYDER: Thank you all very much, I am David
9 Snyder with the Noisette Foundation, which is located in
10 North Charleston, South Carolina and I just first thank you
11 all very much, I'm the very thankful recipient of two parts
12 of the CNCS program.

13 First, we have twenty-two AmeriCorps VISTA members
14 and so we have quite a bit through that but we also have the
15 (inaudible) which is part of that national direct and that
16 wouldn't be possible without the support that you all have
17 given so first, thank you all very much, I know it's made a
18 big impact on the program as well as in our community.

19 There are kind of three points that I had some kind
20 of thoughts or I guess, kind of comments or illustrations on
21 but the first are, one of the biggest parts of (inaudible)
22 kind of graduations for our programs, especially for the
23 local kind of (inaudible) corps, we're going to talk about
24 what happens afterwards, I mean, the (inaudible) rate, what
25 happens on the back side. I think that's generally for that

1 program but also for the VISTAs I know one thing that we
2 really -- I know a huge benefit (inaudible) for the program
3 is for, I guess, a strengthening of the alumni associations,
4 I know there exists an alumni association in Charleston but
5 just providing the resources to help strengthen that I know
6 there's a lot of the -- the VISTAs kind of (inaudible) as far
7 as their time and resources and energy, a lot of them use it
8 as great kind of career advancement opportunities, there are
9 possibilities of really having resources that help kind of
10 connect them with job opportunities, especially with a lot of
11 the emerging markets and other components so that would be a
12 great asset, something that hopefully even attracts more
13 VISTA members actually to the programs.

14 The second piece which I've seen in certain parts
15 but I guess my perspective, not in others, is, I know there's
16 quite a bit which has been allocated for the -- for CNCS and
17 trying to most, you know, I guess, use their best discretion
18 of how to allocate all those funds, I guess one thought which
19 you even kind of said -- I know you kind of touched on this,
20 strength in what works in early (inaudible) points, I know
21 that there's a strong desire to have as big of an impact as
22 possible but I think sometimes that we see local bits and
23 pieces in an attempt to touch somebody at a large --
24 sometimes, you know, there's (inaudible) you know, of some
25 priority and especially now, as the gentleman from Georgia

1 was talking about, that our nonprofits are struggling, a lot
2 of our support is not as we've been able to have in the past,
3 I mean, they just don't have resources anymore so I mean,
4 just kind of thought along those lines and then y'all had
5 asked about measures and accountability. I know one thing
6 that was really helpful for us, which it would be helpful for
7 others and it was suggested (inaudible) as well as creating a
8 business plan and having a very concrete plan, having the
9 technical assistance to help kind of create those and
10 creating a meaningful business plan so now it (inaudible)
11 just a piece of paper you file away with, you know, not
12 only -- I guess it's creation of how to really exercise that
13 and then the last one, I guess, as far as maybe a measure was
14 something to be return on investment which I know that's --
15 you know, like -- I mean, there's -- here's the total cost
16 and here's the total amount of the thing which was produced,
17 you know, by what, I guess, has been done through the
18 projects but -- okay, thank you.

19 MS. McSWAIN: So don't go away.

20 MR. SNYDER: Okay.

21 MS. McSWAIN: You said you wrote a business plan
22 and you talked about a return on investment, what are you
23 measuring as return on investment?

24 MS. SNYDER: I mean, I guess it would depend on the
25 program which, I guess, maybe is the hard part of the kind of

1 return on investment slightly but for example, I mean, the
2 easy one for me to measure would be the (inaudible) program,
3 like that one, you have, I guess, the total cost of the
4 program versus that which -- I mean, they do billeting and
5 you know, or build homes and building structures and things
6 like that so all that's been developed kind of through the
7 processes or things they've done for VISTA, it could be how
8 much they got new grants versus how much they've actually --
9 just the cost of the VISTA and so what's the return you've
10 seen on investment that CNCS had put into things.

11 MS. McSWAIN: Okay, thank you. All right, next
12 three people, Rebecca Smith, Carole Poyner and I believe this
13 is Brenda Green, SCP director.

14 MS. GREEN: Thank you. Thanks. First, thank you
15 all for coming. Frank, I used your disregard letter just the
16 other day but we really appreciate everything you've done to
17 bring this information to us.

18 I know there were a lot of ifs and ands in Frank's
19 remarks about transfer of authority but I just want to
20 reiterate the importance of our state office structure.

21 The most recent study analyzing the administrative
22 structure of CNCS argues that state offices remain critical
23 to the administration of all CNCS programming to date, in a
24 summery of that study's recommendations the independent
25 evaluating panel studies, while the panel recognizes the

1 valuable goal of the state commissions plan with CNCS service
2 delivery infrastructure it believes that CNCS needs it's own
3 focal point in each state for information for all CNCS
4 programs, the panel believes CNCS and state office are the
5 logical choice for that function. We agree with this most
6 recent survey and recommend that all development funding
7 reporting and management of Senior Corps programs be
8 accomplished through the Corporation's state offices, this
9 ensures streamlined management systems, ensures effective
10 fiscal oversight and eliminates potential duplication.

11 Thanks.

12 MS. SMITH: Thank you very much. I think Mr.
13 Trinity has gone over this but I might just go over it one
14 more time.

15 I'm a director of the Foster Grandparent Program in
16 Columbia, South Carolina and I would like to say we certainly
17 do appreciate the changes, the age lowering and the income
18 eligibility, it's going to help us recruit more people and
19 some of the baby boomers so we really do appreciate that, I
20 personally also appreciate the language change from "special
21 needs" to some of these other to include especially academic
22 needs because that's where our greatest need is and that's
23 the most requests that we have from the many schools that we
24 serve so that's going to be great for us.

25 I'd like to just go over, again, the stipend

1 increases for FGP and SCP that you have already gone over but
2 since the Serve America Act authorizes the increase in the
3 federal share of the stipend to Foster Grandparent and Senior
4 Companions to three dollars an hour, that is up from two
5 sixty-five to three dollars and since the development of the
6 2010 budget will begin soon it is recommended that CNCS make
7 this request in next year's budget. In light of the major
8 expenses in national service through the Serve America Act
9 and the President's request for large increases in the
10 AmeriCorp programs to begin meeting the new initiatives in
11 the Act, now would be the time to include the stipend
12 increase for low income seniors in the administration's
13 appropriations request.

14 Thank you.

15 MS. McSWAIN: Thank you.

16 MS. POYNER: Good afternoon, I'm with the Senior
17 Companion Program, I'm the Senior Companion director. My
18 stance is a little different from everybody else coming up
19 here having to speak, I have questions --

20 MS. McSWAIN: Fine.

21 MS. POYNER: -- or a question that needs some
22 discussion and particularly combing assets for greater
23 impact.

24 I live in a rural area or I serve rural areas,
25 which is Orangeburg, Calhoun County and Bamberg Counties and

1 we are having a tough time as it relates to volunteer
2 stations. We can't seem to get more community support in
3 light of all the economic things that's going on right now
4 and I just need to get some ideas as to how we can combine
5 what they already have in the community along with our
6 programs to continue the support that we really need to have
7 in order to have these seniors meet there, it needs -- you
8 know, we have a lot a lot of seniors now that are not able to
9 care for themselves, a lot of them don't have family support
10 for one reason or another so I'm just concerned or need some
11 ideas as to how we can bring other agencies together, say put
12 money together and be able to provide more services.

13 MS. McSWAIN: I think that one of the things that
14 the Act does is, it makes all of the Corporation's programs
15 more accessible so if you think about an AmeriCorps program
16 there are many organizations that have tried to run them in
17 the past, they felt like they were incredibly complicated and
18 maybe didn't want to continue doing that. The fixed amount
19 grants that Frank talked about radically simplify running an
20 AmeriCorps program because it -- you know, and one of the
21 things we're sort of taking comment on is, how do you decide
22 what that fixed amount is but let me give you an example.
23 Let's say you're running a program and you have a stipend
24 that you're paying your member eleven thousand dollars or
25 twelve thousand dollars and we give you twelve or thirteen,

1 you could enter into a partnership with a bunch of other
2 agencies where you host members together, it's gotten simpler
3 to report on so you know, in the past there was a reluctance
4 on the part of some organizations to bear that responsibility
5 for other groups but now you don't have the same kind of
6 financial responsibility, you still have a pragmatic
7 responsibility but for many organizations that's the piece
8 that's easier so what you're looking at is, these
9 opportunities to look across the program so it may be that
10 people who have traditionally run a Foster Grandparent
11 program or a Senior Companion program say "You know, I could
12 be doing independent living in this program, how do I use an
13 AmeriCorps program to be doing that or to be recruiting
14 additional volunteers who are going to be going and doing the
15 home visits?", so there's lots of different ways that you can
16 think about flexibly accessing our programs, be it AmeriCorps
17 state national, be it the new silver scholarships program
18 which we would anticipate in future years. Really, the
19 opportunity here is for you all to tell us what would be
20 helpful and for us to be thinking about how policywise we're
21 putting out requests for proposals that are going to allow
22 you to use our programs to flexibly meet those needs so as
23 you sit there, if you think of anything at the end when I say
24 "people come on back and tell us what you think".

25 Okay, so I believe the next three are Lauren

1 Collier, Beverly Hiott and Audrina Flowers.

2 MS. COLLIER: Hi, I'm Lauren Collier with the South
3 Carolina Campus Compact.

4 South Carolina Campus Compact is part of a national
5 coalition of campuses that are committed to the civic
6 purposes of higher education. South Carolina is a young
7 compact and we are very representative of most of the
8 southeast in that there is certainly great need in terms of
9 poverty but also great opportunity in terms of interest and
10 expertise' amongst the colleges and universities.

11 Compact has been thrilled to be part of the
12 drafting and the advocacy for the Serve America Act and wants
13 to very much be part of the implementation of that. We have
14 a core belief that all service should have intentional
15 learning and reflection, not just those designated as service
16 learning and we feel like there's a role of higher education
17 to incubate new ideas, support innovation and infuse academic
18 orientation into those and by that, we mean that resources,
19 services and information are evidence based and also practice
20 proven.

21 Compact has expertise' in a number of areas
22 represented in the Serve America Act and would like to
23 participate with those, one is VISTA. There are twenty-six
24 state compacts that implement or employ over three hundred
25 VISTAs, one thing we would like to see there is some

1 uniformity in the regulations to help in the grant process
2 but also in evaluating the impact of those VISTA programs.

3 With Learn and Serve it's certainly served as seed
4 money for development in the implementation of service
5 learning courses and campus community partnerships. For the
6 campuses of service provision, one thing that we think is
7 really vital is that recognition is given to all types of
8 higher education institutions, two year, four year, private
9 and public, part of that is because we don't want to see the
10 rich get richer but rather, we want to really acknowledge
11 innovation and commitment of engagement on all levels.

12 We are very interested in the longitudinal survey
13 of service learning in both development and implementation of
14 that, we'd like to really evaluate the impact on students and
15 communities. Students, we're looking at "K" through sixteen
16 and communities, we want to see are there impacts on
17 graduation rates and what is the long term impact of civic
18 engagement of students who have been involved in service
19 learning.

20 In terms of social innovation, certainly higher
21 education has a unique environment to create and grow
22 innovative programs, in terms of funding using college
23 community service centers and maybe providing them funds to
24 expand who they serve so that they can serve beyond just
25 their students and also reach community clients in terms of

1 partnering them with community agencies and finally, in terms
2 of the service learning clearinghouse wanting to make sure
3 that that is uniform and again infusing that at that academic
4 basis there.

5 Thanks.

6 MS. McSWAIN: Thank you. All right, come on up.

7 MS. HIOTT: You'll have to pardon me for reading
8 from prepared marks, if I did not do that Michael would be
9 beating me over the head with those folders. I could go on
10 forever.

11 I'm Beverly Hiott, the service learning and civic
12 engagement coordinator in Richland District Two here in
13 Columbia.

14 We are proud to have been part of the Corporation's
15 fifteen year effort to grow the service learning field in
16 communities across our nation. In Richland Two we have
17 devoted more than ten years towards institutionalizing
18 service learning into our district culture, especially in
19 areas of curriculum practice, in community partnerships, in
20 professional development and most strongly, student
21 leadership. We've received numerous awards and recognition
22 and have served as a model for our state and our nation,
23 sharing our work with literally thousands of students,
24 educators and service learning stakeholders at local, state
25 and national levels. Our challenges do not lye in gaining

1 administrative support for what we do or in liability issues
2 or in policy barriers, our challenges for Learn and Serve
3 America do not lie in creating strong reciprocal partnerships
4 across service programs, those have not been our challenges
5 and we're quite fortunate in that but our greatest challenges
6 lie in the lack of funding, despite the fact that we have
7 consistently overmatched learn and serve dollars that we have
8 received and while consistently leveraging private and public
9 resources over the years to strengthen our work.

10 Classroom based service learning is mentioned in
11 far more places than it is embedded, we are combining the
12 hope of the current administration with our hard work to
13 build on past accomplishments, continuing to join forces and
14 combine resources that strengthen and sustain our work in
15 helping students improve their communities as part of their
16 not only "K" twelve but as Lisa mentioned, their "K" sixteen
17 education so we have some specific requests of the
18 Corporation, many but I'll just hold it to a few.

19 In our humble opinion, the absolute best step for
20 engaging school age children in service is to increase and
21 expand learn and serve funding for quality school based
22 programs, to invest in systemic models of school based
23 service learning where school and community based partners
24 work together to address education performance and to engage
25 a critical mass of students in community improvement, thirty-

1 six thousand students in South Carolina is not enough. It is
2 perfectly reasonable to expect and require reciprocal
3 partnerships for those and for those partners to bring
4 matching resources to the table.

5 Please do not pit service programs against each
6 other but please require that they work together and help
7 them to do so.

8 What looks promising to us maybe is the social
9 innovation fund, the youth engagement zones, we have not had
10 a chance, while we're doing our day jobs and our evening
11 jobs, to fully research all of this but we are very hopeful
12 and we are very anxious. I was recently in Orangeburg, doing
13 a training and I cannot tell you how many teachers and
14 students are engaged in helping the elderly in their
15 community, I don't live there so I don't know how to connect
16 them but I think I met some, I'm getting ready to meet
17 somebody that can help us.

18 Thank you so much.

19 MS. McSWAIN: Thank you.

20 MS. FLOWERS: Hello, my name is Audrina Flowers,
21 I'm a junior at Blackwood High School located in Blackwood,
22 South Carolina, I am also one of three cochairs on the youth
23 action council, the Richland Two Youth Action Council. Our
24 council's mission is to promote youth directed civic
25 engagement through a service earning framework so basically

1 we do three things, we help teachers and students connect
2 issues like hunger, poverty, homelessness, the environments
3 in the classroom, we form partnerships to bring in resources
4 to our district and we share work at local, state and
5 national levels. I think this year, we can all agree, has
6 been a banner year for service learning and for our youth
7 action council in Richland District Two. Currently there are
8 more than seventy-five council members from our district,
9 middle and high school students, on the youth action council,
10 we have provided information, training, technical assistance
11 and funding to twenty of our district schools and this year
12 we provided more than sixty-five thousand dollars in school
13 grants, our largest amount ever, ranging from fifteen hundred
14 dollars to ten thousand dollars to support service learning
15 in our district school and that's not all, we helped to
16 assist teachers and students in rural South Carolina
17 districts in order to help them strengthen their schools and
18 communities through service learning, we have worked with one
19 of our best partners, the Institute for Global Education and
20 Service Learning, to provide training for educators and
21 students all over this country.

22 What I would ask for in part of the new Serve
23 America Act is, specific funding for unique student led
24 service learning initiatives like our Richland Two Youth
25 Action Council.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. McSWAIN: Thank you.

3 (Applause)

4 MS. McSWAIN: Okay, Katie Fox, Maria Brown and Jean
5 Chavis maybe. I'm sorry.

6 MS. FOX: Hi, my name is Katie Fox and I'm with the
7 South Carolina Arts Commission. At the Arts Commission my
8 job is to serve as the director of arts and education where
9 the thrust of our alliance focuses on ensuring that every
10 South Carolina child "K" through twelve has access to a
11 quality sequential arts education and then through the arts
12 we're talking dance, music, visual art, theater, literary and
13 media arts. I am also the director of a project called
14 "Leveraging Investments In Creativity" and that project aims
15 to help artists, professional artists, create satisfying
16 sustainable careers in South Carolina through collaborations
17 with each other and with their community government private
18 partners but also through business training so that they not
19 only know how to produce great art, they understand how to
20 price it and sell it so that they can eat.

21 One of the initiatives that we've been very
22 interested in and partnered with the after school alliance in
23 our state to try to launch is actually what we had called
24 "Artist Corps" and so we were so stoked to hear the very same
25 name come up when President Obama said it. I've had a tough

1 time finding concrete information about what that program
2 might look like and so I may not have found it, I've spent a
3 lot of time on y'all's web sites lately but as you -- did you
4 want to say something?

5 MR. TRINITY: I could read from the statute. Do
6 you want the language from the law?

7 MS. FOX: Yes.

8 MR. TRINITY: Okay, so --

9 MS. FOX: But it doesn't count my time.

10 MS. McSWAIN: No, it doesn't.

11 (Laughter)

12 MS. McSWAIN: She's right.

13 MR. TRINITY: So this is in describing activities
14 under the new education corps so this is an example of the
15 type of activity that would be eligible, it's not an
16 exclusive list but it's illustrative and it says, "Providing
17 skilled musicians and artists to promote greater community
18 unity through the use of music and arts education and
19 engagement through work in low income communities and
20 education, health care in therapeutic settings and other work
21 in the public domain with citizens of all ages".

22 MS. FOX: Awesome and that's exactly what I was
23 going to say it should do and the main thing is, it's not
24 just about schools, artists can help citizens of all age in
25 all kinds of different situations. We had a tough time, when

1 we were looking at launching this last year, in meeting the
2 match that came from AmeriCorps, I mean we were talking with
3 the after school alliance about launching this and with --
4 you might heard we've got some issues with funding in our
5 state in stimulus money and things like that but it didn't
6 seem like the time for us to commit to joining with
7 AmeriCorps on this but that's what we want to do and we're
8 really interested, especially right now since we have taken
9 on leveraging investments and creativity, to move it forward
10 now and if you are looking for a state that's willing to
11 create something that is replicable in other states or on a
12 national level, look to us because we're ready to do that.

13 (Applause)

14 MS. FOX: Do I have -- I have one other thing.
15 Okay.

16 Earlier in your presentation we didn't touch much
17 on the bullet point about programs that build capacity at
18 nonprofit organization, we do a lot of that, we work with
19 nonprofit arts organizations mainly and what we see both in
20 our larger cities and in our rural area is a lack of real
21 business training, they struggle with things as basic as
22 budgeting, grant running aside, I mean, just how to run the
23 business part of something is a capacity they often don't
24 have because they're coming from an arts background, I think
25 that probably transfers to a lot of nonprofits where they've

1 done the on the ground stuff but how to actually run the
2 organization is a real challenge for them. What we're doing
3 is, trying to help folks connect with a program in our state
4 called "Fast Track", which is out of Kansas City so if you're
5 in Missouri maybe it came up yesterday, that helps both new
6 organizations and organizations that are ready to grow and
7 solidify the work they're doing so in some cases not only do
8 they maybe need volunteer help but if you can, you know, help
9 fund one hundred and fifty to five hundred dollar price of
10 going through that tunneling course you can get a lot of bang
11 and long term bang for that buck so I would say really look
12 at that partnership. That was all.

13 (Applause)

14 MS. BROWN: My name is Maria Brown and I am a event
15 coordinator for a company called "Select Health of South
16 Carolina", we are based in Charleston but we serve the entire
17 state. I have more comments than questions and I'm an
18 interested party, I'm fascinated by the whole thing, I didn't
19 think I was going to have any questions or comments when I
20 got here, I was just going to be listening in -- I'm killing
21 my time here -- okay, let me just start by saying that the
22 thing that made me want to come up here was in your
23 discussion topics, which was number one, it said here that --
24 oops -- it said here that the outline was education, clean
25 energy, veterans and economic opportunity and the one, of

1 course, that I focused on was healthy futures.

2 We are a private for profit company, let me put
3 that out there quickly. Okay, and what I'd like to say is
4 that we have a strong interest in the health of South
5 Carolinians and we just want to make it be known that we want
6 to partner, we want to be there for the community, we want to
7 connect and collaborate. Again, the company is Select Health
8 of South Carolina based out of Charleston and we're out there
9 to better the future of South Carolinians and bear with me,
10 I'm originally from New York, which is the north but I live
11 in South Carolina so the health of all parties are important
12 but South Carolinians is my priority right now but just to
13 mention, as I said, I wanted to make a point. Also it said
14 here "In demonstrating impact what is the best way to
15 identify program models that work?", you're looking at it.
16 Okay, I think that the more you search into organizations and
17 companies within South Carolina that are for profit, a lot of
18 them work, a lot them work and I think a lot of them would be
19 willing to step up to the plate, I believe that Select Health
20 of South Carolina will and know that they indeed want to
21 partner and collaborate with nonprofit organizations and
22 systems, we do a lot of activities in South Carolina state
23 wide and just to mention a few, things like back to school
24 events and we do donations, do tooth brushes for kids and
25 things of that nature, you know. Of course, we're all on

1 limited funds but -- and with a budget but we do this
2 willingly and we do it with a kind heart and we know that it
3 does make a difference and one last thing -- no yellow page
4 yet, okay. One last thing I wanted to bring was, the
5 administrative -- something that he mentioned -- the
6 administrative provision number two, it stated here "The
7 children serving programs must consult with parents in
8 design, technical assistance, one funding source; strategic
9 advisor for Native American affairs". I work intensely with
10 the Hispanic community and -- oh, boy, okay.

11 I work intensely with the Hispanic community, I'm
12 bilingual and I know that there's got to be a provision in
13 here somewhere unless they have an act of their own as far as
14 the Hispanic community is concerned and there may be one and
15 I just don't know about it.

16 That's really all I had to say. Do you have
17 something to tell me back?

18 (Laughter)

19 MS. BROWN: Thank you.

20 MS. McSWAIN: Thank you. So next, I have Jean
21 Chavis.

22 MR. TRINITY: She's gone.

23 MS. McSWAIN: She's gone, okay, Dean Slade,
24 Elizabeth Schuler and Court Pickett.

25 MR. SLADE: My name is Dean Slade and I work with

1 the Eau Claire Cooperative Health Centers, we provide primary
2 health care in the Midlands of South Carolina and I have had
3 the privilege of having three VISTA members serve with me
4 over the last three years and really, I just want to say a
5 very very very big thank you because I cannot do my work
6 without their hands.

7 I have a very challenging task, we served thirty-
8 eight thousand unique individuals last year in the Midlands
9 of South Carolina and providing health care to low income
10 families is a big challenge but just to give you some idea of
11 what, you know, our VISTAs have been able to do, one of the
12 programs that they helped me with was a program called
13 centering pregnancy where we worked on a project with the
14 March of Dimes to provide an experience for expectant mothers
15 so that they could learn more about the -- you know, the
16 development of their baby and make plans for the future and
17 also helped in developing a fund for Hispanics who were
18 undocumented and to provide some funds for them to meet unmet
19 medical needs because the mothers are covered for the
20 delivery of the child but uncovered for any prenatal care and
21 uncovered for any care after the child is born. They were
22 also able to help me in obtaining a hundred thousand dollars
23 for grants or to new building, a hundred thousand dollars in
24 annual support from two local hospitals, development of an
25 innovative health care program which we call "The Plan" which

1 is able to provide primary health care for anybody for
2 twenty-five dollars a month and it's actually very profitable
3 and we're trying to sell it to President Obama so if any of
4 you can get word to him I've -- we've done a lot of research
5 and we really think that this is an aggressive model which
6 helps and can provide primary health care and I had a VISTA
7 member help me develop this program, I also got a current
8 VISTA member working with me on addressing the health care
9 needs of women and children in the Columbia housing and we're
10 doing that in collaboration with a women's college, also had
11 one of our VISTAs identify a need of the community to screen
12 refugees and as a result, the local agency has begun
13 recruiting more refugees and bringing them back into the
14 community, that wouldn't happen unless one of our VISTAs
15 hadn't made contact with that person and brought them to us,
16 also helped us in developing -- we're also working on a
17 project right now to track the impact of the clinical care
18 provided by our pharmacist to implement a program called
19 "The Asheville Model", which helps improve patient outcomes
20 and patient accountability by having the pharmacist utilize
21 that once a month visit to -- you know, to do some checking
22 on any improvements that's happening.

23 One of our VISTAs developed a program called "Nose
24 to Toes", which is still in the can, we're still waiting to
25 be able to bring that forward, which is a program for seniors

1 to obtain age appropriate health care screenings, I mean,
2 it's -- the thing that the VISTA has been able to do is to
3 challenge my innovative skills and to be able to get the
4 stuff documented and tested in the community so thank you
5 very much.

6 MS. McSWAIN: Thank you.

7 MS. SCHULER: My name is Elizabeth Schuler and I
8 didn't really know anything about any of this until I walked
9 in the door today so these comments may not be appropriate at
10 all to what y'all want but one of the things you mentioned
11 was getting volunteers and organizations together and it's
12 something that we're trying to do in Saluda County.

13 I'm on the board of directors of Enabling
14 Technologies Associates, we make unique assistive devices for
15 the disabled, things that are not commercially available.
16 Occasionally we'll use something commercially available and
17 adapt it to somebody's needs because one on one, people can't
18 afford to pay what it costs to make these devices and through
19 that we improve the quality of life, we also mentor a senior
20 engineering class at USC with a project for a disabled person
21 and we try to teach therapists and that the assistive devices
22 are out there and how to get to them and my brother is doing
23 most of it so we're going to need some funding because he's
24 eighty-two years old and quite frank about "I'm not going to
25 be here forever" and he's the heart of our organization so we

1 need to hire some people, we need to do some more marketing
2 to get additional volunteers and we'd like to become state
3 wide, we pretty much service -- I'm from Saluda County and we
4 serve the Aiken, Augusta, North Augusta area very well over
5 at Greenwood, things that are closer to our area because
6 volunteers can't travel that far.

7 Through this organization I've joined up with a
8 nonprofit focus group in Saluda County and I'm very anxious
9 to match volunteers with programs and we don't have two one
10 one in Saluda County. Is there a way, through your
11 organization and your volunteers, that you can build a
12 database or work with United Way in coming up with a two one
13 one system that is nationwide that it will serve -- we don't
14 have two one one in Saluda County and I'm sure there are a
15 lot of rural counties that don't have it and I think it's a
16 great need for us and if the organizations and what they do
17 also includes what those organizations need, then perhaps
18 there would be a better opportunity to match volunteers with
19 the organization.

20 Can you come up with a standardized grant form that
21 every grant form asks for certain information so it would all
22 come out the same way on every grant form and then the grant
23 form would continue with specialized stuff? It would help
24 neophytes like me maybe fill out a grant form somewhere along
25 the way and another thing that we're real interested in doing

1 and it might work through one of your programs is, we can't
2 find where when a child is dislabeled "preschool" or is born
3 with a disability that there doesn't seem to be any program
4 or cooperative program where the needs of that child, through
5 his school years, can be assessed so that preparation can be
6 made ahead of the time of when he gets there to the need,
7 specialized desks, whatever, we'd like to see that become a
8 more popular, more widespread thing throughout the education
9 system.

10 Thank you.

11 MS. GOREN: Thank you.

12 (Applause)

13 MR. PICKETT: Hello, I am Court Pickett, I'm with
14 the RSVP Program in York County, South Carolina.

15 I want to talk about the recompetition clause in
16 the Serve America Act for RSVP grants and while it's true the
17 competition can challenge project directors to evaluate
18 program performance and outcomes of volunteer service, we
19 believe that highly effective RSVP programs with strong track
20 records in management and compliance be given priority during
21 the cycle of recompetition. Additionally, cost sharing and
22 matching requirements should not overshadow the success and
23 strength of an RSVP program. It is hoped that if new
24 agencies submitting proposals during the competition phase of
25 a grant that commit to a high percentage of match and

1 financial resources, then an increased financial commitment
2 would not be a tipping factor to move sponsorship of a highly
3 effective and successful existing program and we hope that
4 y'all take this under consideration.

5 MS. GOREN: So don't go anywhere.

6 MR. PICKETT: All right, I knew you were going to
7 do that.

8 MS. GOREN: How would you define a successful
9 program? What is that? I mean, you know, there's the
10 national perspective but how would you define it?

11 MR. PICKETT: Matching all the requirements of your
12 grant, the hours and the volunteers and the strategic plans
13 that we have, strategic points that we have to cover.

14 MS. GOREN: I understand that but as a practitioner
15 what do you think a successful -- what is success for your
16 program?

17 MR. PICKETT: It's doing what my grant asked me to
18 do, to me.

19 MS. GOREN: Success for your community?

20 MR. PICKETT: Oh, it's to provide for the needs
21 that my community have for us right now as far as the points
22 that we're trying to take care of in York County.

23 MS. GOREN: I have not been to your community, what
24 does that look like?

25 MR. PICKETT: It's probably -- we have a ten point

1 four rate of unemployment there now, we're in double digits
2 so we're close to Charlotte but we're still losing a lot of
3 jobs and a lot of people that have moved there are in trouble
4 now so we're trying to meet that through crisis centers and
5 things like that, we're also working with education to try to
6 help with the kids to bring them up right, to teach them.
7 I'm not really sure what you're saying except --

8 MS. GOREN: No, that's exactly what I was looking
9 for.

10 MR. PICKETT: To meet the requirements of the grant
11 is what we really try to do and that's meeting the needs of
12 our community so --

13 MS. GOREN: Right, and right now in your community
14 those are the couple of --

15 MR. PICKETT: Right.

16 MS. GOREN: -- needs that are very prevalent, okay,
17 thank you.

18 MR. PICKETT: Thank you.

19 MS. McSWAIN: Kathryn Barton and Dominic Barrett
20 and these two are the final ones on my list so if you're
21 thinking about a question, be getting ready.

22 MS. BARTON: Okay, do you think I can use this
23 mike?

24 MS. McSWAIN: You need to use both because they
25 can't hear you through that one.

1 MS. BARTON: Okay, all right. I brought some
2 brochures for you too, okay?

3 MS. McSWAIN: Okay.

4 MS. BARTON: And I didn't think I could do this
5 because I'm so nervous so I'm shaking right now again and I
6 guess when you hear people from Washington coming you get
7 real scared and you look kind of like an inquiry up there so
8 okay.

9 Once I start talking I go really fast then.

10 First of all, I just want to say that we have too
11 many juveniles incarcerated in South Carolina and so that is
12 what our program tries to do, divert juvenile first time
13 offenders from the juvenile court system. We've been
14 operating for about twenty-five years, I have not been there
15 twenty-five years but our program has been successful for
16 twenty-five years. We use federal funds, state funds, county
17 funds, any funds we can find. We have not yet partnered with
18 AmeriCorps and I've been toying with this for a couple of
19 years, we're not a nonprofit but we're not a profit either,
20 we work for the county but those funds are drying out, we're
21 right in the middle of a budget fight with our diversion
22 program. We use community volunteers, we train them as
23 arbitrators, they sit down with the juvenile offender, they
24 use community service sites and not just Adopt a Highway and
25 not just jail tours, we even take tours of Midlands Technical

1 College here to show kids that they can succeed, they can --
2 if they quit school, they can get back into school or there
3 are organizations like Midlands Tech that help them, they
4 have middle college and different programs they can help them
5 with. We also work with nursing homes, hospitals, law
6 enforcement agencies, Carolina Wildlife, so many of our other
7 nonprofits that we send kids to not only just for punishment
8 but to learn about their community and what's in their
9 community and how they can better their community and
10 possibly even jobs that are out there so we use over eighty
11 community service sites, we have over eight volunteers that
12 work with over five hundred referrals each year just in this
13 county alone. I was excited to see Ms. Elizabeth Schuler as
14 one of our volunteers down in Saluda County, we encompass
15 four counties in this circuit so I guess what we're looking
16 at is, how do we do those partnerships? Do we -- you know, I
17 was sitting up there, thinking maybe I shouldn't be here,
18 maybe I should have just called the local affiliate and found
19 out or I've called before, I have heard in law enforcement
20 agencies some AmeriCorps volunteers have helped with the
21 victims' advocate training and so we'd like to know more
22 about that but there are some of us out here that are caught
23 in between, we're not nonprofit but we're not profit either
24 so is that enough or is that too much or --

25 MS. GOREN: That's fine.

1 MS. BARTON: Okay.

2 MS. GOREN: The one thing I would say is, if you're
3 a government or a local municipal government or a state
4 government, you're eligible for our programs so you know,
5 there's a lots of people in here you should be talking about
6 if you want to partner with RSVP or even if you want to
7 partner with Foster Grandparents, I think your kids might be
8 a little bit too old but you never know and you should think
9 about partnering with one of our AmeriCorps programs.

10 MS. BARTON: Uh-huh, okay.

11 MS. GOREN: And Tim Ervolina is in the back. Tim,
12 raise your hand. He is the executive director of your state
13 commission so all of you who are thinking about some of these
14 programs and want to get the local perspective, he's who you
15 want to talk to.

16 Sorry, Tim.

17 MS. BARTON: Okay, thank you, thank you for your
18 time letting us talk.

19 MS. McSWAIN: Thank you.

20 MS. GOREN: Thank you for coming.

21 MS. McSWAIN: Next?

22 MR. BARRETT: My name is Dominic Barrett, I'm a
23 former VISTA with Ashoka and Youth Venture in D.C. and I work
24 with the Palmetto Project, we have an office here in Columbia
25 and an office in Charleston.

1 Thank you all for being here and also thanks to the
2 city being such a great example of what the Corporation can
3 do --

4 (Applause)

5 MR. BARRETT: -- across the country but
6 particularly here in Columbia and here in our state, I hope
7 they are well taken care of in this service act.

8 First, I just make a personal request that we try
9 to do a better job of marketing and branding our programs
10 that we begin to think of and respect and hold up community
11 service in the same way we do military service and other
12 service and I don't know if funds are at all included but on
13 a personal level I would hope that we begin to think about
14 that a little bit and also begin to hopefully create an
15 identity for our programs like City Year and "N" triple "C"
16 so that we recognize them in some of the same ways that Teach
17 For America and Peace Corps are identified across the
18 country.

19 At a professional level, I now work with the
20 Palmetto Project, who, for many years, have been working in
21 public and private partnerships to do, among other things,
22 encourage service learning and community service including
23 several years ago the Youth Service South Carolina Act and so
24 my attention is caught by the social innovation funds and the
25 innovative service learning funds in Subtitle "H" and I was

1 hoping that maybe that you just need to point me to somewhere
2 to read but to find out a little bit more about that, I'm on
3 the one hand excited that it is some required matching funds
4 there but I also want to know if the no match requirement
5 provision that was added at the end might also apply to some
6 of those fundings, if there'll sort of be a call for
7 proposals -- I'm moving a little fast here -- in October,
8 just maybe a little bit more about how this works, I think
9 it's intriguing, it's a wonderful possibly more sustainable
10 way to build nonprofit capacity, as a former VISTA I know
11 there's only so much you can do in a year, there's only so
12 much you can learn and then pass on to your predecessor or to
13 whoever follows you so -- and then lastly, I would hope that
14 Charleston gets "N" triple "C" back or that South Carolina
15 would begin to expand "N" triple "C", I don't know if that's
16 in the plans or not but you might be able to address that, I
17 don't know.

18 That was a lot in a little bit of time.

19 MS. McSWAIN: So that was a lot.

20 MS. GOREN: Yeah, so --

21 MS. McSWAIN: What else do you want?

22 MS. GOREN: I'll start with the social innovation.

23 Is this on? Can you hear me? The social innovation fund
24 and the innovation funds and Learn and Serve, I mean, I think
25 that's probably why we're here, it's really a blank slate, we

1 are looking for input from you all, from experts in the field
2 of social innovation, from the administration, from our
3 board, from our staff on what should we be looking for, what
4 should it look like and how should it be implemented, I think
5 it's safe to say we will not be looking for proposals on
6 October 1st, I think that this is going to be an evolution at
7 some time and it also depends on appropriations, obviously
8 but sometime in the course of fiscal year 2010 we will be
9 looking for proposals but it will not be October 1st, I
10 would -- if I had to guess, it'll be probably early in the
11 next calendar year.

12 Frank, do you want to address the no match
13 question?

14 MR. TRINITY: Well, I think the way that the social
15 innovation fund is set up is to find larger organizations
16 that do have a lot of capacity and then they, in turn, would
17 work in partnership with small organizations so that those
18 small organizations wouldn't necessarily be required to do a
19 match.

20 MS. GOREN: Yeah, and I think a lot of it also -- I
21 mean, I think the administration is very interested in kind
22 of garnering broad support from the foundation and the
23 corporate community to kind of step up now and say "We want
24 to be a part of this" so there's a lot of those conversations
25 going on as well that will impact what this looks like.

1 Does that answer that question?

2 MR. BARRETT: Yeah, and I guess I was kind of --
3 other than stepping up now and saying I'd like to be a part
4 of that, what is the more formal way, other than these
5 listening sessions and perhaps we just came unprepared but
6 what are the ways, moving forward, to do that, to do what
7 you're saying?

8 MS. GOREN: So I think we're going to continue
9 having dialog about these, I just got a request today that
10 there's probably going to be a separate call just on the
11 social innovation fund in the next few weeks just to talk
12 about input on that so just continue to be monitoring and I
13 think if you start looking at the web page that I'll talk
14 about at the end and you'll be able to see what people are
15 saying and then there's going to be a very public process for
16 rolling this out and so more information will come out as
17 it -- you know, as it evolves, I don't think it's just going
18 to be sprung and say it's due tomorrow.

19 MR. BARRETT: Sure, and then the last thing would
20 be, any word on "N" triple "C"?

21 MS. GOREN: I think for "N" triple "C" we are
22 currently operating with a five campus structure, Charleston
23 closed, we just actually opened a new southern campus or it's
24 opening this summer in Mississippi so for the time being
25 we're looking at a five campus structure and we have five

1 campuses so there are no current plans to come back to South
2 Carolina but that doesn't mean it's impossible.

3 MR. HERRINGTON: But do please remember that the
4 Southern Region campus will be looking for projects and the
5 region will cover South Carolina and they know full well that
6 there are a lot of sponsors of good sponsors in this state
7 and know how to use "N" triple "C".

8 MS. GOREN: Yeah.

9 MR. HERRINGTON: And by the way, the Palmetto
10 Project was the first organization that employed me when I
11 came to South Carolina in '91, I'm glad to see it's still
12 going.

13 MR. BARRETT: Absolutely.

14 MS. McSWAIN: Okay, so I know we have at least two
15 people who didn't sign up who would like to speak so if you
16 all want to make your way down here and anyone else please
17 join, just we want to que up behind the -- oh, look,
18 excellent.

19 MS. GOREN: Yeah.

20 MS. McSWAIN: State your names. When you come up,
21 please state your name clearly for the record since we don't
22 have it written down. Thanks.

23 MS. CONKLIN: Good afternoon, my name is Wendy
24 Conklin, I'm here from Low Country Healthy Start.

25 We are a nonprofit organization, our goals is to

1 reduce infant mortality and reduce premature births.

2 I have a few questions. I see you -- I would like
3 for y'all to elaborate on the nonprofit capacity building
4 grants. We serve the very underserved areas of Allendale,
5 which is number one in South Carolina for unemployment, we
6 serve Bamberg County, Orangeburg and Hampton Counties so we
7 do serve the very underserved and we just got refunded for
8 our grant but it was changed to a five year grant instead of
9 a four year grant, which is causing us to have to let five
10 staff members go in our organization, which is going to be a
11 hard thing because of covering that very rural area that
12 Hampton County, they already don't have a hospital, a
13 birthing hospital so we -- many of our staff have to transfer
14 these -- transport these young ladies to Walterborough to
15 have their deliveries of their babies so those are a lot of
16 concerns and I just wanted you to elaborate on the nonprofit
17 capacity building grant.

18 MR. TRINITY: The nonprofit capacity building
19 grants are designed as technical assistance that would be
20 delivered through an intermedia organization to small and mid
21 sized nonprofit organizations to help with organizational
22 development and other forms of capacity building so it's
23 really technical assistance delivered to organizations at the
24 ground level.

25 MS. CONKLIN: And is it a factor that you want them

1 to build partnerships with other organizations or can an
2 organization stand on its own? And that's just a question.

3 MR. TRINITY: Well, I would think that part of
4 organizational development would be to build connections with
5 other organizations, that's probably a form of capacity
6 building itself so -- but I don't think that would be
7 necessarily a requirement, I think that would be an
8 expectation.

9 MS. CONKLIN: Okay, thank you.

10 MR. TRINITY: Sure.

11 MR. FOREMAN: Good afternoon, my name is Jeremy
12 Foreman and I am the director of Hands On, Southeast Georgia,
13 which is the rural area volunteer center for Hands On,
14 Georgia.

15 Basically what we do is, recruit, train and manage
16 volunteers as part of the larger structure of Hands On
17 Network and the Points of Light Institute and in my area I've
18 got a unique circumstance of having a technical college, a
19 two year school and a four year institution so roughly
20 twenty-four thousand college students and then a hundred
21 thousand other people in our rural area and so the way that I
22 am finding to best connect with at least the young adult
23 population is through the use of technology with FaceBook and
24 with Twitter and with the different online social networking
25 tools so my question really goes towards the technology

1 infrastructure that you all are looking to build upon going
2 forward. I've looked at, you know, Serve.gov, which is kind
3 of a blank slate that's organized by the corporation right
4 now and I just see a great potential to use that as a vehicle
5 to really catalyze service with our youth population and not
6 just the youth because as many computers as folks are using
7 in their day to day activities at the work site where we can
8 have corporate volunteering and that type of thing really
9 brought into the forefront, just wanted to know what
10 direction you all might be taking with that and to the
11 woman's comments on a national two one one system, Georgia is
12 actually looking at going towards a state wide or they're in
13 the process right now of evaluating how to do that best. Two
14 one one has been around since, I want to say, 1996 and it
15 exists in so many markets but even in Georgia where it
16 started one third of our citizens or you know, a little over
17 three million people are not served by that network,
18 including the area that I'm in. Our sister organization,
19 Hands On Savannah, actually runs two one one for a five
20 county area and so I'd like to be able to kind of merge in
21 technology pathways where you can have a national two one one
22 call-in system but also the web resources because for every
23 volunteer center that places volunteers with local community
24 organizations, they're the same agencies that people are
25 looking to receive support through on the two one one side of

1 things.

2 MS. GOREN: Thank you for that comment. I think
3 it's safe to say that technology is a high priority for this
4 administration. We are -- just to be perfectly candid and
5 frank, I've still tried to get our own internal corporation
6 systems up to where they need to be after some issues that we
7 had over the last couple of years but that being said, we're
8 looking at the Serve.gov web site which will become the
9 portal for volunteering for the federal government to really
10 be using a lot of the new technologies that this new media,
11 this social media is really really important to the new
12 administration, we're looking to bring on people with that
13 expertise' so I think it's going to be -- it is evolving
14 towards that, I think we're going to be implementing new
15 search engines that will use all of those. Any ideas you
16 have for things that we should be doing, we welcome, you
17 know, it's a growing field that I think, you know, there are
18 a lot of people with expertise' that we could use so please
19 share that with us.

20 MR. FOREMAN: I guess I also wanted to just ask,
21 how accessible is that system going to be because right now
22 you can go to Serve.gov and post an opportunity, I don't know
23 who else is looking at those opportunities and what systems
24 it might be linked to in the past with USA Freedom Corps and
25 that type of thing, there have been pathways of volunteer

1 match and there are about a dozen or more volunteers serving
2 online applications that have kind of been a part of that
3 process but I guess who do we start to address that type of
4 question to?

5 MS. GOREN: Well, we're managing it internally with
6 our office of public affairs as well as our chief information
7 officer.

8 MR. FOREMAN: Okay.

9 MS. GOREN: It's work in progress --

10 MR. FOREMAN: I'm sure.

11 MS. GOREN: -- so I don't have answers to all your
12 questions yet but I think it will become clearer in the next
13 couple of months.

14 MR. FOREMAN: Okay, great, thank you.

15 MS. HEGGINS: Good afternoon and thanks for the
16 opportunity to share a comment in regard to the concern for
17 tutors and I think you mentioned something about the high
18 school level. I have over forty years of experience as an
19 educator from preschool to higher ed and I'm seriously asking
20 you to consider looking at your tutorers (sic). In South
21 Carolina, around the United States half of our seniors are
22 not graduating from high school and we have had a program
23 over a decade which was published by McGraw-Hill last year
24 and I think we have learned and researched the whole issue of
25 tutors and mentors and we have a need for a high caliber

1 tutor in today's twenty-first century as we look at a global
2 world and I really really wanted to make that comment because
3 so many kids are graduating who are not logical thinkers who
4 are not able to problem solve and if they have a toutorer
5 (sic), you know, who is still at the preoperational --
6 concrete operational level, in their cognitive development
7 that's really going to be a challenge.

8 The second issue is, I seriously believe we need to
9 all look at standards for programs and program effectiveness
10 and we definitely need to look at qualitative as well as
11 quantitative measures and I think if we are going to improve
12 academics not only in South Carolina but around the United
13 States as we begin to compete with other countries in the
14 world, we're going to have to up our educational system and
15 so we came by the program that used the Wide Range
16 Achievement Test but to say that South Carolina was using the
17 PAT test and so individuals, you know, looked at us as if we
18 were not doing a good job until we included the PAT test as
19 evidence of effectiveness of our program as well and then the
20 last thing is, as a result of having been a part of a
21 longitudinal study and having worked with a group of students
22 from second grade, they are now going to twelfth grade, we
23 certainly are interested in the longitudinal aspect because
24 we are interested in following our students to the next level
25 and I feel that our social program would make a tremendous

1 model and we plan to be in touch with you not only for the
2 state of South Carolina but the nation.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. GOREN: Okay.

5 MS. McSWAIN: Thank you.

6 (Applause)

7 MR. KESTER: Hello, I'm Tom Kester, I've got quite
8 a different perspective, I've been in business my career and
9 I now serve on not for profit boards as both a chairman and
10 treasurer of primarily environmental boards and I want to
11 just challenge your board and top management that as you take
12 an organization that's been relatively a low growth, not
13 terribly high visibility in America and try and move it to
14 more than tripling in eight years, you've got to get away
15 from a lot of the tactical stuff that we're talking about
16 today, which is very important but to go from seventy-five
17 thousand to two hundred and twenty-five thousand the board's
18 got to figure out what are the new environment's
19 organizations that don't even know about you because I
20 knew -- I've been in not for profits for twenty, thirty years
21 and I just peripherally know a little bit about some of your
22 programs so to go from that level in eight years you've got
23 to really look at two major things, I think. One is, what
24 are the other organizations that are in America that could
25 benefit from the services and may, in fact, be more

1 beneficial than what you currently are serving and the second
2 is, how are you going to attract -- what is the definition of
3 your volunteers that you want and how are you going to
4 attract that many more volunteers to accomplish the new job
5 so your real challenge is not to look inwardly as what you've
6 been doing and doing well but you have a dramatic change to
7 triple in eight years and you've got to find new
8 constituents, new things and you've got to rebrand and
9 remarket yourself because you're not known outside of the
10 community that has been well served for a number of years so
11 good luck and you got a big challenge.

12 MS. McSWAIN: Thank you.

13 (Applause)

14 MS. SMITH: Hello, my name is Valerie Smith and I'm
15 (inaudible) sponsored by Midlands, UA, I'm placed at South
16 Carolina Business Initiative, formerly known as South
17 Carolina Women's Business Center and I just want to thank the
18 board for providing persons like myself with the opportunity
19 to serve as an AmeriCorps VISTA. As a result of this
20 opportunity, I remained a person that was not (inaudible) the
21 homeless view and I think that's an important thing for you
22 to consider especially in these economic times where an
23 individual like myself is considered a dislocated worker.
24 The disadvantage that we have is that we have years of
25 experience and expertise' but we don't have the education

1 necessarily to match and be competitive in the employment
2 market so I want to commend you on what you're doing, thank
3 God for the money that you have been awarded through the
4 federal government and I hope that you will consider the
5 types of individuals, as this gentleman was saying, that will
6 now take advantage of being an AmeriCorps VISTA or part of
7 your national or state programs, that they are experienced
8 people, they're not all going to be well skilled, they're not
9 all going to be college, they're going to be seniors that
10 have thirty, forty years' experience and people that you can
11 use in roles that probably could match the level of an
12 executive director so when you're thinking about expanding
13 your programs I would suggest that you think about creating
14 advisory boards that would consist of VISTAs or former
15 national service or former state -- a state service because I
16 think that we have a better perspective on what works and
17 what does not work on the organization level, okay? That's
18 my comment, I have some questions, I don't think you're
19 probably going to be able to answer all of them so I'm just
20 going to go through the questions, please.

21 I wanted to know what measurements you're using to
22 determine the state appropriations in the region. I heard
23 Georgia mention South Carolina, I don't know what other
24 states but what measurements will you be using to determine
25 how much South Carolina gets, how much Georgia gets?

1 The second question is, participants with
2 disabilities, I heard the gentleman say that there is some
3 provision for organizations that might want to expand their
4 capacity. I want to take this opportunity to speak on
5 something that's a passion for me, which is, the population
6 of the deaf. There are millions of deaf individuals that are
7 in this country that are unemployed and that are on
8 disability income not because they're not capable but because
9 there's a lack of access in technology on the business level.
10 The technology exists for the businesses to communicate with
11 the deaf in the workplace and there's technology for them
12 also to be trained with employability skills and I can send
13 you some information if you are not familiar with it. You
14 can also get information from the National Association of the
15 Deaf. I've worked with some of the deaf population here in
16 South Carolina for the last five or six years and I've
17 watched people be actually grossly discouraged, not because
18 of their ability but just because of a lack of access.

19 Real quickly, if I can get just ten seconds, if you
20 can include employability skill training with any new
21 placement of VISTAs or National Service people on both the
22 organization level and the individual level to provide
23 opportunities for low skilled individuals and also to provide
24 training for the organizations that are doing community
25 services to have sufficient board representation for the

1 community that they say they serve.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. GOREN: Thank you.

4 (Applause)

5 MS. McSWAIN: Thank you. Wait, wait, wait, wait,
6 wait. Come back.

7 So when you talked about how preparations are made
8 to states, were you talking specifically about VISTA?

9 MS. SMITH: No, all your programs, I'm sorry.
10 Well, all of the programs actually because I was interested
11 when they set the amount of money that's been appropriated I
12 was just wondering how do you determine how much goes to
13 South Carolina and how much of that is for VISTAs and how
14 much of that is for the state.

15 MS. McSWAIN: So we have a document that's on our
16 web site, it's called the Congressional Budget Justification,
17 it's a very lengthy document. The page you actually want to
18 pay attention to is page four, that's really -- because what
19 it shows you is, year over year what the different amounts
20 are and what increases. Each program has a different way
21 that the appropriation is split up based on the statutes and
22 so for example, in Learn and Serve it's a formula for the
23 state education agencies and it's based on the number of
24 students and the population of the state, the same is true
25 for AmeriCorps formula money. Anytime you hear the word,

1 "formula", it's generally based on population.

2 MS. SMITH: So when you say "population", you're
3 saying "census", correct?

4 MS. McSWAIN: Correct.

5 MS. SMITH: What year in the census then?

6 MS. McSWAIN: The most recent so they do an update.

7 MS. SMITH: Two thousand.

8 MS. McSWAIN: No, it wouldn't be two thousand, it's
9 the updated number so --

10 MS. SMITH: The updated number?

11 MS. McSWAIN: Yeah.

12 MS. SMITH: For ACS?

13 MR. TRINITY: Two thousand and eight was used.

14 MS. SMITH: Two thousand and eight, okay. Okay,
15 well, that's hopeful.

16 MS. GOREN: But that's just part of the story,
17 yeah.

18 MS. SMITH: Right.

19 MS. McSWAIN: Right, that's just part of the story.

20 MS. GOREN: Yeah.

21 MS. McSWAIN: Then there are other pots of money
22 that are competitive so for example, AmeriCorps stayed at
23 national, one of things that has changed in this new law is,
24 now it's two pots of money where you sort of have
25 organizations that operate in multiple states competing here

1 and organizations that want to operate in South Carolina and
2 the Commission puts them forward to the Corporation and they
3 compete nationally and then we send them back to South
4 Carolina, that money is now in one pot and so that's
5 competitive --

6 MS. SMITH: Okay.

7 MS. GOREN: Across the country.

8 MS. McSWAIN: -- across the country.

9 MS. SMITH: Okay.

10 MS. McSWAIN: What else have I forgotten?

11 MS. GOREN: VISTA.

12 MS. McSWAIN: VISTA. Now, VISTA is based on the
13 number of VISTAs we think we're going to be able to place,
14 the needs in particular low locals and how we've got current
15 VISTAs already serving in that year based on the previous
16 years because VISTAs serve over an appropriation year so they
17 might, for example, start in August and not finish until the
18 next July and so that splits an appropriation year, it splits
19 a fiscal year since October comes in the middle so it just
20 really depends and it's allocated so that it is an equitable
21 distribution when we look at the entire portfolio across the
22 United States but it probably feels a little different based
23 on when people have already started serving there in the
24 communities that are being served.

25 MS. SMITH: Could I ask a question?

1 MS. McSWAIN: Sure.

2 MS. SMITH: Okay, an organization like the one that
3 I serve, the business initiative, the impact that they have
4 on the economy could impact how you do business with other
5 organizations, for instance we provide technical assistance.
6 There was somebody that got up that said "How do I do this?
7 How do I do that?", if there is an organization that you're
8 funding that can provide technical assistance on a state
9 level, would that be something that you might consider as a
10 avenue for providing more financial support for an
11 organization like that? For instance, if there are
12 organizations in your program that need technical assistance
13 on how to run their business or how to market their business
14 and we provide that type of training, wouldn't that be
15 something that you might want to consider to fund the
16 business initiatives -- if I can plug that -- from the
17 business initiative, more money because they're a state wide
18 agency and could provide assistance to the organization in
19 training those that you're actually funding?

20 MS. McSWAIN: I think that's a piece of feedback
21 that we can take back for our nonprofit capacity building
22 fund as well as a couple of the other funds that we talked
23 about so thank you.

24 MS. SMITH: Okay, and the only reason I'm saying
25 that is, we can't lobby as AmeriCorps VISTAs, you know, so we

1 can't lobby but the South --

2 MS. McSWAIN: I'm glad you know that.

3 MS. SMITH: Yes, but the business initiative -- I
4 laugh, I made the executive director laugh because I can't go
5 to the Senate and tell them that we've made a -- the
6 organization has made a four point three million dollar
7 impact by creating three hundred jobs and keeping three
8 hundred people on employ, however, you know, as an
9 organization you can take that information and employ that
10 information on a federal level to even get more money for
11 your organization, to pull in organizations like the Business
12 Initiative and other organizations that provide technical
13 assistance or that type of support, okay?

14 Thank you, so thank you for the extra time.

15 (Applause)

16 MS. PIPER: Suzanne Piper. I just wanted to
17 mention a couple of things that have not probably been
18 touched on today and that's faith based initiatives.

19 In Charleston there is a church that I know of and
20 it kind of began in Greenville, ESL, it's English as a Second
21 Language and they are training anyone, Asian, Hispanic and
22 they are going to the churches and getting the volunteers to
23 teach English to anyone else and they don't have to know that
24 language in order to teach them and that's the great thing
25 about it.

1 Another thing was, the disaster relief teams that
2 churches I see are putting together and I just wanted to
3 throw out there that the Southern Baptist Convention will
4 train AmeriCorps workers, will train church groups, will
5 train any type of organization and it will be an official
6 designation that you get in mudding out, feeding masses,
7 chain sawing and it's twenty-five dollars a course and that
8 pays for your lunch and your workbook but they do train and
9 they would come to a group and train or they would train
10 maybe in the upstate but I know that my church, they are sent
11 all over the United States to work with disaster relief and
12 not just Katrina but it's the flooded out areas and those
13 kinds of things so it's just another great resource through
14 faith based that we can tap into that just has a bare minimal
15 expense.

16 MS. McSWAIN: Thank you.

17 MS. GREEN: My name is Gwenda Green and I am here
18 today as a parent of a Richland Two youth action council
19 member and represent, of course, all of those members and --
20 but also I have a history as a former Service Learning
21 director with the Corporation back from its very beginning
22 and so -- but also I am a research associate for the National
23 Dropout Prevention Center which is located at Clemson so I'm
24 saying all of that because I want you to know that my
25 thoughts to you in terms of taking something back to think

1 about are embedded in the following thoughts, really looking
2 at the dropout rate in South Carolina because you are here
3 but the national dropout rate and also looking at your own
4 ideas of this longitudinal study that you feel is needed and
5 it is also looking at your emphasis on education and when I
6 look at all of those, this is what I say to you. I wish that
7 you would really allow policy and practice or your
8 requirements to compliment each other. I have been in so
9 many environments where the policy may be one thing but then
10 what you require may absolutely negate what -- you know, what
11 will actually happen and I'll tell you exactly what I mean.

12 Looking at your funding allocation, Learn and Serve
13 has been decreased yet what we are asking as we look at
14 service, well, there is a true difference between service and
15 service learning and so my thoughts are centered on one
16 academic based service because I am concerned about systemic
17 change and so change does not happen just when folk are
18 grown, it does not happen once they become all these other
19 members that the -- the Senior Service Corps, etcetera so I
20 ask you to really really look at what you're asking in terms
21 of service versus service learning, meaning academic based
22 service and really the funding for Learn and Serve America
23 because in "K" through twelve funding, as you so eloquently
24 heard this young lady speak and you have a whole row of
25 members, you're talking middle school and high school people

1 who are back here, these are -- you stand up for a second,
2 stand up.

3 (Applause)

4 MS. GREEN: These -- you can't build a tutor once
5 it's over and so then for "K" through twelve there is clear
6 research that shows that service, particularly service
7 learning, builds resiliency and people don't drop out when --
8 not physically, they drop out in elementary so think about
9 that in terms of your funding. Look at -- I heard someone
10 has already come up with Campus Compact and talked about
11 those higher ed institutions. Well, particularly in South
12 Carolina those private institutions are historically black
13 colleges who will still take these young people and train
14 them but they get the least amount of funding so look at that
15 and then --

16 (Applause)

17 MS. GREEN: -- the last, look at funding available
18 to organizations such as ours with the National Dropout
19 Prevention Center that actually assists those schools with
20 developing or actually addressing dropout rates because we
21 work with "K" through sixteen and really can help because one
22 of the things is that the research is not always there so
23 organizations such as those can help organizations to gather
24 the data that you need.

25 Thank you.

1 MS. GOREN: Thank you.

2 MS. McSWAIN: Thank you.

3 (Applause)

4 MS. KENNEDY: Good afternoon, my name is Jackie
5 Kennedy and I am the director of the mayor's office for
6 children, youth and families in the city of Charleston and we
7 have been very fortunate in Charleston to be blessed with the
8 opportunity to bring in numerous different examples of
9 service programs funded through the Corporation for National
10 Service from Learn and Serve to AmeriCorps to "N" triple "C",
11 which was a tremendous loss when the campus closed, to
12 AmeriCorps VISTA, to Campus Compact, to the, I think,
13 Palmetto Project, etcetera.

14 One of the things I think that we would like to ask
15 you to think about is, how can we communicate better amongst
16 and between all of the levels of service programs that you
17 provide and how can we really enhance the partnership when
18 we're talking about Learn and Serve, with like AmeriCorps
19 VISTA or AmeriCorps programs on state national -- on national
20 directs? I think that we ought to think about that, I also
21 have to agree with so many things that were mentioned today
22 but I ask you to also think about the ways in which we can
23 use our greatest asset and that is our alumni. We have so
24 many alumni who have gone through this program that are the
25 best spokesperson that could be the recruiters for those that

1 we want to engage in the program. I'm also asking you to
2 give attention now and into the future to enhancing service
3 learning. We have found, over the years in the programs that
4 we have been involved in at all levels that our younger
5 people have not had the opportunity to have role models nor
6 have they had the opportunity to grow up in homes and in an
7 environment where service was a way of life and it was a
8 value so we need to start younger and work on that.

9 I do also favor any increases in the stipends
10 education awards because I think it's a critical factor and
11 for those who are giving their time, they deserve that in
12 return.

13 The other thing we haven't commented on so far is,
14 I strongly encourage us to keep the language and keep the
15 wording in the Act that has to require FBI criminal
16 background checks and also the disqualification of sex
17 offenders and also anyone who is a murderer, it is important,
18 it's critical because of the children that we're dealing with
19 in a lot of our programs and then the other thing I can say,
20 from my experience over the past and I've had experience with
21 AmeriCorps at many many different levels and that is that I
22 think it is wonderful that we're increasing the service
23 opportunities for people to get engaged. The other thing
24 that we have to think about is, how are we preparing our
25 communities to accept and be able to work with all types of

1 service from AmeriCorps. I find, in our community in
2 particular, that I have difficulty and have to spend time
3 providing technical assistance and resources and training to
4 help prepare sites to be able to take on service projects and
5 it could be any type of service project, I think it's really
6 a focus on how do you manage your resources and how do you
7 manage the resources of the Corporation for National Service
8 and I thank you, on behalf of our community you have blessed
9 us with many many wonderful opportunities and we are very
10 fortunate in all of our cities, the City of North Charleston,
11 City of Charleston, that our municipal leadership is in
12 support of service and so I also encourage you that as you
13 travel the United States as you're looking for input, don't
14 forget to ask municipal leaders to support and to really
15 engage in this Service Act.

16 Thank you.

17 MS. McSWAIN: Thank you.

18 (Applause)

19 MS. LINDER: Hi, I'm Terry Linder, I'm with
20 Communities And Schools of the Midlands and I also serve as
21 the lead agency -- I don't, my agency does -- with a five
22 agency group that has a VISTA partnership here in this
23 community.

24 A couple of things, one is, if you're going to put
25 together small ad hoc groups of CNCS folks, VISTAs,

1 AmeriCorps, remember the program people, we can tell you the
2 bad, the ugly, the good and the great.

3 As you're looking at grants with all this new money
4 coming in and restructuring what you're going to be doing, I
5 would suggest that you look at focus times for grants. For
6 example, grants that come out that don't start until the
7 middle of a school year for education purposes don't really
8 help a whole lot, it makes it difficult for us so looking at
9 the timing of things maybe around focus issues that you're
10 focusing on rather than just all AmeriCorps will be this
11 time, all VISTAs will be this time, also you talked about
12 tutors having to have at least a high school education but
13 you also talked about bringing high school kids in to work
14 with younger kids, the two don't meet so I don't understand.

15 MS. McSWAIN: So the requirement there is for young
16 people serving as -- well, not young, anyone who serves as an
17 AmeriCorps member who is tutoring --

18 MS. LINDER: Okay.

19 MS. McSWAIN: -- so that would preclude any sort of
20 high school to younger student --

21 MS. LINDER: Okay, so it's not tutoring across the
22 board.

23 MS. McSWAIN: It's not, it's specific to AmeriCorps
24 membership.

25 MS. LINDER: Okay, and then I too believe -- and we

1 do extensive screening of anybody who works with our
2 students, however there's a cost to FBI background checks and
3 if you require all the grantee staff as well who may or may
4 not because it says "all grantee staff" so it doesn't say
5 specifically those who are working with students, that's
6 going to add a huge burden in today's economic time for those
7 of us who are running really small nonprofit organizations so
8 I'd ask you to look at that also and I think that's it in
9 less than three minutes.

10 MS. GOREN: Thank you.

11 MS. McSWAIN: Thank you.

12 MS. WORTSING: Hi, my name is Whitney Wortsing and
13 I am an AmeriCorps alum, I'm VISTA, I have actually worked
14 for Jackie Kennedy in the mayor's office down in Charleston
15 and as an alum I learned quite a bit.

16 I think we had a VISTA who said that AmeriCorps
17 alums should be on a board, making decisions for AmeriCorps,
18 that is a great idea and just to answer some of your
19 questions with my own thoughts, as far as reaching more
20 people of all ages like the business might, a gentleman said
21 "You're going to have to, I think, start with the high
22 schools", like that group of kids back there, a great example
23 of those who are willing to come to the table and in order to
24 reach high school students you have to start with the
25 principals, the principals have to be on board in order to

1 communicate the importance of service and the importance of
2 AmeriCorps to their teachers who then communicate it to the
3 students.

4 As far as getting the word out about AmeriCorps and
5 communicating that there are AmeriCorps slots available in
6 community organizations and higher ed organizations, we need
7 more advertising. I only found out about AmeriCorps because
8 I was interested in the Peace Corps, they have great
9 advertising and my friend, Katie, who is also a VISTA, only
10 found out about AmeriCorps through Teach For America and I
11 think everyone knows about the military, the air force, the
12 reserve. Why don't we tap into some of that and use their
13 advertising tactics and to keep our youth here on our ground,
14 fighting for our own people, not really fighting but fighting
15 poverty and as far as standardized performance measures go, I
16 think it's a good idea to have some standardized performance
17 measures, however an AmeriCorps VISTA promoting a mentoring
18 program is a completely different animal than a corps member
19 building a house so you -- it would be very difficult to
20 compare the two and judge the two that are so different but
21 at the same time we do need standards for how AmeriCorps
22 members are utilized. In my -- I served for one year and I
23 knew of just two people in my own community who started
24 AmeriCorps and quit, one worked for a habitat for humanity
25 and rather than building capacity and creating sustainability

1 she was running a cash register and another woman was a VISTA
2 in an organization that had four VISTAs and only one computer
3 and all four VISTAs were asked to do things that related to
4 types of computer work or internet research, writing grants
5 and when the four of them were asked to do that kind of work
6 with only one computer, they were often left with nothing to
7 do.

8 I really like the idea of the service corps areas,
9 breaking them down to education, healthy future, clean energy
10 and I think those within themselves should have their own
11 standards and I do think that they should be within
12 AmeriCorps programs.

13 (Applause)

14 MS. WORTSING: I have so much more. Just a little
15 bit? Just a little bit more.

16 MS. McSWAIN: You have someone behind you. You can
17 come back after the people behind you go --

18 MS. WORTSING: Okay.

19 MS. McSWAIN: -- in case we run out of time.

20 (Applause)

21 MS. IRICK: Good afternoon, let me first say
22 welcome to South Carolina, thank you so very much for this
23 opportunity to have you come out and listen to what the folks
24 in South Carolina have to say.

25 Now, I'm here with two hats on right now, first as

1 a parent of an adult with disabilities so I'd like to say
2 think you so very much for the expansion of the disability
3 piece in this law.

4 The second reason why I'm here, I was not going to
5 speak earlier but there were two folks here that mentioned
6 disabilities so here's my second hat.

7 My name is Karen Irick, I am with the USC School of
8 Medicine Center for Disability Resources, I do training in
9 technical assistance for AmeriCorps State in disability
10 inclusion so for those guys that need to know these kinds of
11 information we do training in accommodations, training in
12 recruitment and retention of people with disabilities and so
13 forth and so on so my number is 935-5222 and again, my name
14 is Karen Irick and if you give me a call I'll help you with
15 that, particularly the lady that was talking about the deaf
16 community, we can talk about that and the lady from, I think,
17 Saluda, we have a assisted technology center there that we
18 can help you with that kind of information too as well as a
19 list serve so that's all I wanted to say and say welcome to
20 you guys.

21 MS. GOREN: Thank you.

22 MS. McSWAIN: Thank you.

23 (Applause)

24 MS. FAVOR: Good afternoon, I want to thank all of
25 y'all for being so patient and patiently waiting until this

1 is completed so hopefully it won't be too much longer.

2 My name is Melena Favor, I'm the director for the
3 Two One One here in Columbia and just so that you know, yes,
4 my Two One One do have a relationship with AmeriCorps.
5 During time of disaster AmeriCorps are used to help to make
6 sure pertinent information get out to anyone that calls two
7 one one that needs help but I just wanted to speak -- I
8 noticed a couple of people had mentioned two one one and I
9 think that everyone need to realize about two one one that
10 two one one basically solely supported by United Ways.

11 Here in South Carolina United Ways are the one that
12 support two one one so a lot of -- all those mentioned about
13 again nationwide that will really be great or first we need
14 to be state wide. Atlanta Two One One was the first one, two
15 one one is used for means of finding out volunteer
16 opportunities at different organizations that are available
17 in the community, they help out with whatever the need may be
18 but just so that we know, South Carolina has been behind in
19 two one one, we have in the legislature what they call the
20 Call In For Two One One Act and we got some good news today
21 about the Two One One Act for South Carolina and it simply
22 state -- technology, y'all -- it says that Senator Lindsay
23 Graham has signed as a key Republican sponsoring the Call In
24 For Two One One Act bill, the bill will finish the national
25 bill of two one one infrastructure reducing the cost and

1 duplications of referral for community service providing
2 prospective volunteers with more information on opportunities
3 to serve their communities and keep America prepared for
4 disaster and other emergencies, that is wonderful for South
5 Carolina.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause)

8 MS. RICHARDSON: Hi, my name is Anna Richardson and
9 I'm the executive director at Low Country Earth Force, which
10 is part of the National Earth Force Organization and I would
11 like to make a suggestion on your question about how to use
12 the social innovation funds.

13 I feel that it would be a great plan to use these
14 funds to address the dropout crisis that we were just talking
15 about recently here, I thought that -- we continue to see
16 that the Corporation feels that the dropout crisis is a very
17 very big crisis and something that we definitely need to
18 address but the Learn and Serve Program is really the only
19 way we have to address that right now and so I feel with
20 using the social innovation funds we can offer the ability to
21 immediately do something with this if we can use the social
22 innovation funds to fund nonprofit organizations that are
23 well addressed with service learning to go out and address
24 that crisis. You've recently said that service learning is
25 one of the keys to prevent the dropout crisis so if we could

1 use those social innovation funds to get some money into
2 those organizations that are already well positioned and
3 doing great service learning out there, I think that would be
4 a great use of those funds.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. GOREN: Thank you.

7 MS. McSWAIN: Thank you.

8 MS. MANUS: Hello, my name is Ashley Manus, I'm a
9 AmeriCorps VISTA with the United Way of the Midlands and I'm
10 really excited about the fact that we've got this grant and
11 all this money is going to a really good cause of something
12 I'm really passionate about, however speaking from the
13 standpoint of AmeriCorps VISTA, I think that there need to be
14 a lot more checks and balances implemented in the
15 organizations where AmeriCorps VISTAs are placed, I think
16 that a lot of AmeriCorps VISTAs that I've spoken to feel kind
17 of like dumped in their organization with very little
18 followup afterwards. If they're not personally motivated
19 people, they may have a hard time following through on
20 everything that their organization either wants them to do or
21 their organization doesn't have enough for them to do and in
22 that case you're wasting the money that you're giving them
23 and no one wants to do that, they start the -- you know, the
24 year off, you know, very excited and passionate about what
25 they're doing but if there isn't followup on what's going on

1 and where they're being placed and you're just looking at
2 this grant from the beginning, going, "Oh, it sounds like
3 they're going in there for a good cause" and there's no
4 followup then, it just doesn't really fulfill the purpose of
5 putting this money back into the community to begin with so
6 I'd really encourage you guys to do more followup with the
7 AmeriCorps VISTAs or just AmeriCorps individuals in general
8 and find out what they're doing over the course of the year,
9 have some followup interviews afterwards. The concept of
10 having a board of all AmeriCorps individuals to really
11 properly place people in organizations, I think, would be
12 huge, I want this money to go to a good cause and to really
13 be utilized to the best of its ability and I don't think
14 right now that it is, to be perfectly honest so I would just
15 encourage you guys to really look at the organizations that
16 you're placing people with. I think the concept is good and
17 the motivation and passion is there but at the moment I think
18 that there isn't enough in place to really make sure that
19 it's being utilized to the best of its ability so thank you.

20 MR. TRINITY: Thank you

21 MS. McSWAIN: Thank you.

22 (Applause)

23 MS. WORTSING: Hi, I'm back. Real quick, I just
24 wanted to plug the idea of the AmeriCorps alum network. I
25 have ten friends and eight of them are AmeriCorps alum in

1 Charleston, that's eighty percent, they want it, they said
2 they want it, you know, the perks are great, the free taxes
3 are wonderful, free tax applications are wonderful but we
4 have a group of lifelong service oriented people who really
5 want to get together, maybe make some funds available for
6 alumni organizations to create their own grassroots volunteer
7 service organizations.

8 Okay, that's all.

9 MS. McSWAIN: Thank you.

10 We have time for two more comments.

11 MS. DINGLE: Thank you. My name is Rosa Dingle and
12 I'm the assistant principal for curriculum in Clarendon
13 School District One and I have a comment. Actually, I'd like
14 to encourage more high schools to implement the literacy
15 components of Serve and Learn.

16 In Clarendon School District One, Scotts Branch
17 High School, we have tutorers (sic) that actually goes out
18 into our SECC, our elementary school and they do parent
19 tutoring with our first and second graders and the goal of
20 this program is to increase the reading level of our first
21 and second graders which will then help decrease our dropout
22 rates and it's standard driven, we actually have a curriculum
23 that's aligned to South Carolina standards in providing these
24 tutoring sessions and our students, our high school students
25 are not just tutorers (sic) because they are required to

1 receive training prior to tutoring our smaller children so in
2 closing, I really would like to encourage other high schools
3 across the state, if they have the serve and learn program,
4 to consider implementing the literacy components of Serve and
5 Learn.

6 MS. McSWAIN: Thank you. Okay, you're going to
7 wrap it all up.

8 MS. MOYERS: Thank you. My name is Dorothy Moyers,
9 I'm an RSVP director here in South Carolina.

10 A little background. I have been involved with
11 SeniorCorps programs since 1972, started out as the foster
12 grandparent coordinator and then became a director and
13 etcetera so I've been here long enough to see the emphasis
14 from the Corporation's stand, which used to be Action, change
15 over the years, it was very strong seniors based when I first
16 came with the programs and of course now, as we've all heard,
17 it's very strong youth, AmeriCorps, VISTA and I know older
18 people can be in that too but it has -- you know, and if any
19 of you read the list there for the SeniorCorps programs you
20 can see that, you know, we're concerned because we get less
21 and less funding all the time and less and less recognition
22 whereas AmeriCorps particularly and VISTA get more and more
23 attention, more and more funding. We feel that our programs
24 are solid, we've been in the community and just because we've
25 been around a long time doesn't mean that's bad, it can mean

1 that it's very good because we do have impact, we are making
2 impact, always have, we make a difference. The seniors in
3 our communities are the largest growing segment, you know,
4 we're having more seniors, people are living longer, you
5 know, so that we can give more to our communities but we --
6 and we don't -- I guess, maybe don't know how to put our
7 programs out there enough in order to get more recognition.

8 Someone was saying that AmeriCorps needs to have
9 more publicity, I see AmeriCorps all the time, to be honest,
10 on television, I don't see SeniorCorps and I think that hurts
11 us and we do -- some of the changes you're making are going
12 to help a great deal, at least I hope you get to make them if
13 they fund them but we just really need more. Our seniors
14 need more, we need to, you know, recognize that we are still
15 a powerful part of our communities. The youth need us more
16 than we really need them in a way.

17 (Applause)

18 MS. MOYERS: I state that and then I may end up in
19 a nursing home where youth are taking care of me, hopeful not
20 but we do, we need our programs, our SeniorCorps programs to
21 continue, you know, we need to have the foster grandparents
22 and the senior companions out there and RSVP doing
23 everything, we can support almost every program you've
24 mentioned in here so that's what I'd like to say.

25 Thank you.

1 MS. McSWAIN: Thank you.

2 (Applause)

3 MS. McSWAIN: Thank you all for your comments,
4 they've been extremely helpful, thank you for spending three
5 hours today with us.

6 I'm going to turn it over to Nicky but before I do,
7 I know that all of you do a tremendous amount of work on
8 behalf of your communities every day, we are very good about
9 thanking our volunteers, about thanking our members and we
10 don't often take time to thank you all who actually make that
11 work possible so I do want to thank you for the work that you
12 do on behalf of your communities every day.

13 MS. GOREN: Thank you.

14 (Applause)

15 MS. GOREN: Thanks, Kristin, for being a great
16 moderator and again, thank you all for coming today.

17 I'm sure that as you reflect on today you're going
18 to have additional thoughts and input that you're going to
19 want to share with us, I just want to stress again this is
20 the beginning of the process, this is only day two, actually,
21 of our seeking input. We have launched a new web tool, it's
22 at NationalService.gov/ServeAct and it's a web tool where you
23 can continue to give us input and see what other people's
24 comments are as well. We're also going to have a transcript
25 of today within some amount of time, I'm not exactly sure but

1 we will -- as soon as we have it, we'll put it on our web
2 site as we will with all of the transcripts from all of our
3 listening sessions so that you can see what's being said
4 across the country.

5 We're also going to have three conference calls the
6 first week of June similar to these, open to the public, June
7 2nd, June 3rd, June 5th from twelve to one-thirty Eastern
8 time so feel free to sign up for one of those and I think
9 that this is going to be an evolution, you know, the way we
10 see this mapping out is, this is the first round, we're going
11 to go back, we're going reflect on what we've heard, we're
12 going to start putting together our thoughts on what
13 implementation is going to look like and then there'll
14 probably be another round like this across the country so
15 please stay engaged, we really need your input as we go
16 through this process and I'm going to ask you for one more
17 thing before I say thank yous and goodbye and that is, I'm
18 going to ask Peachy -- where's Peachy? Oh, there's Peachy,
19 Peachy Meyers from my office, she's the White House liaison
20 in my office, she actually lived in South Carolina for a
21 while, was on the campaign here pretty recently and we're
22 going to just do a quick plus down side, we want to hear from
23 you as we're doing these, you know, what worked, what didn't
24 work, what could we do better, we -- you know, this is only
25 day two and it's a work in progress so if there are things

1 you thought worked really well or things you thought didn't
2 work very well, please share them and we will take them into
3 account as we go forward.

4 Peachy?

5 MS. MEYERS: Great. So yeah, I mean, just as Nicky
6 said, we'd like to hear from you on how we organized and
7 facilitated this event, we have four more sessions in the
8 coming weeks so if you could tell us what we did well and
9 then ways that we might improve upon this process, that's
10 really helpful to us and I think, everybody so what did we do
11 well today?

12 MEMBER OF AUDIENCE: The handout of the --

13 MR. TRINITY: PowerPoint?

14 MEMBER OF AUDIENCE: -- PowerPoint presentation.

15 MR. TRINITY: Thank you, Cathy.

16 MEMBER OF AUDIENCE: In that PowerPoint there are a
17 lot of acronyms that some of us don't know.

18 MS. MEYERS: Just spell them out?

19 MEMBER OF AUDIENCE: Yes.

20 MS. MEYERS: Okay.

21 (Remaining comments and discussions from the
22 audience were inaudible)

23 MS. GOREN: Well, thank you so much, thank you for
24 doing this, this is very very helpful to us.

25 I want to take a moment and thank Cathy Sharp and

1 Myra Cunningham in Virginia from the state office, you did a
2 great job pulling this together, this is a great venue, thank
3 you to Midland Technical, it was a great venue and thank you
4 all for coming, we look forward to continuing the dialog with
5 you, thanks.

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1

2

* * * *