Corporation for NATIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE
1201 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20525
202-606-5000
NationalService.gov

February 27, 2015

The Honorable Alvin Parks, Jr.
301 River Park Dr.
East St. Louis, IL 62201

Dear Mayor Parks, Jr.,

It is my pleasure to inform you that the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) has awarded a 2015 Senior Corps RSVP grant to one or more organizations in East St. Louis.

The attachment includes a brief summary of each grant awarded in East St. Louis, including local contact information for the grantee.

This funding builds on Senior Corps RSVP's longstanding history of civic engagement. Established in 1971, Senior Corps RSVP is one of the largest senior volunteer organizations in the nation. Senior Corps RSVP taps the skills, talents, and experience of thousands of Americans age 55 and older. In 2009, Congress passed the Serve America Act, the most sweeping expansion of national service in a generation. This landmark law established an annual competition of the Senior Corps RSVP program that began in 2013. This competition requires grantees to meet performance measures and funds projects that meet a diverse range of specific local and community needs. Senior Corps RSVP volunteers serve through Area Agencies on Aging, Community Action Agencies, Volunteer Centers, United Ways, social services agencies, faith-based organizations, and many others. Together these Senior Corps RSVP volunteers have improved lives in the following ways:

- Served 329,400 veterans in activities such as transportation and employment service referrals
- Mentored nearly 78,000 children
- Provided independent living services to 797,000 adults, primarily frail seniors
- Provided respite services to 20,300 family or informal caregivers
- Engaged 20,100 veterans who served as Senior Corps RSVP volunteers.
- Leveraged an additional 18,500 volunteers to support Senior Corps RSVP activities such as delivering meals to those in need and tutoring at-risk children.

In a time of significant economic challenges, national service is a critical and cost-effective method to engage America's citizens in solving problems in their communities. Our agency seeks to expand service opportunities for older Americans and make service a transformative experience for all who serve and for the communities that they support.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss national service with you at your convenience. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Kimberly L. Allman, Director of Government Relations, at kallman@cns.gov or (202) 606-6707.

Warmest regards,

Wendy Spencer

Wendy Spencer
Chief Executive Officer

Illinois – 12th Congressional District

Senior Corps 2015 RSVP Grants

Project Sponsor: Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House
1200 North 13th Street
East St Louis, IL 62205-2975
(618) 874-0777 1102

Contact: Aundrea Young
ayoung@lessiebatesdavis.org

Project Name: RSVP of St. Clair County

Service Area: East St. Louis, Centreville, Alorton, Brooklyn, Washington Park, Fairmont City, and St. Clair County

Estimated Volunteers: 240

CNCS Award Amount: Up to $ 37,073

Grant Type: New RSVP grants - funds will support RSVP projects in established geographic service areas that were competed per the Serve America Act beginning in 2013. These competitive grants ensure investment in quality programming within communities across the country.

Program Primary Focus Area: **Education**

Grants will provide support and/or facilitate access to services and resources that contribute to improved educational outcomes for economically disadvantaged people, especially children, and for children with special and/or exceptional needs. Grant activities will improve:

- School readiness for economically disadvantaged young children
- Educational and behavioral outcomes of elementary, middle, and high school students with special and exceptional needs
- The preparation for and prospects of success in post-secondary education institutions for economically disadvantaged students or students with special or exceptional needs.