



BACKGROUND

As the federal agency for service and volunteering, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) is deeply committed to expanding opportunities for Americans to serve their country. CNCS engages 75,000 AmeriCorps members, 315,000 Senior Corps volunteers, and 4.5 million volunteers to serve in more than 60,000 locations across the country. National service participants tackle the most pressing challenges facing our nation: strengthening education, providing disaster services, fostering economic opportunity, assisting veterans and military families, preserving the environment, and expanding health services.

On July 15, 2013, President Obama issued a Presidential Memorandum that established the Task Force on Expanding National Service. The Task Force is charged with addressing national needs by expanding national service opportunities through public-private partnerships. With the guidance of the Task Force, CNCS has launched several new partnerships to engage more Americans in service, expand economic opportunity for those who serve, and increase the impact citizens have on our communities and nation.

AMERICORPS PARTNERSHIPS CHALLENGE

In the spirit of the Task Force, the **AmeriCorps Partnerships Challenge** is a call to action to the private sector, nonprofits, philanthropies, and public agencies at every level to develop proposals to expand AmeriCorps service opportunities to meet critical national and local needs.

CNCS is **making available up to \$30 million in education scholarships** to support the expansion of new AmeriCorps opportunities across the nation. This amount of Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards is enough to support more than **8,000 new AmeriCorps members**.

Through the challenge, nonprofit organizations or public agencies – together with their funding partners – would develop proposals to address community needs by engaging AmeriCorps members. CNCS will develop a streamlined and flexible process to consider proposals. Upon approval, CNCS will support Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards for AmeriCorps members, while the sponsoring organization will cover operations and living allowance costs. Corporate or philanthropic funders looking to invest in national service can also contact CNCS directly to explore potential partnerships with nonprofit organizations to meet a particular national or local need.

Programs supported through the AmeriCorps Partnerships Challenge will benefit from being part of the national AmeriCorps network. They will get training and technical assistance, recruitment support, and the brand identification of being an AmeriCorps program. AmeriCorps members will be eligible for education scholarships and loan forbearance, and will gain valuable skills and experiences to advance their career goals while they make a difference in communities.

We call on all sectors – public, private, nonprofits, foundation, education -- to join us in this important mission.

MORE INFORMATION

CNCS will be developing further guidance about the AmeriCorps Partnerships Challenge over the summer. We are interested in getting input from stakeholders and the public as we develop this initiative. As further information becomes available, we will share it on our website at NationalService.gov.