

# National Service: A Resource for Cities



As the federal agency for national service and volunteering, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) annually engages five million people in service at 60,000 locations in more than 8,500 cities across the country. Through AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, the Social Innovation Fund, and other programs, CNCS leverages federal and private funds to achieve measurable results where the need is greatest. Whether supporting food banks and homeless shelters, restoring city parks, building homes, providing health services, tutoring and mentoring students, or managing community volunteers, national service members help local governments tackle tough problems.

## AmeriCorps: Intensive Service to Meet Community Needs

AmeriCorps engages more than 75,000 Americans each year in intensive service to help communities tackle pressing issues while mobilizing millions of volunteers for the organizations they serve.

- **AmeriCorps State and National**, the largest branch of AmeriCorps, provides financial support to public and nonprofit organizations to recruit, train, and place AmeriCorps members to meet community needs in disaster services, economic opportunity, education, the environment, health, and veterans and military families.
- **AmeriCorps VISTA** members serve full-time for a year at nonprofits and public agencies, working to fight illiteracy, improve health services, strengthen community groups, and more. Members improve the ability of organizations to alleviate poverty by raising funds, recruiting volunteers, and designing sustainable programs.
- **AmeriCorps NCCC** is a full-time, team-based, residential program for men and women ages 18-24. Members respond to needs in the areas of disaster preparation, response, and recovery; environmental conservation; public safety; urban and rural development; and education.

## Senior Corps: Making a Difference for Generations

Each year Senior Corps taps the skills, talents, and experience of 300,000 Americans age 55 and older to meet a wide range of community challenges through three programs:

- **Senior Corps RSVP** volunteers help local police departments conduct safety patrols, participate in environmental projects, tutor and mentor youth, and respond to natural disasters, among many other activities.
- **Senior Corps Foster Grandparents** serve one-on-one as tutors and mentors to young people with special needs.
- **Senior Corps Senior Companions** help homebound seniors and other adults maintain independence in their own homes.

## Social Innovation Fund: Investing in Solutions that Work

The Social Innovation Fund (SIF) is a powerful approach to transforming lives and communities that positions the federal government to be a catalyst for impact, mobilizing public and private resources to find and grow community solutions with evidence of strong results. In five years, the SIF and its partners have invested more than half a billion dollars in community solutions across three issue areas: economic opportunity, healthy futures, and youth development and school support. The SIF supports 20 intermediary grantees and 217 nonprofits in 37 states and the District of Columbia.

CNCS offers a wide variety of grants and other support specifically designed to help cities, towns, and counties solve their most pressing challenges. This support includes:

### [AmeriCorps Governor and Mayor Initiative](#)

As part of the 2015 AmeriCorps funding competition, the AmeriCorps Governor and Mayor Initiative prioritizes funding for a governor and a mayor to work together to tackle a pressing local issue. Currently, 11 states have Governor and Mayor Initiative programs, engaging 675 AmeriCorps members to address a range of issues including dropout prevention, childhood literacy, job readiness, environmental stewardship, human trafficking, and economic opportunity. More information is available at [AmeriCorps.gov](http://AmeriCorps.gov).

### [Operation AmeriCorps: Creating Transformational Change in Localities](#)

Through Operation AmeriCorps, CNCS is partnering with tribes and local governments to engage AmeriCorps members as the transformative catalyst to address a pressing problem. Operation AmeriCorps is designed to solve a high priority local issue in a comprehensive way in two years. For the first time ever, the initiative allows applicants to apply for resources from all three AmeriCorps programs in a single application. The application deadline is January 13, 2015. More information is available at [NationalService.gov/Operation-AmeriCorps](http://NationalService.gov/Operation-AmeriCorps).

### [Employers of National Service: A Talent Pipeline for Local Government](#)

Employers of National Service builds a talent pipeline to connect AmeriCorps and Peace Corps alumni with leading employers from all sectors to create recruitment, hiring, and advancement opportunities. Through Employers of National Service, local governments have new access to a dedicated, highly qualified, and mission-oriented pool of potential employees. Nashville was the first city government to join. Any locality that signs up before December 31, 2014 will be named a charter member of the initiative. More information is available at [NationalService.gov/Employers](http://NationalService.gov/Employers).

### [Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service: Recognizing AmeriCorps and Senior Corps](#)

To spotlight the impact of national service and thank those who serve, Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service engages mayors across the country to highlight the value of national service in their community. Last year, 1,760 mayors representing nearly 110 million Americans participated. The next Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service will take place on April 7, 2015. More information is available at [NationalService.gov/MayorsForService](http://NationalService.gov/MayorsForService).

### [City Hall AmeriCorps VISTA: A Neighborhood Revitalization Grant](#)

A partnership between Cities of Service and AmeriCorps VISTA, the City Hall AmeriCorps VISTA program is a competitive grant opportunity available to mayors to support the planning and implementation of neighborhood revitalization initiatives. The grant provides both financial and human capital support for up to three years, including a \$30,000 grant and two AmeriCorps VISTA members. More information is available at [CitiesofService.org](http://CitiesofService.org).

### [Promise Zones: AmeriCorps Supports Local Economic Growth](#)

The Promise Zone initiative works with urban, rural, and tribal communities to expand economic mobility and opportunity in their communities. AmeriCorps is supporting the initiative by providing AmeriCorps VISTA members to local organizations in Promise Zones. Members will build their host organization's capacity to increase economic opportunity and alleviate poverty. More information is available at [HUD.gov/promisezones](http://HUD.gov/promisezones).

### [Strong Cities, Strong Communities: AmeriCorps Supports City Revitalization](#)

The Strong Cities, Strong Communities (SC2) Initiative is helping communities hardest-hit by the recession by coordinating federal investments to create stronger cooperation to spark economic growth. AmeriCorps VISTA members play a key role in the initiative by improving the city's capacity to coordinate its efforts and serve its most economically disadvantaged residents. Each SC2 city is eligible to have AmeriCorps VISTA members to support its revitalization plan.