

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FACT SHEET:
President Obama Takes Action to Expand National Service Opportunities
to Meet Our Country's Needs**

Today President Obama and the First Lady welcomed President George H.W. Bush and former First Lady Barbara Bush to the White House to honor the 5,000th Daily Point of Light Award winner. The President honored President George H.W. Bush's exemplary lifetime of public service and his contributions to volunteerism, including the creation of the Points of Light movement.

Building on a longstanding tradition of bipartisan support for national service and volunteerism, President Obama issued a Presidential Memorandum that establishes an interagency task force led by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). The Task Force will develop strategies to expand national service to meet national needs through collaboration with other Federal agencies and the private sector.

The Memorandum is the latest in a series of actions the Administration has taken over the past four years to expand opportunities for Americans to serve, focus service on pressing challenges, foster social innovation, and increase the impact citizens have on our communities and nation.

Presidential Memorandum on National Service

The Presidential Memorandum establishes a National Service Task Force consisting of representatives of 13 cabinet departments, the Peace Corps, National Science Foundation, Office of Personnel Management, Environmental Protection Agency, and the White House. The Task Force will be co-chaired by the CEO of CNCS and the Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council.

Among other activities, the Task Force will make recommendations on policies to expand national service opportunities, recommend ways to coordinate volunteering and service programs across the Federal government, develop opportunities for interagency agreements between CNCS and other federal agencies, and identify public-private partnerships to expand national service. Over the next six months, agencies participating on the Task Force will confer with CNCS about potential partnerships to engage more Americans in national service to solve problems and advance agency priorities.

By creating new interagency and public-private partnerships for national service, the President's action will engage more Americans in results-driven service, expand economic and educational opportunities for those who serve, enhance Federal agencies' capacity to achieve their missions, more efficiently use tax dollars, and build the pipeline of Americans ready to enter public service.

Expanding Innovative Partnerships for National Service

The President's action today builds on the Administration's commitment to national service and to using national service as a solution for pressing challenges. Over the past year, the Corporation for National and Community Service has launched several partnerships with federal agencies, including:

- **[FEMA Corps](#)** is a new 1,600 member AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps program solely devoted to disaster response and recovery. FEMA Corps strengthens disaster capacity, prepares young people for emergency management careers, and saves significant taxpayer dollars. FEMA Corps members provided invaluable service in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy and recent tornadoes in the Midwest and have [developed innovative ways](#) to serve disaster survivors.

- [School Turnaround AmeriCorps](#) is a partnership between the Department of Education and AmeriCorps that will bring more than 650 new AmeriCorps members into some of our lowest-performing schools this fall, where they will work to boost student academic achievement, attendance, high school graduation rates, and college and career readiness.
- [STEM AmeriCorps](#), which President Obama announced at the White House Science Fair this spring, is multi-year initiative to place hundreds of AmeriCorps members in nonprofits across the country to mobilize STEM professionals to inspire young people to excel in science, technology, engineering, and math to build the pipeline for future STEM careers.

CNCS is working with other federal agencies to leverage national service to meet national needs. The Presidential directive will accelerate those efforts and open the door to new partnerships. Expanding upon its existing system of private sector matching, CNCS is also actively reaching out to corporations, foundations, and other funders to secure additional support for national service.

National Service in Action

- **Making an Impact:** More than 80,000 AmeriCorps members and 360,000 Senior Corps volunteers tackle the most pressing challenges facing America: educating millions of students for jobs of the 21st century, supporting individuals, families, and neighborhoods on the road to economic recovery; supporting veterans and military families; helping communities rebuild after natural disasters; improving at-risk ecosystems; and providing healthy futures.
- **Expanding Economic Opportunity:** National service helps individuals build economic independence, increases family stability, and creates more sustainable, resilient communities. AmeriCorps provides a pathway to education and employment for those who serve. By helping more Americans graduate, pursue higher education, and find work, national service provides immediate and long-term benefits to the community and those who serve.
- **Embracing Social Innovation:** As part of the Administration's innovation agenda, CNCS launched the Social Innovation Fund, a unique model that improves the lives of people in low-income communities and expands the impact of high-performing organizations using evidence-based practices. In its first three years, the Social Innovation Fund has invested in 200 nonprofit organizations in 34 states and Washington, DC. Through its unique 3 to 1 match structure, it has attracted commitments of more than \$350 million in private and non-federal funds.
- **Strengthening the Volunteer Sector:** CNCS strengthens the impact of America's volunteers by bringing more individuals into service and building the capacity of nonprofits to effectively manage volunteers. The President's FY 2014 budget requests a significant increase in the Volunteer Generation Fund, a CNCS program to strengthen volunteer management practices, and proposes renaming the program the George H.W. Bush Volunteer Generation Fund.
- **Using Tax Dollars Efficiently:** National service engages citizen volunteers in problem-solving, uses competition to fund high-value programs, leverages substantial outside support, and mobilizes volunteers to multiply impact. CNCS programs annually mobilize 4 million volunteers and leverage hundreds of millions of dollars of non-CNCS resources from business, foundations, and other sources.

About the Corporation for National and Community Service

The Corporation for National and Community Service is a federal agency that engages more than five million Americans in service through its AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, Social Innovation Fund, and Volunteer Generation Fund programs, and leads the President's national call to service initiative, United We Serve. For more information, visit NationalService.gov.