

2015 National Service and Civic Engagement Research Competition Overview

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) conducted the National Service and Civic Engagement Research Competition in 2015. Grants (cooperative agreements) are awarded to eligible institutions of higher education. The awards support dissertators conducting their Ph.D. research or scholars, researchers, and postdoctoral researchers with a proven track record and standing in their respective fields. These grants funded research in three priority areas:

- 1) Economic benefits of national service, volunteering, and civic engagement, which addresses the economic benefits of national service, volunteering and civic engagement to individuals and communities;
- 2) Innovative research methodologies applied to national service models, which includes research methodologies that are innovative and have not yet been applied to national service models, and which have strong potential to yield useful results for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers; and,
- 3) Measuring and exploring relationships among civic engagement, national service, and volunteering, which includes research studies that can explore measuring civic engagement and related concepts, including social cohesion and social capital, as well as studies that explore the relationships among national service, volunteering, and civic engagement.

Grantees are expected to disseminate the results from the studies to inform practitioners and other researchers. Dissemination means may include:

- Publications and presentations in academic, professional, practitioner, or other settings.
- Designing and teaching of university-level courses.
- Convening practitioners, researchers, policymakers, or other stakeholders.
- Tools for practitioners.