

AMERICORPS FY08 ANNUAL PLAN

OVERVIEW

The AmeriCorps*State and National program will continue grant support to initiate, improve or expand the ability of organizations and communities to provide services that address local unmet needs. The FY 2008 grant application and selection process will build upon the existing portfolio that emphasizes the four CNCS strategic focus areas. The program will contribute to each of the initiatives, with emphasis placed on support for youth and the generation of community volunteers nation-wide.

A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR OUR YOUTH

Provide more direct mentoring services through the Corporation's programs and help to expand mentoring services nationwide

- ◆ Increase the number of children and youth mentored through the AmeriCorps*State and National programs and partner with MENTOR, a national organization that specializes in creating effective tools for organizations that train and deploy mentors
- ◆ Support the President's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Council, the Mentoring Council chaired by the CEO and the national mentoring working group
- ◆ Support youth aging out of foster care pilot program that includes collaboration and resource sharing across state commissions, state offices and local governmental entities
- ◆ Build on the roll out of National Mentoring month by continuing to partner with the Harvard Mentoring Project and MENTOR to leverage state commissions, state offices, and local MENTOR affiliates

Engage children and youth in service

- ◆ Engage more youth from disadvantaged backgrounds as AmeriCorps*State and National members by: emphasizing recruitment of disadvantaged youth in program guidance and the grant selection process; providing training and technical assistance to help grantees engage disadvantaged youth in their programs; and, creating a task force to build connections with organizations that work with these youth
- ◆ Promote the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service as an opportunity to introduce young people to service and volunteering

VOLUNTEER MOBILIZATION

Substantially expand volunteer leveraging in AmeriCorps

- ◆ Ensure that existing AmeriCorps grantees receive training and technical assistance in volunteer management and, when opportunities for new grants arise, ensure that the project director and key staff are qualified to manage volunteers
- ◆ Work with the Corporation's Office of Leadership Development and Training to disseminate information, conduct outreach for training activities, et. to develop future volunteer managers and/or nonprofit managers

Support community volunteer connector organizations

- ◆ Continue to place AmeriCorps members in the over 500 volunteer centers, Hands on Network and Volunteer Match organizations and other volunteer connector organizations

Better connect faith-based and other community-based organizations to volunteer needs and efforts

- ◆ Encourage programs to train members on partnering with faith-based and community organizations in all of their capacity-building activities by working with technical assistance providers
- ◆ Grow and further develop volunteer leveraging program models that extensively partner with congregations and other community organizations that supply large numbers of volunteers
- ◆ Replicate successful, creative mentoring models in AmeriCorps by disseminating materials about what works, sharing lessons learned with the field, etc.

STUDENTS IN SERVICE INITIATIVE

- ◆ Increase the number of AmeriCorps*State and National members serving as college student coordinators and community recruiters
- ◆ Increase the number of college students serving through AmeriCorps*State and National programs

BABY BOOMER INITIATIVE

- ◆ Expand the national recruitment and retention campaign to promote Baby Boomer volunteering AmeriCorps programs and the nonprofit world in general
- ◆ Allocate training resources to programs targeting baby boomers for both AmeriCorps service and volunteering opportunities