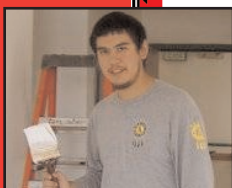


ISSUE BRIEF

National Service: Addressing Key Native American Issues



The programs of the Corporation for National and Community Service—Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, VISTA, NCCC, and Learn and Serve America—are committed to supporting the culture of service that has existed in Indian communities for generations. Working with our partners—including Tribal Governments, other federal agencies, colleges and universities, and local nonprofits—national service programs support nearly 150 projects from Alaska to Florida that respectfully address issues of concern to Native communities, including assisting Elders, cultural preservation, economic development, health and wellness, youth leadership, educational attainment, and traditional lands preservation. By using local networks that already exist in their communities, Indian communities have increased their access to national service resources, and they have also launched demonstration programs to test effective and culturally appropriate project models dealing with such timely issues as grandparents raising grandchildren and abuse. This issue brief describes the Corporation's various programs and the ways national service resources are used to address key issues in Indian Communities.

ISSUE AREAS. Across all its programs, the Corporation is supporting projects in the following areas: Assisting Elders, Preserving Tribal Culture, Educating and Mentoring Youth, Health and Family Services, Job Training and Economic Development, and Disaster Preparedness and Response.

- Plant community gardens using traditional methods and plants
- Provide counsel to new business owners
- Offer relief services to victims of natural disasters
- Help community organizations operate more efficiently

SENIOR CORPS. Senior Corps connects individuals ages 55 and older with the people and organizations that need them most. Senior Corps currently links more than 500,000 Americans to service opportunities at faith-based and other community organizations throughout the United States. Tribal Senior Corps volunteers:

- Offer emotional support to child victims of abuse and neglect
- Tutor children with low literacy skills—often in their native language and English
- Mentor troubled teenagers
- Model parenting skills to teen parents
- Care for premature infants and children with physical disabilities and severe illnesses
- Enable frail seniors to remain living independently in their homes by performing chores and providing respite support.
- Help get children immunized

AMERICORPS STATE/NATIONAL.

Through a large network of local, state, and national programs, AmeriCorps provides opportunities for tens of thousands of individuals to make an intensive commitment to service. By law, at least 1% of AmeriCorps funds must be used solely to support Tribal communities, which receive support from other AmeriCorps competitions as well. Members earn an education award to help pay for college or pay off student loans. Tribal AmeriCorps programs:

- Assist Tribal Elders with repairs, fuel assistance, home weatherization, and other support to help them remain in their homes and live independently
- Assist Tribal Elders with the development of cultural education projects focusing on traditional civic engagement and civic pride
- Tutor and mentor youth, help students with

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homework, and assist parents and caregivers by educating them in constructive methods of proactive family management

- Address school safety issues using substance abuse and gang intervention activities
- Assist veterans and their families who are having difficulty accessing services due to language barriers, cultural boundaries, and geographic isolation
- Provide long-term disaster relief
- Undertake environmental improvement and cultural site restoration projects

AMERICORPS VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America). VISTA enables faith-based and other community organizations, as well as public agencies, to recruit and place full-time members to create and expand programs that ultimately bring low-income individuals and communities out of poverty. Members build organizational and community capacity through activities such as economic development, fundraising, social entrepreneurship, organizational development, volunteer recruitment, and web design and marketing. The members work to ensure the local community retains the capacity to continue the activities after the VISTA member completes service. Typical AmeriCorps VISTA programs:

- Provide outreach to remote and underserved Native communities to promote expansion of youth involvement in community programs
- Provide leadership and program development to Native Alaskans and Tribal Councils
- Build capacity for local organizations to serve Native women dealing with domestic violence or sexual assault
- Expand volunteer service opportunities to seniors in remote locations
- Strengthen the link between formal and cultural education
- Develop training curricula, internships, mentoring activities, and certification programs
- Support workforce development initiatives that provide construction trades apprenticeship training to youth living on reservations
- Develop educational curricula for urban Indian youth in the foster care system
- Help build Citizens Corps, CERT programs, and other homeland security activities for Tribal communities

LEARN AND SERVE AMERICA. Through its support of service-learning, an approach to education that enriches learning through community service, Learn and Serve America (LSA) addresses community needs while developing students' academic skills and the habits of responsible citizenship. Under its K-12 school-based funds, LSA has a 3% set-aside for Indian Tribes and U.S. Territories. In addition, LSA also provides grants to colleges and universities and to nonprofit community groups. Tribal Learn and Serve activities include:

- Supporting Elders by distributing food and doing chores while visiting
- Preserving Tribal culture
- Providing environmental education and recycling
- Developing and publishing oral history booklets
- Partnering young people with community elders to restore the value of Tribal life-ways
- Researching Tribal history and the land and animals that sustained the people.
- Creating museum exhibits on Tribal history and folk art and crafts
- Assisting with new construction, home repairs, and renovations
- Addressing Type-2 diabetes

CONTACT INFORMATION: For more information about National Service in Indian Communities, go to the "For Indian Communities" section of www.nationalservice.gov.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE: The Corporation for National and Community Service is a federal agency that improves lives, strengthens communities, and fosters civic engagement through service and volunteering. Each year, the Corporation provides opportunities for more than 2 million Americans of all ages and backgrounds to serve their communities and country through Senior Corps, AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve America. For more information on these programs and how they can help your organization, visit www.nationalservice.gov.

October 2007

