



A. Introduction and Overview

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Introduction

This report presents performance results achieved by the Corporation for National and Community Service programs (“the Corporation”) in program year 2002-2003 (October 1, 2002 to September 30, 2003). The Corporation presents performance data on its programs annually; however, this is the first report offering comprehensive disaggregated performance data by state and program. The Corporation views this as an ongoing process of increasing the amount of transparency in our reporting of performance data, and plans to continue to work with program staff, the field, and other constituents to develop measures of performance that will continue to help us to improve the services we provide.

Who We Are

The Corporation for National and Community Service was established in 1993 to engage Americans of all ages and backgrounds in community-based service. The Corporation supports a range of national and community service programs, providing opportunities for individuals to serve full or part time or as part of a team. The Corporation works with governor-appointed State Commissions, nonprofit organizations, community-based organizations, schools, and other civic organizations to provide opportunities for all Americans to serve their communities.

The Corporation engages children and youth in tutoring, mentoring, youth development, and school-based service activities, including service-learning; strengthens disaster preparedness and relief efforts and public safety programs; addresses environmental problems in local communities and national parks; assists seniors and low-income families in meeting basic human needs, including housing, food, and support services; and supports programs to develop the financial assets of low-income families as a way out of poverty. The Corporation’s programs help to strengthen the capacity of small community and faith-based organizations that are closest to the communities in which service is delivered and seek to ensure that schools and other community institutions teach civic responsibility and instill democratic values. More importantly, the Corporation provides opportunities for millions of citizen volunteers to engage in meaningful service in support of the President’s Call to Service.

The Corporation engages citizens in service by supporting the activities of hundreds of community-based organizations and national nonprofits such as Habitat for Humanity, the American Red Cross, Teach for America, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, YMCAs, City Year, and the Catholic Network of Volunteer Service. In addition, the Corporation works closely with a number of other national nonprofits, such as America’s Promise and the Points of Light Foundation, that strive to strengthen national and community service.

The Corporation’s three major service programs are AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and Learn and Serve America.



AmeriCorps. AmeriCorps engages Americans of all ages and backgrounds in intensive, results-driven service. AmeriCorps*State and National and AmeriCorps*VISTA members serve with hundreds of local community-based organizations and national organizations like Habitat for Humanity and the American Red Cross. AmeriCorps*NCCC members serve in teams to meet community needs in partnership with nonprofit organizations and state and local agencies. After their terms of service, AmeriCorps members receive education awards that help finance college or pay back qualified student loans.



Senior Corps. Through the Senior Corps, Americans age 55 and older share their time and talents to help solve local problems. Seniors serve as Foster Grandparents, who work one on one with young people with special needs; as Senior Companions, who help other seniors live independently in their homes; and as volunteers with RSVP, meeting a wide range of community needs.



Learn and Serve America. Many schools are discovering the value of service-learning through projects that link education and service. Learn and Serve America supports programs in schools, colleges, and community-based organizations that engage youth and educators in service to meet community needs while improving academic, civic, and leadership skills. Learn and Serve America also promotes youth service through the Presidential Freedom Scholarships and the National Service-Learning Clearinghouse, the national source for service-learning information.

Together, these programs promote the ethic of service and help solve critical community problems in every state, many Indian tribes, and most U.S. territories. Each of these programs represents a public-private partnership and leverages resources by requiring recipient organizations to bring other private or public resources together in order to receive Corporation funding. As a result, hundreds of thousands of Americans are joining forces to address community needs in education, homeland security, housing, health care, environmental protection, and disaster relief.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

AMERICORPS

AmeriCorps*State and National

Created in 1993, AmeriCorps*State and National provides financial support through grants to non-governmental and government entities sponsoring national service programs that meet critical community needs in education, public safety and homeland security, health, other human needs, and the environment. One-third of AmeriCorps*State and National grant funds are distributed by a population-based formula to governor-appointed state service commissions, which in turn make grants to local nonprofits and public agencies. One percent of program funds are set aside for tribal entities, and one percent of program funds are set aside for U.S. territories. Roughly 25 percent of grant funds are awarded to national nonprofits operating national service projects in two or more states. The remaining grant funds are awarded to state service commissions on a competitive basis to fund local nonprofit and public entities operating local community service projects.

AmeriCorps*State and National grants are used by programs to provide administrative infrastructure and financial support for tens of thousands of Americans each year who provide intensive service to local communities across the country. The individuals who participate in programs funded by AmeriCorps*State and National grants are called members. They serve through nonprofits, public agencies, and faith-based organizations. They tutor and mentor youth, build affordable housing, teach computer skills, clean parks and streams, coordinate after-school programs, and help communities respond to disasters. In addition, they assist nonprofits in accomplishing more by helping to make effective use of volunteers.

AmeriCorps*VISTA

Authorized in 1964, AmeriCorps*VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) provides full-time volunteers to nonprofit community and faith-based organizations and public agencies to create and expand programs to ultimately bring low-income individuals and communities out of poverty. Each year, approximately 6,000 AmeriCorps*VISTA members leverage human, financial, and material resources to increase the capacity of thousands of low-income communities across the country to solve local problems.

AmeriCorps*VISTA sponsoring organizations absorb most of the costs related to project supervision and logistical support. The concept of self-reliance is fundamental to the AmeriCorps*VISTA program because sponsoring organizations must plan for sustainability by assuming the function of the AmeriCorps*VISTA member's role into the organization and community through planning for the eventual phase out of AmeriCorp*VISTA support.

AmeriCorps*National Civilian Community Corps

Modeled after the Civilian Conservation Corps, the AmeriCorps*National Civilian Community Corps (AmeriCorps*NCCC) is a 10-month, full-time, team-based residential program for men and women ages 18-24. The program's mission is to strengthen communities and develop leaders through national and community service.

Since 1994, more than 10,000 members have helped nonprofit groups provide disaster relief, tutor children, preserve the environment, build homes for low-income families, and meet other challenges. AmeriCorps*NCCC service is direct and team based. Members serve communities in every state at the request of local and state sponsors and receive training in CPR, first aid, and mass care.

AmeriCorps*NCCC members live and train at five regional campuses. Three of the campuses occupy closed military bases in Charleston, South Carolina; Denver, Colorado; and Sacramento, California. Of the two other campuses, one is based at a medical facility for veterans in Perry Point, Maryland and the other at a municipal facility in Washington, DC.

SENIOR CORPS

Through the Senior Corps, more than half a million Americans age 60 and older (age 55 and older in RSVP) share their time and talents to help solve local problems. Seniors serve as Foster Grandparents, who work one-on-one with young people with special needs; as Senior Companions, who help other seniors live independently in their homes; and with RSVP, meeting a wide range of community needs.

Foster Grandparent Program (FGP)

Since 1965, Foster Grandparents have provided aid, support, and service to children and youth with special needs in a variety of settings including schools, hospitals, drug treatment centers, correctional institutions, and Head Start and child care centers. They mentor children and troubled teenagers, model parenting skills to adolescent mothers, and care for premature infants and children with disabilities. In many cases, Foster Grandparents maintain an ongoing relationship with specific children for a year or longer. In other cases, such as that of Foster Grandparents assigned to a hospital pediatric ward where they help to comfort young patients, they serve a higher number of children for shorter durations of time.

Each year, more than 31,000 Foster Grandparents serve through a network of 338 local projects nationwide supported by Corporation and non-Corporation funds. These grantees in turn work with more than 10,000 community organization volunteer stations or volunteer placement sites, both faith-based and secular, that supervise the Foster Grandparents during their service.

Foster Grandparents serve according to weekly schedules ranging from 15 to 40 hours per week, during which they provide one-on-one service to children and youth. Foster Grandparents must be age 60 or over and must have incomes at or below 125 percent of poverty to receive the monetary stipend of \$2.65 per hour. In addition to the stipend, Foster Grandparents receive accident, liability, and automobile insurance coverage, if needed, during their assignments.

Senior Companion Program (SCP)

Since the establishment of SCP in 1974, Senior Companions have been assisting frail, homebound individuals, most of them elderly, with daily living tasks such as paying bills, buying groceries, and finding transportation to medical appointments, helping them retain their dignity and independence. They also provide companionship and support to their clients, many of whom are isolated and living alone. While some Senior Companions serve in community settings such as adult day care or respite centers, the overwhelming majority of Senior Companions serve directly in the private homes of their clients, where their care may provide respite for clients' family caregivers. Senior Companions receive ongoing training in topics such as Alzheimer's disease, stroke, diabetes, and mental health, and they alert doctors and family members to clients' potential health problems.

Each year, almost 17,000 Senior Companions serve through a network of 237 local projects nationwide supported by Corporation and non-Corporation funds. These grantees in turn work with more than 3,500 community organizations, both faith-based and secular, that are responsible for supervising and overseeing the services of the Senior Companions.

The Senior Companion Program, like the Foster Grandparent Program, provides persons age 60 and over with the opportunity to serve those in need. Companions who have incomes at or below 125 percent of poverty are eligible to receive an hourly stipend of \$2.65. Senior Companions serve according to weekly schedules ranging from 15 to 40 hours per week.

RSVP

Established in 1971, RSVP is a national network of 757 local grantees with more than 480,000 volunteers age 55 and over serving through a network of 65,000-plus nonprofit organizations and public agencies serving as placement sites or "volunteer stations." Their many activities include mentoring children, recruiting other community volunteers, coordinating blood drives, testing drinking water for contaminants, organizing Neighborhood Watch programs, and lending business and management expertise to community groups.

RSVP is a very flexible program. RSVP volunteers choose how, where, and how often they want to serve, and commitments range from a few hours a week to 40 hours per week, depending on the volunteers' interests and the agency's needs. The most frequently reported RSVP volunteer service schedule is four hours per week. RSVP volunteers are eligible to receive reimbursement for mileage and insurance coverage while on assignment, but do not receive monetary incentives or stipends.

LEARN AND SERVE AMERICA

For more than a decade, Learn and Serve America programs have committed themselves to developing America's tradition of volunteering by integrating service with school curricula, a practice known as service-learning. Learn and Serve America makes three-year grants to schools, institutions of higher education, and nonprofit groups to support efforts to engage students in community service linked to academic achievement and the development of civic skills. This approach to education improves communities while preparing young people for a lifetime of responsible citizenship. In addition to making grants, Learn and Serve America serves as a resource on service and service-learning to teachers, faculty members, schools, and community groups.

School-Based Programs

Schools may apply for service-learning funds through their state education agency (both formula and competitive funds are available through state education agencies). Grants also are made on a competitive basis to Indian tribes, U.S. territories, and nonprofit organizations. Schools use grants to work in partnership with local organizations to implement service-learning activities for students ages five to 17. Schools may also use funds for teacher training, program evaluation, or to support service-learning coordinators.

Community-Based Programs

Funds are awarded on a competitive basis to state service commissions and nonprofit organizations to plan, implement, expand, and replicate service-learning programs in local communities. Participants in these programs may include youth ages five to 17 who are not in school.

Higher Education Programs

Through a competitive grants process, the Corporation awards funds directly to individual colleges and universities or to higher education consortia to create and strengthen programs and courses that integrate community services with academic study. Grants support partnerships between higher education institutions and community organizations. Higher education institutions may also conduct research and evaluation, provide technical assistance, and supplement Federal Work-Study programs that focus on community service.

Overview

About This Report

The Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) requires federal agencies to develop long-term strategic plans that define goals and objectives for their programs, and annual performance plans that specify performance goals that will result in progress toward meeting the long-term goals of the strategic plans. The Act is intended to:

- Improve the public's confidence in the Federal government through accountability.
- Improve Federal program effectiveness and public accountability by promoting a focus on results, service quality and customer satisfaction.
- Help Federal managers improve service delivery.
- Improve congressional decision-making by providing more objective information on achieving statutory objectives, and on the relative effectiveness and efficiency on Federal programs and spending.
- Improve the internal management of the Federal government.

Terms and Definitions for National and Community Service Programs

In each chapter of the report, we list the definitions of terms that are specific to particular Corporation programs. The terms that are used more generally across the Corporation for National and Community Service are defined below.

Beneficiary. An individual, household, or community that is the direct recipient of goods, services or assistance provided by Corporation sponsored programs.

Community Organizations. This term includes community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, and governmental agencies (including schools) that participate in national and community service programs.

Community Volunteer. A community member who is recruited by and works with members/volunteers, but who has not formally joined any of the Corporation programs.

Current Population Survey (CPS). The Current Population Survey (CPS) is a monthly survey of about 50,000 households conducted by the Bureau of the Census for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In September 2003, CPS conducted a supplemental survey on volunteerism on behalf of the Corporation.

eGrants. Since 2002, eGrants has been the Corporation's online project application and management system.

Grantsbase. The Corporation's award tracking database from 1998-2002.

Non-Corporation Funding. Funding for projects that comes from a variety of sources other than the Corporation, including state and local government agencies, and private-sector institutions.

The aim of this report is to provide the reader with a summary of Corporation program and grantee performance during program year 2002–2003. In the pages that follow, the reader can find performance details on all of the Corporation’s programs. AmeriCorps programs are the focus of Section B, beginning with AmeriCorps*State. National maps provide the reader with a state-by-state comparison of AmeriCorps*State performance, followed by a performance profile for each of the 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. The section then offers descriptions and performance profiles of the various AmeriCorps*National Direct programs. We then turn to AmeriCorps*VISTA, where state-by-state performance is summarized in three national maps. Finally, the section offers profiles of each of the five regional campuses for AmeriCorps*NCCC. Section C focuses on Senior Corps, and provides state-by-state maps detailing the performance of the Foster Grandparent Program, the Senior Companion Program, and RSVP. Section D then turns to Learn and Serve America. In this section, the reader can find a two-page chart detailing subgrantee award amounts in each state, followed by a unique performance profile for LSA in each of the fifty states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. Finally, in the Appendix, the reader can find the source data tables for each of the programs profiled in this report.

As noted previously, the goal of the Corporation for National and Community Service is to engage Americans of all ages and backgrounds in community-based service. Maps and state profiles in this report thus offer an indication of the extent to which programs were able to meet this objective in each state. It is important to note, however, that variations in program performance between states may not be solely a reflection of program operation or organization. The Current Population Survey (CPS) is a monthly survey of approximately 60,000 households conducted by the Department of Labor that obtains information on employment and unemployment among the Nation’s civilian noninstitutional population age 16 years and over. A special supplement to the CPS collects information on volunteering, since volunteers are a significant source of labor in the United States.¹ As indicated in the map on the following page, rates of volunteerism vary significantly across states, from Utah, where more than 40% of the residents report engaging in any volunteer activity during the year, to Nevada, where the volunteerism rate is only about half that.² Thus, variations in enrollment or volunteering rates across Corporation programs *may* be a reflection of program performance, but may also be a product of these cultural differences in residents’ participation in community-based service.

End notes

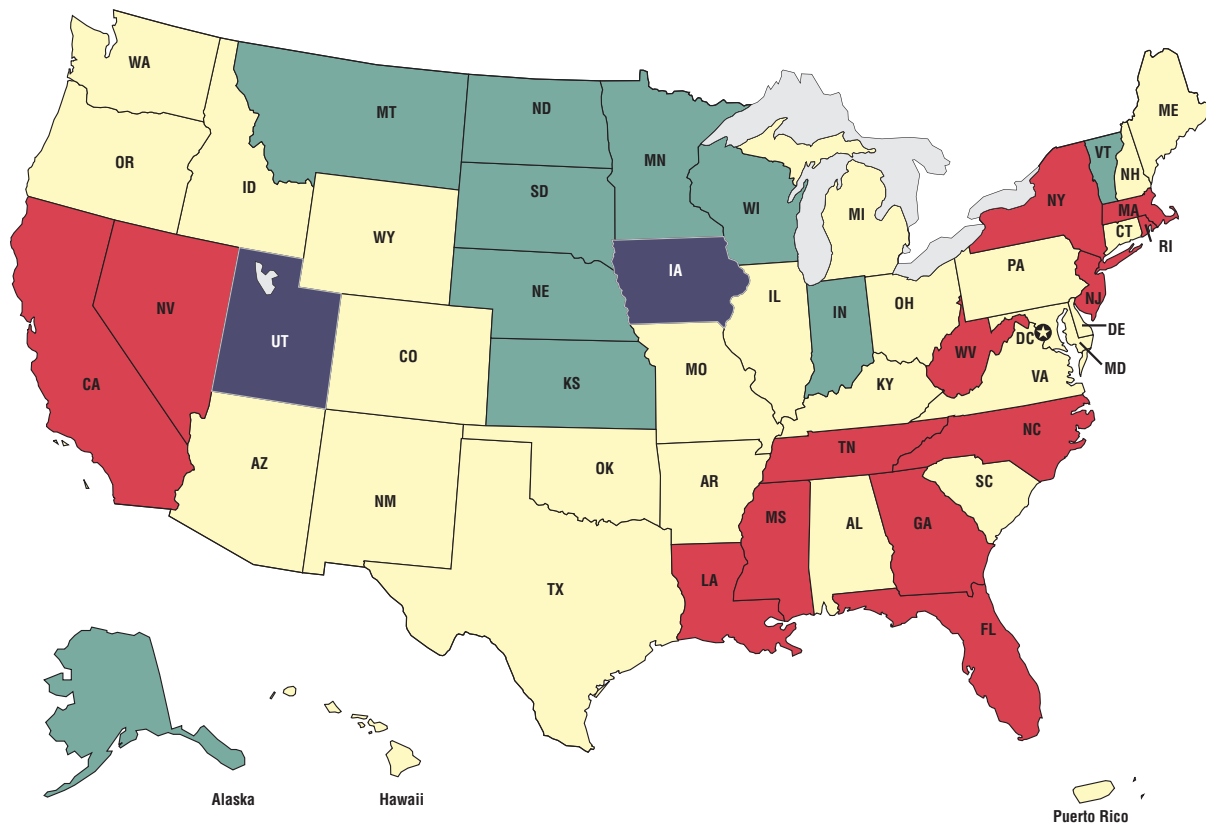
1 Boraas, Stephanie (2003) Volunteerism in the United States. Monthly Labor Review, August:3-11.

2 <http://www.pointsoflight.org/about/mediacenter/releases/2004/06-01a.cfm>

Volunteerism in the United States

Rates of Volunteerism among Individuals 16 and Older by State

This map provides an overview of volunteer rates across the nation.¹ According to the U.S. Census Bureau, from September 2002 to September 2003, 63.8 million people aged 16 and older did volunteer work at some point. Such volunteer efforts include—but are not limited to—volunteering through programs of the Corporation for National and Community Service. This represents a nationwide volunteer rate of 28.8% of the adult population, an increase of 1.4% from the previous year.² As is evident from these data, states vary greatly in the percentage of residents who engage in any volunteer efforts. Thus, the reader should bear in mind that maps in this report depicting state-by-state differences *may* indicate differences in program functioning, but may also simply reflect regional differences.



- 22% to 26% of state population engages in volunteering.
- 27% to 33% of state population engages in volunteering.
- 34% to 39% of state population engages in volunteering.
- 40% and above volunteerism rate.

¹ Points of Light Foundation Announces State Volunteering Rates. News release from the Points of Light Foundation <http://www.pointsoflight.org/about/mediacenter/releases/2004/06-01a.cfm>

² Volunteering in the United States, 2003. News release from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau. <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/volun.nr0.htm> (accessed July 12, 2004).