



July 2006

Opening Doors Newsletter

A publication to promote the inclusion of individuals with disabilities within AmeriCorps programs.

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Disability Inclusion Surveys

As surveys are being returned to the Office of Community Service, it appears that the number of individuals with disabilities in AmeriCorps* State programs is comparable to the workforce percentage at the national level.

I want to personally thank everyone who took the time to complete and return the surveys.

The following overview identifies the AmeriCorps program, number of members with or without a disability.

Program	Total # Survey	W/WO
Tech Corps	13	0/13
WORD	20	2/18
Con Corps	16	4/12
Con Corps	13	3/10
Con Corps	8	1/7
Con Corps	35	8/27
Con Corps	21	5/16
Con Corps	20	10/10
TOTAL	146	33/113

Detailed survey compiling all results to program directors and supervisors will be mailed shortly. If you have questions, please feel free to contact the Office of Community Service, Kathy Bean, (406) 444-5547.

Service Day Project

On May 31, 2006, the Silver Bow Developmental Disability Council, Office of Community Service, Montana Conservation Crops, People First and numerous other partners spent the day planting trees, removing fence, creating a drainage channel and planting sod to enrich the Belmont Senior Center.

The day provided an opportunity for individuals with disabilities to participate with AmeriCorps members and others in completing projects to benefit their community.

I would like to personally thank the Helena crew for their patience and commitment to this project. I would also like to encourage all programs to envision the possibilities of sponsoring a service day project(s) - inviting members of the disability community to participate.

I'm open to prospective suggestions for future service day events with individuals interested in making this vision a reality.

