

February 8, 2008

Dear Experienced AmeriCorps National Program Directors:

The Corporation for National and Community Service offers a variety of training and technical assistance to both new and existing grantees.

As we all know, training and workshops are very effective; but cannot compare to the power of learning from peers. For this reason, we offer AmeriCorps National Program Directors the opportunity to learn from mentors. We are requesting that you consider becoming a mentor. Your talents, skills, and experience will be invaluable in advancing their knowledge and understanding of their roles and responsibilities. Your mentorship will make a significant contribution to ensure their success, at home and in the national service field.

We know you're busy. We know you wear many hats within you own organization. Why, you might ask, would you want to take on another responsibility? Research in a variety of settings has demonstrated that mentors as well as mentees benefit from the mentoring process. Some of the benefits you might derive include:

- the opportunity to reflect upon and articulate your role.
- the opportunity to test new ideas and compare perspectives on your work.
- increased awareness of and responsiveness to AmeriCorps program issues.
- focused opportunities to hone your own coaching and consultative skills.

If you agree to become a mentor, there will be resources to guide you throughout this process. An orientation conference call for all mentor/mentee pairs will be available to begin the journey. Tools are available to help formulate mutual expectations and commitment, and to help you facilitate the mentoring process. Please review the attached criteria for mentors to get a fuller picture of what is expected in this relationship.

We hope you will accept this challenge and benefit from this opportunity. Please respond directly to your Program Officer if you are interested in serving as a mentor. Your program officer will follow-up with you and provide additional details. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lois Nembhard, Deputy Director
AmeriCorps*National

