

Helping All Americans Serve Their Country

Progress on the Obama Administration's Service Vision



President Barack Obama is deeply committed to advancing the role of service in addressing our national challenges and in making service part of the life of every American. Since taking office, the Obama Administration has made major progress on expanding opportunities to serve and in fostering growth, innovation, and impact in the service and voluntary sector. From passage of the landmark bipartisan Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act to approval of a historic funding increase to the launch of a national call to service, the Administration has achieved significant results and a new vision for service is taking effect.

The Administration's service and volunteer initiatives are led by the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency that engages more than five million Americans in service through Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America, and leads President Obama's national call to service initiative, United We Serve. Corporation CEO Patrick Corvington, confirmed in February 2010, is using his extensive experience in social entrepreneurship, capacity building, evaluation, nonprofit leadership, and performance measurement to lead the Corporation and the service movement to higher levels of innovation and impact, focusing service on addressing our nation's most pressing problems.

Guiding Principles

- **Service as a solution:** Identifying where service has an important role to play, targeting resources to tackle those issues, and better demonstrating impact.
- **Expanding opportunities to serve:** Connecting with citizens from all communities, backgrounds, and perspectives; providing easily accessible service opportunities to fit their needs; and engaging them in a lifetime of service.
- **Building enduring capacity:** Enabling individuals, organizations and communities to become more effective at addressing pressing challenges and better able to use service as a lasting solution.
- **Embracing innovation:** Investing in models that work, finding new ways of doing business, and serving as a source of ideas for local communities.

Ushering In the Next Generation of National Service

After receiving broad bipartisan support in Congress, the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act was signed by President Obama on April 21, 2009. The most sweeping expansion of national service in a generation, this landmark legislation reauthorizes the

Corporation and its programs, puts AmeriCorps on a path to grow to 250,000 positions by 2017, increases service opportunities for students and older Americans, focuses service on key national priorities, increases efficiency and accountability, and

strengthens our civic infrastructure by investing in social innovation, volunteer generation, and nonprofit capacity.

Implementation of the law is a top priority, and the Corporation has made excellent progress.

Supporting Economic Recovery through National Service

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funded 15,000 AmeriCorps members to serve in economically distressed communities. Members are providing job placement and financial counseling services, helping prevent foreclosures, weatherizing homes, strengthening food banks, expanding health and independent living

services, recruiting volunteers, and more. The Corporation acted swiftly to implement the law, swearing in the first AmeriCorps VISTA members two months after enactment and making AmeriCorps grants a month later, allowing help to get quickly to communities in need.

Calling All Americans to Serve

In June, the Corporation joined with the White House to launch the United We Serve Initiative, a challenge to all Americans to engage in sustained, meaningful community service to help in our nation's renewal and recovery. Americans have responded enthusiastically to the President's call, joining with friends and neighbors to replenish food banks, provide health services, support veterans and military families, restore public lands, and more.

The Administration worked with technology leaders to develop a volunteer matching tool for the **Serve.gov** website featuring more than 250,000 volunteer opportunities, and teamed up with top sports stars and celebrities including Jon Bon Jovi, the NFL, Major League Baseball, NASCAR, and MTV to promote volunteer service through public service announcements and volunteer events.

Investing in National Service

To implement the Serve America Act, the President proposed and Congress approved \$1.149 billion for the Corporation in FY 2010, an historic funding increase. The budget provides increases for each of the Corporation's existing programs, and funds new Serve America Act initiatives including the Social Innovation

Fund, Volunteer Generation Fund, and Summer of Service. President Obama's FY 2011 request of \$1.4 billion will continue this path of growth, innovation, and impact, expanding AmeriCorps to 105,000 positions and increasing other programs.

Strengthening Management and Impact

Management excellence is a top priority of the Corporation, and the agency's focus on management has yielded strong results including reducing the cost of AmeriCorps, achieving ten consecutive years of clean audits, getting Recovery Funds out quickly, strengthening technology, engaging more Americans in service, and embracing open government principles of transparency, collaboration, and participation.

The Serve America Act further strengthens management, cost-effectiveness, and accountability by consolidating funding streams, giving the Corporation more flexibility to support the best programs, expanding authority for fixed price grants to simplify application and reporting requirements; increasing competition across our programs, and establishing national performance measures.

Expanding National Days of Service

Fueled by then President-elect Obama's call to service, the 2009 King Day of Service was the largest in history, as more than a million Americans served in 13,000 projects across the country, honoring Dr. King by participating in

a national day of service at the dawn of a new Administration. The Corporation also led the first ever September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance.

More Information

To learn more about the Corporation or any of its programs, visit **NationalService.gov** or **Serve.gov** or call 202-606-5000.

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