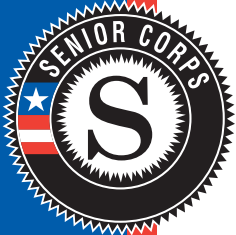


ISSUE BRIEF:

National Service Disability Grants and Activities



In keeping with our mission to provide opportunities for all Americans to engage in volunteering in order to foster civic responsibility and create a culture of service, the Corporation for National and Community Service is committed to the active participation of Americans with disabilities in all of our programs and initiatives. Thousands of people with disabilities serve as AmeriCorps members, Senior Corps volunteers, and Learn and Serve America students. In addition to integrating people with disabilities into all our core programs, the Corporation has several grant programs specifically aimed at disability inclusion. By statute, 1 percent of total funding appropriated by Congress to the Corporation for the National Service Trust, AmeriCorps Grants, and the Innovation and Evaluation budget activities must be set aside for disability grants. In fiscal year 2005, that amounted to \$4.47 million, the majority of which was distributed to state commissions on service and volunteering.

In the field of disability funding, the Corporation focuses its grant making on three primary areas: outreach; placement and reasonable accommodation; and training and technical assistance. In fiscal year 2005, the Corporation focused specifically on efforts to assist in the transition of young persons with disabilities from school to adult life, and to provide adults with disabilities—and particularly disabled veterans—the opportunity to engage in service. Following is a breakdown of key grant-making activities in these areas:

OUTREACH

- Annual grants to state commissions on service and volunteering for outreach to Americans with disabilities.
- Tri-annual open grant competitions for outreach to Americans with disabilities.

Since 2001, 16 grants have been awarded to organizations to develop outreach materials and models for increasing the

active participation of people with disabilities in national service. Grantees have included:

- The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, in partnership with SABE (Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered), and the Institute on Human Development and Disability at the University of Georgia.
- The Hampshire Education Collaborative, in partnership with the University of Massachusetts Amherst; WGBY-57 Public

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Television; school districts in Hampshire, Hampden, and Franklin counties; Massachusetts Department of Mental Health, Department of Mental Retardation; and the Massachusetts Department of Education Community Service-Learning Program.

- International Association of Jewish Vocational Services (IAJVS), in partnership with IAJVS affiliates in Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, St. Louis, and Washington, DC; Youth Service America; and Big Brothers/Big Sisters.
- Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH), in partnership with SHHH chapters nationwide.
- The West Virginia Commission for National and Community Service.

In 2005, outreach efforts were focused on youth with disabilities making the transition from school to adult life, and veterans with disabilities. Grantees include:

- ABILITY Awareness in partnership with Habitat for Humanity.
- American Association of Community Colleges.
- Points of Light Foundation in partnership with the AARP.
- Denver Options, Inc.
- The Tarjan Center of the University of California, Los Angeles.

PLACEMENT AND REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION

- Annual grants to state commissions on service and volunteering for placement of Americans with disabilities in national service programs, and for reasonable accommodation of AmeriCorps program participants.

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Three-year competitive grant to an expert organization to provide training and technical assistance to national service programs on elements necessary for the creation of

inclusive service environments that promote successful completion of meaningful volunteer service experiences. (Current training and technical assistance provider is the Institute for Community Inclusion of the University of Massachusetts/Boston and their partner, the Association of University Centers on Disability.)

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Corporation for National and Community Service provides opportunities for Americans of all ages and backgrounds to serve their communities and country through three programs: Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America. This year, more than 1.6 million individuals will participate in the Corporation's programs, helping thousands of nonprofit organizations, faith-based groups, schools, and government agencies build their capacity to meet critical local needs in education, the environment, public safety, disaster relief, and other areas. Together with the USA Freedom Corps, the Corporation is working to build a culture of citizenship, service, and responsibility in America.

MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about the Corporation or any of its programs, visit www.nationalservice.gov or call 202-606-5000 or TTY 202-606-3472.

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