

A Resource for Volunteer Centers



The Corporation for National and Community Service and its three main programs – Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America – have a long history of working with Volunteer Centers to meet the needs of nonprofit groups and to engage more Americans in service to their communities. Over the past six years, Volunteer Centers have received well over \$20 million in Corporation funding and have benefited from the contributions of more than 116,000 Senior Corps volunteers and 1,200 AmeriCorps members. In addition, a growing number of Volunteer Centers are connecting with Learn and Serve America programs.

SENIOR CORPS

Senior Corps taps the skills, talents, and experience of more than 500,000 Americans age 55 and older through three programs: **RSVP**, the **Foster Grandparent Program**, and the **Senior Companion Program**. Volunteer Centers have used Senior Corps resources in the following ways:

- Volunteer Centers received more than \$11.4 million in funds from Senior Corps from 1998-2003.
- Senior Corps funds supported between 18,000 and 22,500 each year at Volunteer Centers, or a total of 116,000 volunteers, from 1998-2003.
- 33 Volunteer Centers sponsored an RSVP program in 2003, with two of them also sponsoring a Senior Companion Program.
- Volunteer Centers received more than \$3.1 million in Senior Corps funds in 2003 to support more than 22,000 volunteers.

AMERICORPS

AmeriCorps helps nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and faith-based groups meet local needs through three main programs: **AmeriCorps*State and National**, **AmeriCorps*VISTA**, and **AmeriCorps*NCCC**.

AmeriCorps*VISTA is designed specifically to help build the capacity of nonprofit organizations through volunteer mobilization and other means. Volunteer Centers have used AmeriCorps resources in the following ways:

- Since 1998, Volunteer Centers have received at least \$10 million in AmeriCorps funding.
- From 1998-2003, the equivalent of more than 1,200 full-time AmeriCorps members served at or through Volunteer Centers, devoting more than 2 million hours of service.
- AmeriCorps*VISTA is supporting a new program in which 75 full-time VISTA members will promote volunteer recruitment and generation, non-profit capacity building, and faith-based and community outreach at 29 Volunteer Center locations across country.

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LEARN AND SERVE AMERICA

Learn and Serve America provides an "on-ramp" to a lifetime of civic engagement for approximately 1.8 million students each year by making grants to support service-learning, an approach to education that links community service to the development of academic and civic skills. Comprehensive data are not available, but recent partnerships with Volunteer Centers include:

- Through the Points of Light Foundation, 10 Volunteer Centers across the country are using a \$336,000 grant to pilot a civic participation curriculum that will be used by 30 Volunteer Centers. The implementation of the civic participation program with the Volunteer Center National Network will enhance the civic knowledge, skills, and participation of 6,000 high school-aged youth.
- Learn and Serve America has just announced a \$400,000 grant to support Youth: Ready to Respond, a homeland security-related program to help young people plan for and respond to emergencies and disasters through service-learning project. The grant, awarded through the Points of Light Foundation, will involve 10 Local Education Agency/Volunteer Center partnerships.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information on how your Volunteer Center can partner with Senior Corps, visit www.seniorcorps.org/partners/index.html.

For more information on how your Volunteer Center can partner with AmeriCorps, including AmeriCorps*VISTA or AmeriCorps*NCCC, visit www.nationalservice.org/partners/become/americorps.html.

For more information on how your Volunteer Center can partner with Learn and Serve America, visit www.learnandservice.org/about/index.html.

For general information about the Corporation for National and Community Service and its programs, visit www.nationalservice.org or call 202-606-5000.