



July 2002

## White House and CNCS Announce New Grants to Involve Volunteers in Homeland Security

To meet the President's goal of engaging Americans in the war against terror, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) has awarded \$10.3 million in competitive grants to help support recruitment of volunteers for local homeland security efforts. The new initiative will help 37,000 AmeriCorps and Senior Corps members and other volunteers nationwide to answer the President's Call to Service in the areas of public safety, public health, emergency response, and disaster preparedness.

The grants will support volunteer recruitment for a variety of local efforts, including developing disaster response plans, expanding Neighborhood



Governor Ridge announces the homeland security grants.

*"Many Americans have asked what they can do to help fight the war against terror. Volunteer programs across the country provide excellent ways to get involved. The homeland will be secure when our hometowns are secure."*

*-- Governor Tom Ridge*

Watch, disseminating information on bioterrorism, and training youth to cope with disasters.

For more information on these grants and possible involvement in grant activities, please [click here](#).

## Legislative Update: Citizen Service Act

A grassroots campaign is gathering momentum at the local level to support the Citizen Service Act. On July 16, 2002, Governors from all 50 states called on the House and Senate leadership to enact the Citizen Service Act. Strengthening the call of the President and the Governors for swift action,

organizations such as the Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Camp Fire USA, and the National Restaurant Association have also asked Congressional leaders to bring this important legislation up for a vote as soon as possible.

For more information on the Citizen Service Act, [click here](#).

## HHS Offers Grants to Develop Medical Reserve Corps Through Local Volunteers

HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson has announced that \$2 million in grants will be available to help local officials develop volunteer Medical Reserve Corps units to strengthen emergency medical response and public health infrastructure in their communities. Medical Reserve Corps units will be composed of community-led, community-based volunteers who may assist medical response professionals and facilities during large-scale local emergencies. Volunteers may include current or retired health professionals,

social workers, and clergy, among others.

Local communities can apply for up to \$50,000 in grants to develop their own Medical Reserve Corps units. For more information on how to apply, please [click here](#).



The Medical Reserve Corps is part of the USA Freedom Corps, President Bush's volunteer service initiative to promote a culture of service, citizenship, and responsibility.

### Opportunity for Local Non-Profit Organizations and Communities

AmeriCorps\*National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) helps local non-profits and other community groups meet urgent needs in the areas of education, public safety, environment, and disaster response through team-based service projects. And, they're available NOW to help your organization.

NCCC teams typically serve six to eight weeks on projects, and have a special interest in projects that increase the security and personal safety of vulnerable populations, especially at-risk youth and people with limited income. AmeriCorps\*NCCC is a national service program that provides full-time opportunities for young people to serve their country and help communities meet compelling needs.

To find out how an AmeriCorps\*NCCC team can help meet your goals, [click here](#). In addition, please feel free to contact Rodger Hurley, National Projects Director, at 202-606-5000, ext. 144.