



Results from the First National Study of Volunteer Management Capacity are Released

On February 19, the results of the first comprehensive study of volunteer management capacity in America's charities and congregations were released. The study, entitled "[Volunteer Management Capacity in America's Charities and Congregations](#)" was conducted by the [Urban Institute](#) and supported by the [USA Freedom Corps](#), the [Corporation for National and Community Service](#), and [The UPS Foundation](#).

The study highlights the current capacity of charities and congregations to utilize more volunteers, the challenges these organizations face in increasing their capacity, and the opportunities that exist to reduce those challenges.

Among the key findings:

- ✓ More than four in five charities that are large enough to be required to report to the Internal Revenue Service utilize volunteers.
- ✓ More than 90% of charities that utilize volunteers report that volunteers increase the quality of their service, reduce costs, and increase public support for their organization.
- ✓ More than nine in 10 charities and congregations report that they can absorb additional volunteers, with a median of 20 new volunteers. Extrapolating nationwide, this means that these organizations could

currently manage an additional 5.9 million volunteers.

[Click here](#) to view the complete results of the study, including a discussion of some of the challenges and opportunities raised by this study.

The study comes in the wake of [President Bush's Call to Service](#). He has urged Americans to spend 4,000 hours over the course of their lives serving their communities and country through volunteer service.

Americans have responded to the call. According to a [September 2003 Bureau of Labor Statistics study](#), 63.8 million Americans volunteered through formal institutions and organizations during the preceding 12 months – an increase of four million from the previous year's number.

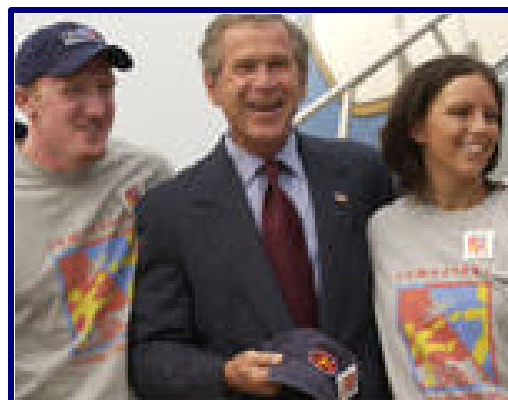
The study's sponsors hope to stimulate activity that will increase the volunteer management capacity of charities and congregations as well as raise awareness among private and public funding organizations regarding unmet needs. Comments on the significance of these results and the implications for organizations, policymakers, funders, and leaders will be solicited beginning March 1. Please visit the Volunteer Management Capacity Survey Online Dialogue at www.volunteerinput.org

Help Keep America Beautiful... On March 1, Keep America Beautiful will kick off the "Great American Cleanup," the nation's largest annual community improvement program, in New York City's Times Square. Throughout the spring, millions of volunteers nationwide will participate in local community improvement activities, from picking up litter to planting trees. President George W. Bush is serving as Honorary Chair of the initiative for the second consecutive year. [Click here to get involved.](#)

President Bush's 2005 Budget Would Engage Record Number of Americans in Service

In the President's FY 2005 budget request released earlier this month, he proposed a 9% increase in funding for the [Corporation for National and Community Service](#). The funding would allow more Americans than ever to meet community needs through serving in the Corporation's [Senior Corps](#), [AmeriCorps](#), and [Learn and Serve America](#) programs.

The proposed 2005 budget, which covers the fiscal year starting October 1, 2004, requests \$1.018 billion for the Corporation and its programs -- an increase of \$82 million over the fiscal 2004 enacted levels. The budget would support 600,000 senior volunteers, 75,000 AmeriCorps members, and more than 1.5 million youth in service-learning activities. [Click here for details.](#)



President Bush thanks students from the University of Pittsburgh for their volunteer service with [Jumpstart](#), a program associated with [AmeriCorps](#) that places college students in tutoring relationships with children in preschool programs serving low-income populations. The students with whom the President met were trained by an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer. (Aug, 2002)