

Governor's Advisory Board Talking Points

National Service in America

- AmeriCorps is a federal program which engages individuals to serve their communities.
- Members serve full or part time through community organizations and public agencies.
- Federal grants are provided to a network of local and national organizations and agencies.
- Programs address critical community needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment.
- AmeriCorps was founded in 1994.
- AmeriCorps is managed by the federal agency – the Corporation for National and Community Service.
- Since 1994, 900,000 AmeriCorps members have contributed more than 1.2 billion hours of service in America.
- AmeriCorps members mobilize 4 million volunteers annually.
- Nationally there are 75,000 AmeriCorps members annually engaging in intensive service at nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups.
- AmeriCorps includes AmeriCorps State and National, AmeriCorps VISTA, and AmeriCorps NCCC/Fema Corps.
- Other streams of service include Senior Corps, the Social Innovation Fund, and the Volunteer Generation Fund.
- These organizations and agencies, in turn, uses their AmeriCorps funding to recruit, place, and supervise AmeriCorps members nationwide.
- AmeriCorps members may serve full- or part-time over a period not to exceed 12 months. Full-time AmeriCorps members are given a living allowance; health care; childcare if they qualify; and become eligible for the [Segal AmeriCorps Education Award](#) upon successful completion of the program.
- 1 billion - Total number of hours served by AmeriCorps members since 1994
- 5.2 million - Number of disadvantaged youth tutored, mentored, or served by AmeriCorps members annually
- 4 million - Number of community volunteers managed or mobilized by AmeriCorps members annually
- \$480 million Value of cash and in-kind donations leveraged by AmeriCorps members annually
- 15,000 - Number of AmeriCorps service locations annually
- \$2.4 billion - Total amount of Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards earned by AmeriCorps members since 1994

National Service in Virginia

- AmeriCorps State is managed in Virginia by its State Commission – the Office on Volunteerism and Community Service, a state agency within the Virginia Department of Social Services.
- Grants assist these groups in recruiting, training and placing more than 720 AmeriCorps State members annually to meet critical community needs in education, economic opportunity, veteran and military family services, health, the environment, and disaster services across Virginia.
- Since 1994, more than **13,000** Virginia residents have served over **20 million** hours and qualified for AmeriCorps Education Awards totaling more than **\$41,110,000**.

- Who can apply for grants? State and local nonprofit organizations; Community and faith-based organizations; State, local, and higher education institutions; State and local governments; and U.S. Territories
- In exchange for their service, AmeriCorps members may earn an education award of up to \$5,350 that can be used to pay for college or to pay back qualified student loans.
- There are 27 AmeriCorps State programs for 2015-16 program year.
- In 2014-2015, nearly 6,400 people of all ages and backgrounds made a difference in communities serving at more than 560 locations across Virginia through AmeriCorps.
- In the 2014-2015 program year, the Corporation for National and Community Service committed nearly \$12 million to support Virginia communities through national service initiatives.
- In addition to the \$12 million, \$6 million was leveraged in member service hours and recruited volunteer time during 2014-2015. The combined impact makes more than \$18 million in human capital available to organizations helping others through volunteerism and community service.
- 590 - Number of AmeriCorps Members in 2014-15
- 168,726 – Number of Total Service Hours of AmeriCorps Members in 2014-15 (286/member)
- 7,919 – Number of Volunteers Recruited by AmeriCorps members in 2014-15

Volunteering in America

- The volunteer rate remained steady as **62.8 million** Americans volunteered **7.9 billion hours** last year. (2014)
- Based on the Independent Sector's estimate of the average value of a volunteer hour (\$23.07 in 2014), the estimated value of this volunteer service is nearly **\$184 billion**.
- 25.3% of residents volunteer
- 32.1 volunteer hours per capita
- The top activity for volunteering in the U.S. is fundraising with donations and food collection coming in second.
- 34% of U.S. volunteers donate time at a religious institution/church; 26% at educational institutions
- Volunteers have **27% higher odds** of finding a job after being out of work than non-volunteers, possibly due to developing new skills and expanding personal networks.
- **Generation X** had the highest volunteer rate of all age groups at 30%, but the **Silent Generation** (75 and older) had the highest median hours among volunteer at 100 while 1 in 5 **Millennials** volunteered in 2014.

Volunteering in Virginia

- **1 in 4** Virginians volunteered through an organization and **60 percent** helped their neighbors last year.
- This year, the number of volunteers serving organizations in Virginia **surpassed 2 million**.
- Virginians volunteered nearly **311+ million hours** last year, worth more than **\$7.8 billion**, based on the Virginia Employment Commission's estimate of the average value of a volunteer hour.
- Virginia's volunteer rate consistently remains stable and strong and the Commonwealth ranks in the top half of the nation's 50 states. (We currently **rank 18th**)

MLK Day of Service (January 18, 2016)

- Legislation was signed in 1983 creating a federal holiday marking the birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- In 1994, Congress designated the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday as a national day of service and charged the Corporation for National and Community Service with leading this effort.
- Taking place each year on the third Monday in January, the MLK Day of Service is the only federal holiday observed as a national day of service – a "day on, not a day off."
- The MLK Day of Service is a part of United We Serve, the President's national call to service initiative.
- AmeriCorps programs are required to participate in MLK Day of Service as one of three national days of service (which also include Mayor and County Recognition Day for National Service in April and 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance in September)
- To search for MLK Day events in your area visit: <http://www.nationalservice.gov/mlkday>

Mayor and County Recognition Day for National Service (April 5, 2016)

- Mayor and County Recognition Day for National Service was created to spotlight the impact of national service and thank those who serve.
- The initiative is led by the National League of Cities, National Association of Counties, Cities of Service and the Corporation for National and Community Service.
- 2016 marks the fourth year that mayors and county officials will participate.
- Mayors and county officials will hold public events and use traditional and social media to highlight the value of national service to the nation's cities and counties.
- Last year, 2,786 elected officials representing more than 150 million citizens participated.
- Mayors and county officials' focus on engaging citizens and meeting local needs matches CNCS's mission to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement.
- CNCS' priority on expanding economic opportunity to create sustainable and resilient communities directly aligns with the goals of county officials and mayors.
- A coordinated day of recognition presents a unique opportunity to spotlight the key role that national service plays in solving local problems and challenges.
- Participating in the day will highlight the impact of citizen service, show support for nonprofit and national service groups, and inspire more residents to serve in their communities.
- Last year in Virginia, 35 mayors and county officials participated. Counties/Cities included: Alexandria, Appalachia, Arlington, Berryville, Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Colonial Heights, Duffield, Edinburg, Floyd, Fredericksburg, Front Royal, Gate City, Glade Spring, Hampton, Jonesville, Lexington, Manassas, Middleburg, Middleton, Newport News, Norton, Parksley, Pennington Gap, Richmond, Shenandoah, St. Charles, St. Paul, Strasburg, Tazewell, Vinton, Virginia Beach, Winchester, Wise, and Woodstock.

9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance (September 11, 2016)

- September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance is the culmination of an effort originally launched in 2002 by 9/11 family members and support groups, who worked to establish the charitable

service day as a forward-looking way to honor the sacrifice of those who were lost and those who united in response to the tragedy.

- In 2009, Congress designated September 11th as a National Day of Service and Remembrance and charged the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) with supporting this effort across the country.
- As part of its leadership role, CNCS awards grants to organizations to support service activities on and around 9/11. In 2012, CNCS awarded grants to 21 organizations to develop and coordinate service and remembrance activities. For a list of grantees and partners, visit <http://www.serve.gov/sept11.asp>.
- A variety of free September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance resources for individuals and organizations are available at <http://www.serve.gov/sept11.asp>.