

General Talking Points

- National Service is a public-private partnership. The nominal annual investment of 1 billion federal dollars leverages an additional 1.26 billion in outside resources to increase impact and stretch the federal dollar.
- According to a Columbia University study, for every \$1 invested in national service, there are returns to society of \$3.95 in terms of higher earnings, more output, and community-wide gains. For every \$1 of taxpayer spending, there are returns to the taxpayer of \$2.20 in terms of higher taxes on output produced and lower spending on government programs.
- Voters overwhelmingly support funding national service. In October 2015, Republican firm TargetPoint Consulting conducted a poll of registered voters across nine presidential battleground states. The poll found that voters across the political spectrum overwhelmingly support investing federal taxpayer dollars to support national service programs.
- Decentralized control gives Governor appointed State Commissions the opportunity to allocate National Service resources as they see best for their communities.
- National Service offers pathways to employment. National service programs offer job training, skill-building and pathways to successful careers. Research shows that the workplace skills national service members acquire during their service terms make them more likely to be employed and to earn higher salaries over their careers.
- National Service supports many programs often not associated with the Corporation for National and Community Service; such as, Habitat for Humanity, Teach for America, and the Boys & Girls Clubs.

National Statistics

- 1 million individuals have served in AmeriCorps since 1994, serving 1.4 billion hours
- 3.3 billion Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards have been earned by AmeriCorps members
- 80,000 AmeriCorps members serve annually at over 21,000 service locations
- AmeriCorps members mobilized 2.3 million community volunteers last year.
- Annually over 78,000 individuals received job training through AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs
- Last year, more than 23,000 veterans served in CNCS programs as a second mission to serve
- Annually over 750,000 veterans and military family members were assisted by AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs
- Over the past five years, 16,000 national service members have responded to over 200 disasters
- AmeriCorps and Senior Corps members support nearly 12,000 schools across the country each year

State Statistics

- The annual federal investment of \$16.3 million to the Washington State Commission leverages \$18.5 million in local resources.

- Since 1994, more than 38,000 Washington residents have served more than 58 million hours and have qualified for Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards totaling more than \$138.6 million.
- 1,991 AmeriCorps members serve at 942 service locations
- Last year Serve Washington programs and AmeriCorps members:
 - supported nearly 16,000 students through AmeriCorps-supported education and academic support programs
 - supported over 5,000 military families and veterans through resource referral and support
 - mobilized 93,980 volunteers serving 929,481 volunteer hours valued at more than \$26.9 million
 - provided disaster relief services to 9,841 people and provide disaster preparedness training to nearly 50,000 people
 - provided health education services to over 12,000 people
 - restored over 6,000 acres of land and provided education and training on environmental stewardship to 26,179 people

Program Impact Examples

Washington Service Corps

Administered by the Washington State Employment Security Department, the Washington Service Corps (WSC) engages 567 AmeriCorps members in service throughout the state, including in rural, underserved areas with limited capacity and resources. The WSC's AmeriCorps members serve in all of the CNCS issue areas including: education, environmental stewardship, disaster services, economic opportunity, healthy futures, veterans and military families. In the past year, WSC AmeriCorps members provided academic support to 4,967 students. Of these students, 63 percent improved by at least one benchmark. AmeriCorps members also trained 49,775 individuals on disaster preparedness, more than 26,000 people on environmentally conscious practices, and nearly 13,000 people on health issues. They engaged 774 veterans in volunteer projects and days of service, with 86 percent of the veterans planning to return for additional volunteer opportunities. Over 3,000 individuals received job training skills with 65 percent improving workplace readiness skills.

Washington Conservation Corps

The Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) engages 285 AmeriCorps members in service to protect and restore the environment. The WCC is housed in the Washington State Department of Ecology and coordinates with the Departments of Natural Resources, Veteran Affairs, Fish and Wildlife, and State Parks for additional resources and funding. All together, the WCC partners with more than 50 local and federal organizations to accomplish environmental projects throughout the state. AmeriCorps members, who are young adults ages 18-25 and military veterans, serve in field crews and in individual positions. They plant native trees and shrubs, remove invasive species, and create or improve trails. In the past year, AmeriCorps members treated 1,419 acres of public and tribal land with over 740,000 plants surviving after one year. The WCC also operates an AmeriCorps disaster response team which responds to local and national disasters. Most recently, the WCC responded to Florida in the wake of Hurricane Matthew; Louisiana after record flooding; and Tennessee after intense wildfires.