

## AmeriCorps State and National FY 2014 Annual Plan

FY Appropriation: \$335,430,000

Target Member Level: 73,168

### Key Milestones:

- FY 2014 application deadline – January 22, 2014
- FY 2014 awards – May 2014
- FY 2015 NOFO release – Summer 2014
- Grantee Meeting – August/September 2014

### Funding Priorities:

AmeriCorps State and National will seek to fund programs in the following six focus areas that use an evidence-based approach to creating community impact and solving community problems, as envisioned by the Edward M. Serve America Act.

- Disaster Services,
- Education,
- Environmental Stewardship,
- Healthy Futures,
- Opportunity, and
- Veterans and Military Families

The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act requires CNCS to select at least two of five statutorily defined focus areas in making competitive AmeriCorps State and National grants. For the 2014 AmeriCorps State and National competition, CNCS especially seeks to increase its investment in programs that serve veterans and military families or that engage veterans in service, education programs that improve academic outcomes for children and youth in the lowest performing schools, disaster services, economic opportunities for community and AmeriCorps members, and Governor and Mayor Initiatives to address a pressing challenge in a particular state. In addition, AmeriCorps State and National will seek opportunities to fund projects that support The President's Task Force on Expanding National Service, through partnerships with other federal agencies and private sector partners.

National Performance Measures: Programs opting into the Priority Performance Measures will receive priority for funding.

Accountability: AmeriCorps State and National will continue to place a high priority on accountability and will devote significant effort and resources to oversight and monitoring to assure compliance with all applicable rules and regulations. Special efforts will be made to help partners and grantees implement performance

measurement and to comply with all administrative and financial reporting requirements.

Performance Measure Adoption and Implementation: For FY 2014, AmeriCorps State and National will make available to its grantees all of the agency's 16 priority measures and will continue to allow the use of the Complementary Program Measures adopted as part of its performance measure pilot initiative started in FY 2010.

## AmeriCorps VISTA FY 2014 Annual Plan

FY 2014 Appropriation: \$92,364,000

Target Member Level: 7,370

### Key Milestones:

- Program Guidance to CNCS State Offices and Field – Fall 2013
- Release of new AmeriCorps VISTA performance measures module – Winter 2013
- 35 to 40 Pre-Service Orientations at which new members will be trained and assigned – November 2013, January, February, April, May, June, July and August 2014

### Programming Priorities:

AmeriCorps VISTA was created with the purpose of reducing poverty and building economic opportunity. AmeriCorps VISTA members build the organizational and financial capacity of local programs that help low income Americans gain skills and resources they need to break the cycle of poverty.

AmeriCorps VISTA has identified the CNCS Strategic Plan focus areas, objectives, and performance measures that best correspond with the AmeriCorps VISTA anti-poverty mission. This year, AmeriCorps VISTA will prioritize the expansion of programming in support of National Guard members and their families and those programs that spur student interest in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education

Ultimately, CNCS expects to invest no less than 80 percent of AmeriCorps VISTA resources toward building the capacity of programs and organizations work in the following focus areas.

- Economic Opportunity (Housing\*, Financial Education, Employment)
- Education (School Readiness\*, Academic Engagement and Performance\*, High School Graduation, and Post-secondary Education).
- Healthy Futures (Food security\*, Health Access)
- Veterans and Military Families

Performance Measure Adoption and Implementation: AmeriCorps VISTA will seek projects that demonstrate the effectiveness of their proposed intervention in addressing community needs. In addition to measuring project performance in organizational and financial capacity building, AmeriCorps VISTA will additionally measure the value of the member's national service experience. Project sponsors are directed to align programming within the focus areas and priority areas listed above.

\*Agency priority measures

## **AmeriCorps NCCC FY 2014 Annual Plan**

FY Appropriation: \$30,000,000

Target Member Level: 1200

### Key Milestones: Campus Start Dates

- Southwest Region and Pacific Region Traditional – October 2013
- Southern Region, North Central Region, and Atlantic Region Traditional – February 2014
- Southwest Region, Pacific Region, Southern Region and Atlantic Region FEMA Corps – February 2014
- Southern and North Central Regions FEMA Corps - July 2014

### Funding Priorities:

The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act authorizes the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) to operate a national service program and other service programs that provide young people with leadership and team-building opportunities to meet national and community needs in the areas of: natural and other disasters, infrastructure improvement, environmental stewardship and conservation, energy conservation, and urban and rural development.

In order to successfully carry out the legislative mandates of the program while increasing program effectiveness and efficiency, the AmeriCorps NCCC has outlined key objectives and targets it will strive to meet in 2014 and beyond. These objectives and targets reference the impact of our service, the opportunities and training provided to our members, and overall program operations.

### AmeriCorps NCCC Service Projects and Special Initiatives:

In 2014, AmeriCorps NCCC project outreach and implementation will reflect a continued focus on the service areas as outlined in the Serve America Act to include: natural and other disasters, infrastructure improvement, environmental stewardship and conservation, energy conservation, and urban and rural development.

To further build upon programmatic strengths such as our residential design and intensive member training program, AmeriCorps NCCC will continue in its role as the agency's lead responders in times of disasters as well as expand project development into the areas of disaster preparation, mitigation and recovery. To allow for the increased engagement of AmeriCorps NCCC teams in the work of disaster response and recovery, AmeriCorps NCCC will continue its' partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to support the goal of an additional 1,600 AmeriCorps NCCC members, who will work solely in this service area their entire ten months of service. In 2014, Pacific, Southwest, and Atlantic

Regions will host their second class of AmeriCorps NCCC FEMA CORPS members and the Southern and North Central Regions will host their third class of members.

AmeriCorps NCCC completed in 2012-2013 a full year survey with our program sponsors. This survey assessed the satisfaction of sponsors with the AmeriCorps NCCC team abilities to meet the organization and community needs. Overall satisfaction was very high with 94 percent of all responding sponsors (294) indicating that the AmeriCorps NCCC engagement with their organization met or exceeded project objectives. This will serve as the baseline as we move ahead.

#### AmeriCorps NCCC Members:

The Serve America Act mandates that AmeriCorps NCCC engage participants from economically, geographically, and ethnically diverse backgrounds. Additionally, AmeriCorps NCCC was directed to conduct outreach to increase participation of disadvantaged youth to a target enrollment of 50 percent by the year 2012. In 2014, we anticipate reaching the 40 percent mark accompanied by an aggressive strategy for keeping us moving toward the very ambitious goal. Although the AmeriCorps NCCC performs a significant amount of service that directly benefits youth from disadvantaged circumstances (including mentoring and tutoring) the intent of this directive is to engage young Americans from disadvantaged circumstances as AmeriCorps NCCC members. In order to meet this goal, AmeriCorps NCCC will continue to implement measures as outlined in the AmeriCorps NCCC Annual Recruitment plan, including:

- Expand AmeriCorps NCCC recruitment efforts by conducting outreach to organizations and institutions that support youth from disadvantaged circumstances;
- Collaborate with state and local corps programs to promote second year of service opportunities with AmeriCorps NCCC among their membership;
- Promote AmeriCorps Week and all National Days of Service as opportunities to introduce school-aged children to service and volunteering;
- Increase use of all social media outlets; and
- Expand the strategic use of the approximately 17,000 AmeriCorps NCCC alumni in recruitment efforts to increase the applicant pool for Corps Members and Team Leaders and aggressively promote national service.

#### Performance Measure Adoption and Implementation:

AmeriCorps NCCC will contribute to seven of the 16 agency-wide priority performance measures. The measures we support align with our statutorily defined issue areas of: natural and other disasters, environmental stewardship and conservation, energy conservation, infrastructure improvement, and urban and rural development.

## Senior Corps: RSVP FY 2014 Annual Plan

FY Appropriation: \$ 48,903,000

Target Volunteer Level: 252,000

### Key Milestones:

- FY 2013 continuation grants will be awarded non-competitively during quarters 2 and 3.
- Funds associated with FY 2014 continuation and extension grants: \$33,083,250
- Funds associated with the FY 2014 competitive grants: \$13,540,565
- RSVP FY 2014 Competition. Award grants beginning in March 2014. Awards will be made for:
  - Successful applicants for grants scheduled to be competed in FY 2014
  - Successful applicants for previously vacated geographic service areas that were part of the FY 2012 and FY2013 competitions.
  - Extensions of the current FY 2013 grants for RSVP incumbents unsuccessful in the 2014 competition, in compliance with the authorizing legislation.
  - Estimated total number of competitive, continuation and extension grant awards in FY 2014: 641

### Funding Priorities:

- Competitive and continuation grants fulfilling program priorities.
- Funding to begin a RSVP longitudinal study, to evaluate potential health benefits of volunteering in the RSVP program, including the impact on volunteers who are unemployed or who were involuntarily retired and are seeking employment.

### Performance Measure Adoption and Implementation:

The majority of the new RSVP standard performance measures reflect CNCS agency-wide priority and supporting measures, augmented by a number of program specific measures. CNCS will continue to require that all new grantees adopt subsets of the agency's priority performance measures to track and report their effectiveness and impact. CNCS anticipates that the concentration of programming in strategic focus areas, using priority performance measures, will be as follows:

- 70 percent of activities must occur within the Agency-Wide Priority and Complementary Program Performance Measures. RSVP grantees will also be required to identify a "Primary" Focus area. RSVP grantees must commit to reporting a combination of Agency-Wide outputs and outcomes related

- to the “Primary” Focus Area. The “Primary” Focus Area must account for at least 25 percent of the RSVP volunteers enrolled in the project.
- 30 percent of volunteers can be placed in community priority assignments that are outside the scope of the CNCS Strategic Plan.

Senior Corps began implementation of mandatory National Performance Measures in FY 2013. The competitive RSVP 2014 grants were required to adopt the RSVP National Performance Measures Requirements as part of the application process. Continuation grants, that were not competitive in FY 2013 and FY 2014, continued with the previously approved performance measures.

As grants are scheduled for competition in fiscal years 2015 and 2016, they will be required to adopt the National Performance Measures.

The chart below tracks the timeframe of National Performance Measures implementation:

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Percent of RSVP Portfolio to Compete and Adopt Performance Measures</b>
2013	32 percent of all projects implement national measures
2014	28 percent of projects adopt national measures for the 1 <sup>st</sup> time 60 percent of all projects implement national measures
2015	36 percent of projects adopt national measures for the 1 <sup>st</sup> time 96 percent of all projects implement national measures
2016	4 percent of projects adopt national measures for the 1 <sup>st</sup> time 100 percent of all projects implement national measures

## **Senior Corps: Foster Grandparent Program FY 2014 Annual Plan**

FY Appropriation: \$107,702,000

Target Volunteer Level: 29,000

### Key Milestones:

- FY 2014 renewal and continuation grants will be awarded non-competitively during quarters 2, 3, and 4. Quarter 2 funding was incremental, due to the CR and the timing of the FY 2104 final appropriation.
- Possible additional grant and/or non-grant activities, to be determined based on availability of FY 2014 funds.
- Estimated total number of grant awards in FY 2014: 313

Currently, all grants and Volunteer Service Years (VSYs) relinquished in any state are centralized for budget contingencies. Priority uses for centralized funding include: (1) seek replacement sponsors in geographic service areas vacated due to sponsor relinquishment, and (2) shift grant cycles of existing grants to the start of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter (July 1 start date) to reduce funding requirements in the early 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter (January) and to align with an optimal time for grants focused on education outcomes.

### Funding Priorities:

- Renewal and continuation grants fulfilling the statutory authority of FGP to place volunteers in assignments to serve children with special or exceptional needs.
- Funding to begin a longitudinal study of the potential health benefits for new Foster Grandparents.
- Funding first phase of planned evaluation of the implementation of national performance measures in FGP, using a recommended data collection instrument survey that will be used to measure gains in school readiness.

### Performance Measure Adoption and Implementation:

FGP performance measures are aligned with Strategic Plan Focus Areas, and the majority of FGP measures are subsets of agency-wide measures. For FGP, the focus is education, with a concentration on school readiness. The emphasis on education aligns with the Strategic Plan, as well as the purpose of the FGP program. Grantees will be required to concentrate 75 percent of their activities, as defined by VSYs in the education focus area. Twenty-five (25) percent of activities can be in program specific measures supporting child safety, welfare, and health.

Senior Corps began implementation of mandatory National Performance Measures in FY 2013. All renewal grants, which are entering the first year of a new three-year grant, were required to adopt the FGP National Performance Measures Requirements. As FGP grants renew in FY 2014 and 2015, the applicants will then be required to adopt the measures.

The chart below tracks the timeframe of National Performance Measures implementation:

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Percent of FGP Portfolio to Adopt Performance Measures</b>
2013	37 percent of all projects implement national measures
2014	28 percent of projects adopt national measures for the 1 <sup>st</sup> time 65 percent of all projects implement national measures
2015	35 percent of projects adopt national measures for the 1 <sup>st</sup> time 100 percent of all projects implement national measures

## Senior Corps: Senior Companion Program FY 2014 Annual Plan

FY Appropriation: \$45,512,000  
Target Volunteer Level: 14,150

### Key Milestones:

- FY 2014 renewal and continuation grants will be awarded non-competitively during quarters 2, 3, and 4. Quarter 2 funding was incremental, due to the CR and the timing of the FY 2104 final appropriation.
- Possible additional grant and/or non-grant activities, to be determined based on availability of FY 2014 funds.
- Currently, all grants and Volunteer Service Years (VSYS) relinquished in any state are centralized for budget contingencies. Priority uses for centralized funding include: (1) seek replacement sponsors in geographic service areas vacated due to sponsor relinquishment, and (2) shift grant cycles of existing grants to the start of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter (July 1 start date) to reduce funding requirements in the early 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter (January).
- Estimated total number of renewal and continuation grant awards in FY 2014: 177

### Funding Priorities:

- Renewal and continuation grants to existing SCP sponsors that will place volunteers in assignments that meet the statutory purpose of the program to support for adults in need of additional assistance to remain independent for as long as possible.
- Funding to begin a longitudinal study of the potential health benefits for new Senior Companions.

### Performance Measure Adoption and Implementation:

SCP performance measures are aligned with Strategic Plan Focus Areas, and the majority of SCP measures are subsets of agency-wide measures. For SCP, the focus is Healthy Futures – Independent Living. Additional program specific measures will capture the benefits to caregivers through respite. The emphasis on independent living aligns with the Strategic Plan, as well as the authorized purpose of the SCP program. Grantees will be required to concentrate 100 percent of their activities, as defined by VSYS in the Healthy Futures-Independent Living focus area.

Senior Corps began implementation of mandatory National Performance Measures in FY 2013. All renewal grants, which are entering the first year of a new three-year grant, were required to adopt the FGP National Performance Measures

Requirements. As SCP grants renew in FY 2014 and 2015, the applicants will then be required to adopt the measures.

The chart below tracks the timeframe of National Performance Measures implementation:

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Percentage of SCP Portfolio to Adopt Performance Measures</b>
FY 2013	32% of all projects implement national measures
FY 2014	23% percent of projects adopt national measures for the 1 <sup>st</sup> time 52% of all projects implement national measures
FY 2015	45% percent of projects adopt national measures for the 1 <sup>st</sup> time 100% of all projects implement national measures

## **Social Innovation Fund FY 2014 Annual Plan**

FY Appropriation: \$70,000,000

Key Milestones:<sup>1</sup>

- Notice of Funding Opportunity Release: Mid-February 2014 (tentative)
- Application deadline: Mid-April (tentative)
- Notification of funding decisions: Mid-August 2014 (tentative)
- Annual Grantee Convening: September 2014

Funding Priorities:

Focus Areas:

- Youth Development – Preparing America’s youth for success in school, active citizenship, productive work, and healthy and safe lives;
- Economic Opportunity – Increasing economic opportunities for economically disadvantaged individuals; and/or
- Healthy Futures – Promoting healthy lifestyles and reducing the risk factors that can lead to illness.

Collective Impact – SIF supports approaches to local challenges where a cross-sector coalition of local organizations identify a common set of challenges and evidence-based solutions, sets ambitious goals and works together to implement the solutions that must demonstrate their effectiveness.

Target Beneficiaries

- Opportunity Youth: young people between the ages of 16 to 24 who are neither enrolled in school nor participating in the labor market, and
- Traditionally underserved and underrepresented geographic areas and populations.

Performance Measure Adoption and Implementation:

The SIF is in the process of adopting five agency-wide priority measures; four related to impact on beneficiaries, and one related to implementing stronger evaluations. SIF programs will also report on SIF-specific measures such as non-federal cash resources raised and the total number of new beneficiaries served, as indicators of scaling.

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<sup>1</sup> NOFO-related dates are tentative because they are dependent on clearance by OMB and re-clearance internally.

**Subtitle H FY 2014 Annual Plan  
(Volunteer Generation Fund, Call to Service – MLK and 9-11 Days of Service)**

FY Appropriation: \$6,900,000

Target Member/Volunteer Level: Not Applicable

Key Milestones:

- 9-11 Day of Service
  - No new grant competition
  - Funds will be given to State Commissions to administer 9-11 and 20th anniversary activities in their state.
- MLK Day of Service
  - New grant competition
  - Applications due Spring 2014
- Volunteer Generation Fund
  - NOFA released May 2014.
  - Applications due July 2014.
  - Grants will be awarded competitively-September 2014.

Funding Priorities:

- 9-11 Day of Service: Commissions will plan and carry out direct service activities that honor those lost on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 and those who rose in service as a result of that tragedy. Activities in the portfolio may be part of a continuum of year-round service and contribute to advancing overall programmatic impact and organizational capacity. 9-11 service activities may be aligned with the 20th anniversary activities planned for September 12, 2014.
- MLK Day of Service: Grantees must competitively subgrant a portion of the federal funds to eligible organizations to plan and carry out direct service activities on Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend. Activities in their portfolio may be part of a continuum of year-round service and contribute to advancing overall programmatic impact and organizational capacity.
- Volunteer Generation Fund: Grantees must provide evidence that subgrantees have enhanced their capacity to fulfill the following requirements:
  - Engage local partner organizations that use volunteers in a collaborative process of planning and implementation for increasing the impact of volunteers in meeting critical needs
  - Provide relevant, competency-based volunteer roles and opportunities that attract and retain high caliber volunteers

- Develop the internal operational systems and financial management systems that will provide organizational sustainability

Program Performance Measures:

Goal 3: Maximize the value we add to grantees, partners and participants.

- a. Number of community volunteers recruited and/or managed by CNCS-supported organizations or National Service Participants.
  - 1. G3-3.1. Number of community volunteers recruited by CNCS-supported organizations or National Service Participants.
  - 2. G3-3.2: Number of community volunteers managed by CNCS-supported organizations or National Service Participants.
  - 3. G3-3.3: Number of organizations implementing three or more effective volunteer management practices as a result of capacity building services provided by CNCS-supported organizations or National Service Participants.

## State Commission Support Grants FY 2014 Annual Plan

FY Appropriation: \$15,038,000

Target Member/Volunteer Level: Not Applicable

### Key Milestones:

- FY 2014 partial awards – December 2013
- FY 2014 balance of award– April/May 2014

### Funding Priorities:

As required by the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, funding will be awarded on a formula basis to support State Service Commissions as they implement service as a strategy to address local problems, such as leading disaster response and readiness efforts, addressing high school dropout rates, increasing mentoring efforts, supporting persons with disabilities, and establishing volunteer centers, online matching platforms, and other systems to effectively engage citizens in service. Funds will also be used in their outreach to prospective AmeriCorps grantees, administration of grant competitions, oversight and monitoring of grants and programs.

In addition, Commission Administrative Grants will be used to cultivate high-performing organizations by strengthening their training and technical assistance, accountability, and grant oversight activities, as well as to support Administration initiatives such as The President's Task Force on Expanding National Service and the Governors and Mayors Outreach. For instance, for the President's Task Force on Expanding National Service initiatives such as School Turnaround AmeriCorps and STEM AmeriCorps, Commissions could be conducting multiple grant competitions throughout the year instead of one annual competition.

### Performance Measure Adoption and Implementation:

Performance measures are determined by each State Service Commission, based on their state service plan. Plans are reviewed, approved, and monitored by CNCS staff to ensure compliance and monitor progress.