

AmeriCorps State and National FY 2015 Annual Plan

FY Appropriation: \$335,430,000

Target Member Level: 75,569

Key Milestones:

- FY 2015 application deadline – January 21, 2015
- FY 2015 awards – May 8, 2015
- FY 2016 NOFO release – Summer 2015
- Grantee Meeting – July/August 2015

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 2015 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, environmental programs that are part of the 21st Century Service Corps, Governor and Mayor Initiatives to address a pressing challenge in a particular state, programming that supports the My Brother's Keeper Initiative, and multi-focus intermediaries that demonstrate measurable impact and primarily serve communities with limited resources.

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 2015, AmeriCorps State and National will continue to 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.

AmeriCorps VISTA FY 2015 Annual Plan

FY 2015 Appropriation: \$92,364,000

Target Member Level: 7,370

Key Milestones:

- Fall 2014: Program Guidance to CNCS State Offices and Field
- November 2014 – August 2015: 35-40 Pre-Service Orientations to train and assign new AmeriCorps VISTA members
- February 2015: AmeriCorps VISTA 50th Anniversary - National Solutions Summit in Washington, DC
- April – December 2015: Community Solutions Summits in selected cities
- December 2015: AmeriCorps VISTA 50th Anniversary – National Solutions Showcase in Austin, TX

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.

- Disaster Preparation and Long-Term Recovery*
- Economic Opportunity (Housing*, Employment, Financial Education)
- Education (School Readiness*, Academic Engagement and Performance*, High School Graduation, My Brother's Keeper initiative, and Post-secondary Education)
- Environmental Stewardship (Workforce Development, Energy Efficiency, Climate Resilience)
- Healthy Futures (Intergenerational Food Security*, Access to Health Care)
- Refugee Services (justice AmeriCorps)
- 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 2015 Annual Plan

FY Appropriation: \$30,000,000

Target Member Level: 1,200

Key Milestones: Campus Start Dates

- Southwest Region and Pacific Region Traditional – October 2014
- Southern Region, North Central Region, and Atlantic Region Traditional – February 2015
- Southwest Region, Pacific Region, Southern Region and Atlantic Region FEMA Corps – February 2015
- Southern and North Central Regions FEMA Corps - July 2015

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 2015 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 2015, 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 disaster preparation, mitigation and recovery.

AmeriCorps NCCC will continue its' partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to support the goal of an additional 1,000 AmeriCorps NCCC members, who will work solely in this service area their entire ten months of service. In 2015, Pacific, Southwest, and Atlantic Regions will host their third class

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

AmeriCorps NCCC conducts project sponsor surveys, which provide outcome evidence on the community impact of the AmeriCorps NCCC program model. The FY13 results show two primary outcomes of AmeriCorps NCCC projects. First, AmeriCorps NCCC service enhanced the capacity of the sponsoring organization to meet community needs. Second, collaborating with AmeriCorps NCCC expanded or enhanced the sponsoring organization's community impact. Ninety-five percent of the sponsors enhanced their ability to provide services, including increasing the number of people they could serve and the amount of service they could provide.

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 2015, we anticipate reaching more than 40 percent, 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 2015 Annual Plan

FY Appropriation: \$48,902,000

Target Volunteer Level: 245,415

Key Milestones:

- FY 2013 continuation grants will be awarded non-competitively with start dates in quarters 3 and 4.
- Funds associated with FY 2014 continuation grants: \$27,400,000
- Funds associated with the FY 2015 competitive grants and required extensions for incumbents that were unsuccessful, and where there is no successful applicant in the service area, as required under the competition rules: \$19,700,000
- RSVP FY 2015 Competition. Award grants beginning in March 2015. Awards will be made for:
 - Successful applicants for grants scheduled to be competed in FY 2015
 - Successful applicants for previously vacated geographic service areas that were part of the FY 2012, FY2013, and FY2014 competitions.
 - Extensions of the current FY 2014 grants for RSVP incumbents unsuccessful in the 2015 competition, in compliance with the authorizing legislation.
 - Estimated total number of competitive, continuation and extension grant awards in FY 2015: 656

Funding Priorities:

- Competitive and continuation grants fulfilling program priorities.

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 and 2015 grants were required to adopt the RSVP National Performance Measures Requirements as part of the application process. By the end of FY 2015, approximately 96 percent of all RSVP grants will operate under the National performance Measures.

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

Fiscal Year	Percent of RSVP Portfolio to Compete and Adopt Performance Measures
2013	32 percent of all projects implement national measures
2014	28 percent of projects adopt national measures for the 1 st time 60 percent of all projects implement national measures
2015	40 percent of projects adopt national measures for the 1 st time 96 percent of all projects implement national measures

Senior Corps: Foster Grandparent Program FY 2015 Annual Plan

FY Appropriation: \$107,702,000

Target Volunteer Level: 27,450

Key Milestones:

- FY 2015 renewal and continuation grants will be awarded non-competitively during quarters 2, 3, and 4. Quarter 2 will be funding incremental, due to the CR. Possible additional grant and/or non-grant activities, to be determined based on availability of FY 2015 funds.
- Estimated total number of grant awards in FY 2015: 313

Currently, all grants and Volunteer Service Years (VSYS) relinquished in any state are centralized for budget contingencies. There is also approximately \$3 million in available funds for permanent grant investments. Priority uses for centralized funding will be a competitive process to award a combination of new grants and augmentations to existing grants, limited to Tribal applications.

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.
- Compete and award Tribal grants and grant augmentations.

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. By the end of FY 2015, all FGP grants will operate under the National Performance Measures.

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

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

Senior Corps: Senior Companion Program FY 2015 Annual Plan

FY Appropriation: \$45,512,000

Target Volunteer Level: 14,150

Key Milestones:

- FY 2015 renewal and continuation grants will be awarded non-competitively during quarters 2, 3, and 4. Quarter 2 funding will be incremental, due to the CR. Possible additional grant and/or non-grant activities, to be determined based on availability of FY 2015 funds.
- Currently, all grants and Volunteer Service Years (VSYs) relinquished in any state are centralized for budget contingencies. There is also approximately \$900,000 in available funds for permanent grant investments. Priority uses for centralized funding include: (1) state-level competition in Alaska for a replacement SCP sponsor (the only state without an SCP grant); and (2) competitive process to award a combination of new grants and augmentations to existing grants, limited to Tribal applications.
- Estimated total number of renewal and continuation grant awards in FY 2015: 180

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.
- State level replacement sponsor competition in Alaska
- Compete and award Tribal grants and grant augmentations.

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. By the end of FY 2015, all FGP grants will operate under the National Performance Measures.

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

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

Social Innovation Fund FY 2015 Annual Plan

FY Appropriation: \$70,000,000

Key Milestones:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity Release: Mid-February 2015¹ (tentative)
- Application deadline: Mid-April (tentative)
- Notification of funding decisions: Mid-August 2015 (tentative)
- Annual Grantee Convening: September 2015

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.

Expand Access to Capital through Pay For Success

As part of the 2015 Congressional appropriations, SIF was given authority to use up to 20% of 2015 grant funds to implement a competition to test Pay for Success approaches. The PFS competition was designed to address limited availability of funds for planning, feasibility studies, deal structuring, and pipeline development, all of which have constrained growth of the field. In FY 2015, the SIF will continue this pilot using up to 20 percent of grant funds to invest in Pay for success projects. CNCS proposes to make the funds requested for the Pay for Success initiative available until the end of FY 2016 to provide CNCS with sufficient time to develop an effective mechanism for attracting high quality projects, ensure that Pay for Success

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

applicants have the time they need to put together robust applications, assess their likelihood of success, and distribute funds during the start-up of this initiative.

Start a Central Administrative Data Access Facilitator Pilot.

CNCS has requested \$4 million to fully fund a five-year pilot to facilitate SIF grantee's and subgrantee's access to high-quality administrative data. This data facilitation hub will serve as the conduit that aids all subgrantees in accessing data available across state and federal sources, which is a key aspect of evidence-based grant making but currently fraught with challenges. This initiative has the potential to reduce evaluation costs while simultaneously improving evaluation quality. It will also enhance CNCS's ability to assist subgrantees in reaching a moderate or strong level of evidence. If the proof of concept is successful, it could be replicated by other interested parties, and could serve as a model for reducing the cost of high-quality evaluations for nonprofit organizations.

Performance Measure Adoption and Implementation:

The SIF is in the process of clearing pilot performance measures, which include eight agency-wide measures and several that are SIF-specific. These measures were selected based on input from performance measure leads at CNCS, existing SIF grantees and subgrantees. The measures will provide us needed information for performance management and reporting ongoing intermediate grantee progress while we wait for specific evaluation data results to be released. We are also piloting collecting scaling and demographic information. Once cleared through the OIRA process as part of our larger Data Collection revisions, grantees will begin reporting on these measures in April 2015.

**Subtitle H FY 2015 Annual Plan
(Volunteer Generation Fund, Call to Service – MLK and 9-11 Days of Service)**

FY Appropriation: \$6,900,000

Key Milestones:

- 9-11 Day of Service
 - New grant competition
 - Applications due Spring 2015
- MLK Day of Service
 - New grant competition
 - Applications due Spring 2015
- Volunteer Generation Fund
 - NOFA released May 2015.
 - Applications due July 2015.
 - Grants will be awarded competitively-September 2015.

Funding Priorities:

- 9-11 Day of Service: Grantees will plan and carry out direct service activities that honor those lost on September 11th, 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.
- 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

Performance Measure Adoption and Implementation:

Performance measures for Subtitle H funds must include reports on the number of community volunteers recruited and/or managed by CNCS supported organizations and national service participants.

State Commission Support Grants FY 2015 Annual Plan

FY Appropriation: \$15,038,000

Target Member/Volunteer Level: Not Applicable

Key Milestones:

- FY 2015 partial awards – December 2013
- FY 2015 balance of award– April/May 2015

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, justice 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.