



## CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

### **Funding Highlights:**

- Provides \$1.05 billion for the Corporation for National and Community Service to support efforts to address national and local challenges. This includes:
  - Supporting the service of a record 114,000 AmeriCorps members across the United States, and encouraging people of all ages and backgrounds to serve; and
  - Investing in promising new approaches to major community challenges through the Social Innovation Fund, and continuing to allow the use of up to 20 percent of the funds for Pay for Success projects.

### **Reforms:**

- Incorporates the Senior Companion and Foster Grandparent models into AmeriCorps to achieve administrative efficiencies, increase competition, and more effectively engage older Americans in national service.
- Integrates RSVP, a program that supports senior volunteer opportunities, into the Volunteer Generation Fund to improve the Corporation for National and Community Service's ability to support older Americans in volunteer activities.

Through national service, volunteering, and other forms of civic participation, millions of Americans each year help to address the Nation's greatest challenges, accelerate economic recovery, and strengthen our communities. The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) provides opportunities for Americans of all ages to serve their community and country in sustained and effective ways, from tutoring at-risk youth to responding to natural disasters to building homes for low-income families. Many of the most creative solutions to America's challenges have been developed at the grassroots level in cities and towns across the Nation, where

citizens work hand in hand to make a difference. The Budget proposes \$1.05 billion for CNCS, which reflects the Administration's continuing commitment to providing opportunities for Americans to address local challenges through service.

### ***Invests in Community Solutions***

**Supports National Service.** The Budget supports a record 114,000 AmeriCorps members, 34,000 more members than projected for 2014. These members support the efforts of nonprofit organizations to address a wide range of critical

community challenges, from disaster response to homelessness to low-performing schools. The Budget encourages people of all ages and backgrounds to serve in AmeriCorps, and provides more positions for disconnected and low-income youth that can serve as pathways to higher education and employment. The Budget maximizes the total number of members by providing only the education awards and loan forgiveness benefits for programs in which another entity pays the full cost of the members' service stipends. The Budget uses these savings to expand opportunities for others to serve.

**Engages Older Americans in High-Impact Service.** The Budget simplifies and maximizes the impact of national service programs by transitioning the Senior Companion and Foster Grandparent models to AmeriCorps and expanding the Volunteer Generation Fund to support the most competitive RSVP grantees. These reforms will support an over 40 percent expansion in the number of AmeriCorps members and align and integrate CNCS's service and volunteering programs. The Administration continues to believe strongly in the value of engaging older Americans in addressing the needs of their communities and will preserve this commitment in its implementation of this reform. In 2015, the AmeriCorps program will surpass the goal of reserving at least 10 percent of member positions for seniors, as established in the 2009 Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act. This reform will continue CNCS's efforts to ensure that all national service programs are competitive, effective, and accountable for achieving results, which has become a central focus of the AmeriCorps program.

**Increases Capacity of Nonprofits to Support Volunteers.** The Budget provides approximately \$19 million for the Volunteer Generation Fund. The Fund will focus on strengthening the ability of nonprofits and other organizations to recruit, retain, and manage volunteers, especially senior volunteers. In particular, the Fund will support organizations as they help volunteers build skills and match volunteers with opportunities that take advantage of their existing skills.

**Invests in Evidence-Based and Innovative Solutions.** Nonprofits cannot seed and scale effective innovative solutions to critical national challenges without adequate capital to develop, evaluate, and replicate what works. The Budget invests \$70 million in the Social Innovation Fund (SIF) to test promising new approaches to major challenges, leverage private and philanthropic capital to meet these needs, and expand evidence-based programs that demonstrate measurable outcomes. The Budget continues to allow the use of up to 20 percent of SIF funds to support Pay for Success projects. Pay for Success models leverage philanthropic and private dollars to fund services up front, with the Government paying only after they generate results. This funding level also includes \$4 million for a pilot to improve grantee access to State and Federal administrative data. This investment has the potential to make it easier and less costly for grantees to track performance, conduct rigorous evaluation, and demonstrate measurable impact.