WHY VOLUNTEER & SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY?

Perhaps the first and biggest benefit people get from volunteering is the satisfaction of incorporating service into their lives and making a difference in their community and country. The intangible benefits alone—such as pride, satisfaction, and accomplishment—are worthwhile reasons to serve. In addition, when we share our time and talents we:

- Solve Problems
- Strengthen Communities
- Improve Lives
- Connect to Others
- Transform Our Own Lives

VOLUNTEER/SERVICE WORK AS A PATHWAY TO EMPLOYMENT

Per a report published by the Corporation for National & Community Service, volunteering helps individuals gain increased social connections, and increased skills and experience that lead to potential future job opportunities and employment.

- Volunteers have a 27 percent higher likelihood of finding a job after being out of work than non-volunteers.
- Volunteers without a high school diploma have a 51 percent higher likelihood of finding employment.
- Volunteers living in rural areas have a 55 percent higher likelihood of finding employment.

NEW MEXICO COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERISM

The mission of the New Mexico Commission for Community Volunteerism (NMCCV) is to engage citizens of New Mexico of all ages and backgrounds in community-based service. NMCCV:

- is administratively housed within the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions.
- is guided by a bipartisan board of Commissioners, appointed by the Governor.
- provides oversight and accountability for grants.
- leads volunteerism initiatives throughout the state.

As the designated State Commission on service and volunteering, NMCCV administers funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service to AmeriCorps State programs in New Mexico.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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www.dws.state.nm.us/nmccv
Phone: (505) 841-8474
Fax: (505) 841-8491

Find a service opportunity in your area: my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/publicRequestSearch.do

Revised 4/2016
**What is AmeriCorps?**

AmeriCorps programs provide opportunities for Americans to make an intensive commitment to service. The AmeriCorps network of local, state, and national service programs engages more than 80,000 Americans in projects around the nation each year.

Joining AmeriCorps is a way to put your idealism into action. As an AmeriCorps member, you can help make the world a better place: help children learn, protect the environment, or bring needed services to a low-income community.

There are opportunities in AmeriCorps for anyone who is willing to do something special, something unique, something exciting.

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**Who can serve?**

To be eligible to become a state AmeriCorps member, an individual must meet all of the following base criteria, as well as pass all required background checks:

1. Be a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or lawful permanent resident alien of the United States;
2. Be at least 17 years of age at the commencement of service unless the member is out of school and enrolled in a full-time, year-round youth corps or full-time summer program as defined the Act (42 U.S.C subsection 12572 (a) (3)(B)(x)), in which case he or she must be between the ages of 16 and 25; and
3. Have a high school diploma or an equivalency certificate (or agrees to obtain a high school diploma or its equivalent before using an education award) and who has not dropped out of elementary or secondary school in order to begin a term of service as an AmeriCorps member (unless enrolled in an institution of higher education on an ability to benefit basis and is considered eligible for funds under section 484 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, 20 U.S.C. subsection 1091), or who has been determined through an independent assessment conducted by the grantee to be incapable of obtaining a high school diploma or its equivalent.

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**AmeriCorps State & National**

AmeriCorps State and National supports and provides grants to a network of local and national organizations and agencies committed to using national service to address critical community needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment.

**AmeriCorps VISTA**

AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) provides full-time members to nonprofit, faith-based, and other community organizations, and public agencies to create and expand programs that bring low-income individuals and communities out of poverty.

**AmeriCorps NCCC**

AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) is a full-time, team-based, residential program for men and women ages 18-24. Members live on one of five campuses, located in Denver, CO; Sacramento, CA; Perry Point, MD; Vicksburg, MS; and Vinton, IA.

**Senior Corps**

Senior Corps offers a network of programs that tap the rich experience, skills, and talents of older citizens to meet community challenges.

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**At a Glance – Terms of Service**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Term of Service</th>
<th>Minimum # of hours</th>
<th>Minimum Living Allowance</th>
<th>Maximum Total Living Allowance</th>
<th>FY17 Education Award</th>
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<td>Full-time</td>
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**Are you ready to make a difference?**

National service and volunteering open the door to incredibly rewarding experiences – both for you and those you serve. But finding the opportunity that best suits your skills and expectations can make all the difference.

Most AmeriCorps members receive student loan deferment, and training, and may receive a living allowance and health insurance. After you complete your term of service, you will also receive a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award to help pay for college, graduate school, or vocational training or to repay student loans.

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