The Corporation supports volunteering and service in America through three interlocking strategies:

1. Meeting Critical Needs in Local Communities Through Service
2. Strengthening Communities to Engage Citizens Locally
3. Engaging Americans in a Lifetime of Volunteering and Service

Our Guiding Principles

1. Put the needs of local communities first.
2. Strengthen the public-private partnerships that underpin all of our programs.
3. Use our programs to build stronger, more efficient, and more sustainable community networks capable of mobilizing volunteers to address local needs, including disaster preparedness and response.
4. Measure and continually improve our programs’ benefits to service beneficiaries, participants, community organizations, and our national culture of service.
5. Build collaborations wherever possible across our programs and with other Federal programs.
6. Help rural and economically distressed communities obtain access to public and private resources.
7. Support diverse organizations, including faith-based and other community organizations, minority colleges, and disability organizations.
8. Use service-learning principles to put volunteer and service activities into an appropriate context that stimulates life-long civic engagement.
9. Support continued civic engagement, leadership, and public service careers for our programs’ participants and community volunteers.
10. Exhibit excellence in management and customer service.

What We Do

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Our Mission:

Improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering

Senior Corps consists of three programs—RSVP, the Foster Grandparent Program, and the Senior Companion Program—that tap the experience, skills, and talents of more than 500,000 volunteers age 55 and older to meet a wide range of community needs, from tutoring at-risk children to caring for the frail elderly.

AmeriCorps is a network of programs—AmeriCorps*State and National, AmeriCorps*NCCC, and AmeriCorps*VISTA—through which more than 70,000 Americans each year help meet critical needs in education, the environment, public safety, and other areas in exchange for an education award that they can use to pay for college or to pay back qualified student loans.

Learn and Serve America provides resources to support service-learning activities in K-12 schools, colleges, and community organizations throughout the country, introducing more than 1.5 million students each year to a lifetime of civic engagement.

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Other Key Programs and Initiatives

» Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service
» President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation
» President’s Volunteer Service Award
» Presidential Freedom Scholarships
» Challenge Grants, Next Generation Grants, and Disability Grants
» Faith-Based and Community Initiative
» National Conference on Volunteering and Service

To read the full Strategic Plan, visit www.nationalservice.gov
Since President Bush issued his call to service in 2002, nearly six million more Americans have begun volunteering in their communities to help meet critical needs, including responding to and preparing communities for disasters. In effort to continue that upward trend, we are committed to supporting faith and community-based nonprofit organizations as they develop the capacity to recruit and manage additional volunteers.

Educational institutions play a key role in guiding students to become responsible citizens. The Corporation is committed to using its resources strategically to help educational institutions at all levels increase volunteer and service-learning opportunities for youth.

While all children and youth can benefit from additional support, youth who grow up in severely distressed communities are more likely to be at risk of school failure, unemployment, criminal behavior, and persistent poverty. The Corporation plans to provide caring adults as mentors for youth from disadvantaged circumstances and to provide more opportunities for all of America's youth to serve their communities.

Engaging students in Communities

Baby Boomers are a highly talented, highly motivated group that can help solve some of our most challenging social problems, including helping seniors live independently. The Corporation plans to support communities as they capture the talents, skills, energy, and experience of Baby Boomers and older Americans to meet local and national needs.

Our Focus Areas for 2006-2010

For the five-year period 2006-2010, the Corporation for National and Community Service has identified four strategic focus areas where our programs are already leading the way and where we intend to make an even more profound difference. Each of these focus areas—Mobilizing More Volunteers, Ensuring a Brighter Future for All of America's Youth, Engaging Students in Communities, and Harnessing Baby Boomers’ Experience—requires that our programs and initiatives work together to achieve critical common objectives.

National Targets for 2010

Engage 75 million Americans in volunteering, up from 65.4 million in 2005

Mobilizing more Volunteers

Corporate Target for 2010

» Engage over 3 million children and youth from disadvantaged circumstances in service

» Engage over 2.2 million children and youth from disadvantaged circumstances in national service

Ensuring a brighter Future for All of America's Youth

National Targets for 2010

» Provide mentoring services to 3 million additional children and youth from disadvantaged circumstances, up from 2.5 million in 2002

» Engage over 3 million children and youth from disadvantaged circumstances in service

Corporate Target for 2010

» Engage 5 million college students in service, up from 3.27 million in 2005

» Ensure at least 50 percent of America's K-12 schools incorporate service-learning into their curricula

Engaging students in Communities

» Double the number of higher education institutions matching the AmeriCorps education award (received by AmeriCorps members for their service) or providing other incentives for volunteering

National Target for 2010

» Engage an additional 3 million Baby Boomers in volunteering, up from 25.8 million in 2005

Harnessing Baby Boomers’ experience

» Engage 500,000 Baby Boomers in Corporation-sponsored national service programs, as participants and recruited volunteers

» Provide 250,000 seniors support from Corporation-sponsored national service programs to live independently