

# Washington State Service Summit

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September 9, 2009

9am – 5pm

University of Washington HUB Ballroom

## **Summit Theme: “Service as a Strategy”**

Our country stands at the threshold of a historic expansion of service and volunteerism. The public demand for opportunities to address critical social and environmental challenges through service is greater than ever before. There is a growing consensus among business, government, community and faith organization leaders that no single sector of our society can solve these unprecedented challenges alone, and that service and civic engagement must be a core strategy. President Obama has made service a central focus, and Congress has passed landmark bipartisan legislation through the *Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act* that creates innovative opportunities and resources to expand our vision and increase our impact through service.

The Washington State Service Summit, the first of its kind in the nation since the *Kennedy Serve America Act* was signed into law on April 21, 2009, will provide an opportunity to bring leaders from all sectors of our state together to discuss the utilization of service and volunteerism as strategies to address critical community needs, and to collaboratively guide the future of the service movement. Participants will shape our State Service Plan and discuss how new partnerships can be developed and supported to fully utilize the talents of all Washingtonians.

## **Summit Goals:**

- Enable participants to acquire new knowledge to elevate service and volunteerism from something nice to a necessary fundable strategy that addresses critical community needs
- Highlight features of the *Kennedy Serve America Act* and *United We Serve* that will help support and promote local service initiatives
- Identify new ways service and volunteerism can be the means to engage more individuals to share their talents for the common good
- Provide opportunities to build new and expanded partnerships with organizations seeking to lead and support service initiatives
- Spark interest and build inertia to incorporate volunteer strategies into all service delivery mechanisms

## **Summit Participants:**

Summit participants will include approximately 500 leaders from nonprofit, business, government, education, philanthropy, and faith-based sectors. These individuals will have the opportunity to engage with local and national officials and experts in the field of service and volunteerism. Through a series of plenary sessions and interactive breakout groups, participants will collaborate with new and existing partners across all sectors to build innovative service strategies that help address critical needs facing communities in Washington State.