

Serving Communities Changing Lives

2007 Report



Washington Commission
for National and
Community Service

The Washington Commission for National and Community Service

State commissions administer national service programs to promote civic engagement and to foster the ethic of service, while meeting real community needs. Local community-based organizations, school districts, non-profits, faith-based organizations, and state agencies apply for AmeriCorps grants through their state commissions.

The Washington Commission for National and Community Service (WCNCS) was created in 1994 to implement national service initiatives, provide training and technical assistance, evaluate programs, and leverage federal dollars with local, state, and private sector resources. For 13 years, the Commission has administered approximately \$131 million in federal grants from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).



Our Programs

In 2007, 1,120 AmeriCorps*USA members served in education, environmental, public safety, human needs, and emergency preparedness and response programs funded by the WCNCS. In addition, more than 1,100 AmeriCorps*USA members and 200 AmeriCorps*VISTA members served in programs funded directly by the CNCS.

2007 AmeriCorps State Programs

- AmeriCorps Youth in Service – Community Youth Services
 - Clallam AmeriCorps
 - Cowlitz AmeriCorps Network
 - JustServe AmeriCorps
 - Kitsap Community Resources
 - Regional Service Corps
 - Retention Project
 - Snohomish County AmeriCorps
 - Spokane Service Team
 - Washington Conservation Corps
 - Washington Reading Corps
 - Washington Service Corps

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Investing in Communities and Lives



Adam Cornell, Governor Christine Gregoire and Bill Basl

As we experience rapid change in our lives, a constant and fundamental belief that we share, as a state and as a nation, is recognizing how often and in how many ways people step forward to assist others in need. I have seen this throughout my statewide travels and in communities hit hard by a variety of challenges. During the heavy flooding in southwest Washington in late 2007, we witnessed an enormous outpouring of volunteers assisting families in need. Well over 100 AmeriCorps volunteers were on the front line, going above and beyond what was required to lend a hand to individual families and to community organizations.

It is clear to me that investing in AmeriCorps pays off immediately. And we now have outside documentation that shows that AmeriCorps alumni become more civically engaged, are better prepared to succeed in education and employment, and are more likely to seek jobs in areas that focus on the public good. These state findings are consistent with a national study that looks at the lives of AmeriCorps members eight years after their service.

This past year, editors of the September 10th edition of Time Magazine chose national service as the featured topic and called upon leaders to focus on a “time to serve.” This is an exciting time to serve. We face some of the most challenging issues of our generation – in areas that include education, the environment, public safety, and around meeting the ongoing needs of our nation’s people.

Washington State has over 1,000 opportunities, the third largest in the country, for individuals to serve in virtually every county. We challenge you, or someone you know, to step forward, contributing a year of service to others. In doing so, you will become part of a unique lineage of service and volunteerism that is so essential to the framework of our communities and the basic ideals of our country.

Adam Cornell
U.S. Attorney’s Office-Western
District of Washington
Chair, Washington Commission for
National and Community Service

Christine O. Gregoire
Governor
State of Washington

Bill Basl
Executive Director,
Washington Commission
for National and
Community Service

AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps members in Washington State serve at a variety of non-profit and faith-based organizations, and state and local government agencies. Members serve in five national service priority areas: education, environment, human needs, public safety, and emergency preparedness and response. In 2007, their statewide accomplishments included the following.

Educating for the Future

- Tutored over 7,000 K-6 students through the Washington Reading Corps
- Facilitated the Roadmap to Civic Engagement, a seven-unit curriculum involving service learning with 820 youth

Building Prosperity

- Generated 45,000 community volunteers
- Mentored over 10,000 individuals, including over 200 children of incarcerated parents

Strengthening Families

- Provided services to over 6,600 disadvantaged children and youth
- Assisted with independent living services, including respite care, to help clients live independently in their homes in community-based settings

Protecting the Environment

- Restored and enhanced 157 habitat structures
- Provided environmental education to over 19,000 students

Protecting Health and Safety

- Prepared 130 AmeriCorps members for deployment in support of a local, state, or other disasters
- Responded to 27 local disasters, assisting more than 13,000 people

In 2007, AmeriCorps members in Washington State helped recruit 45,000 community volunteers who provided more resources to organizations and the people they assist. The value of these hours as determined by the Independent Sector is close to \$8 million.

AmeriCorps Education Awards

For 13 years, the Commission has administered \$131,742,583 million in federal grants from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).

Since 1994, more than 13,000 people have served in AmeriCorps programs in Washington. Education awards valued in excess of \$47 million were used to help cover educational costs during this same time period (as of April 2007).

* National Service Trust

Bridge to a New Beginning

Patti-lyn Bell took care of her mother in 1998 for the last seven months of her life. After her mother’s death, Patti-lyn knew she wanted to get back to work, but returning to professional corporate sales and marketing didn’t feel right. A friend called her about a volunteer program called AmeriCorps. “She and I both had thought this was for young college students only, and I was 51 years old at the time,” she recalls.

The description of the one-year stipend volunteer position with Inter-generational Innovations seemed to fit what she liked: working with and helping to connect seniors and young people. Patti-lyn was initially placed at the Seattle Mayor’s Office for Senior Citizens (MOSC).

As a Volunteer Coordinator for MOSC, “I had the privilege of successfully expanding Seniors (& Others!) In Service to Seattle, a volunteer matching program,” she says. “The greatest gift

to me was seeing connections made between the generations that grew into lifelong friendships – and between non-profits who needed dedicated volunteers to help them grow.”



When her AmeriCorps assignment ended, Patti-lyn continued in a temporary position with the City of Seattle, and in 2001 took a newly approved full time position as the Volunteer Programs Coordinator.

“AmeriCorps was my bridge to a new beginning,” she states. “I reach out to boomers and seniors regarding opportunities with AmeriCorps and Peace Corps. Working with people seeking volunteer opportunities is like an unfolding story, as many people aren’t sure what they want to do but during the course of an interview their true passions or desires become apparent.”

Citizen Corps

In January 2003, the WCNCS was designated by the Governor to be the Citizen Corps Council and administer program initiatives throughout the state. The WCNCS, with additional appointments from selected first responder, emergency management, and related entities, serves as the state council and supports increased state-wide preparedness by encouraging local communities to participate in programs under Citizen Corps. Citizen Corps Council also promotes the use of service and volunteerism to respond to all types of emergencies and disasters.

Good Work Leads to Full-time Employment

Brenda Lawlor served as an Individual Placement member with the Spokane Service Team's American Red Cross collaboration. She made such a positive impression during her two terms of service as an AmeriCorps member that Red Cross hired her as a full-time staff member.

Brenda wrote: "I was at the flooding in North Texas, over the 4th of July. While there, I worked as a disaster assessment supervisor. The local Chapter volunteers were tired, and happy to have new help. They didn't have very good maps for doing disaster assessment. They didn't know where or how to get new ones. I was able to visit the Assessor's office, and the Emergency Operations Center, and get brand new maps for the Chapter response, which helped get the services to the flood victims much quicker. I also gave the names of all the community partners that I worked with to the local Red Cross Chapter to help them get better connected in their community."



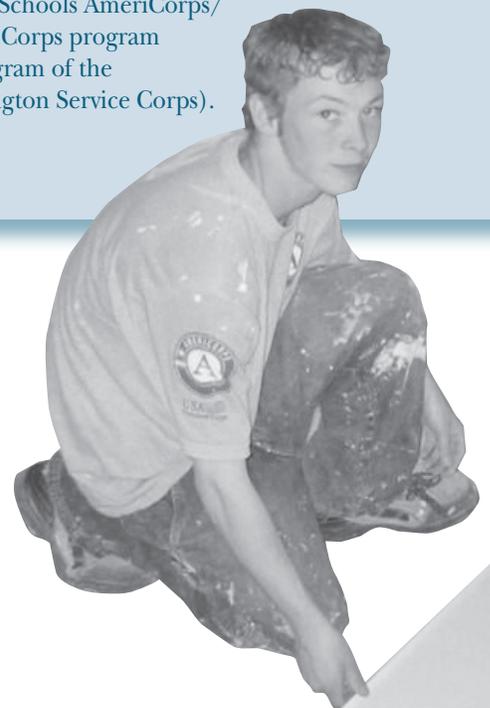
Student Receives First-ever "President's Volunteer Service Award"

Lillian Vancamp, a freshman at Shadle Park High School, received the "President's Volunteer Service Award" at the Washington State Emergency Management Conference in Spokane in September 2007.



"This is the first award to be given in the nation to a student who has been involved in the CERT program," remarked Susan Reinertson, the Director of FEMA Region X, who presented the award to Lillian. CERT (Citizens Emergency Response Training) is a national disaster preparedness program that trains local citizens to help in their community in the event of a disaster.

Not only did Lillian complete more than the 50 hours of service required for the award, she was also involved in a number of leadership roles at her school. Steven Bailey, President of the Washington State Emergency Management Association praised Lillian, and acknowledged the works of the Spokane Public Schools AmeriCorps/Ready*Corps program (a program of the Washington Service Corps).



Statewide Evaluation

In 2007, the WCNCs released results of two studies conducted in conjunction with Bea Boccalandro of VeraWorks, Inc. One study found that AmeriCorps readies members for educational and employment success. Analysis of pre- and post-surveys indicated that serving in Washington State AmeriCorps programs statistically increased participant readiness in following areas: confidence in their ability to obtain an education, responsibility for educational success, and an increase in basic work skills. A final area, responsibility for employment success, increased for members without a four-year college degree, who made up half of the respondents. As one survey respondent noted, the Washington AmeriCorps experience gave participants “more opportunities to go places.”

A second study found that AmeriCorps members gravitate to jobs in the public sector. The results suggested that participants of AmeriCorps in Washington State are more likely than other Washington workers to be employed in sectors focusing on the public good. These sectors are made up of organizations in government, healthcare, elementary and secondary education, and nonprofit services. The conclusion originates from a comparison of the in-state employment of Washington AmeriCorps 2001-05 participants to the employment of the overall employed population. Both reports are available on the WCNCs website at www.ofm.wa.gov/serveva.

AmeriCorps Launch

On October 25, 2006, approximately 800 AmeriCorps members and program staff gathered at the Seattle Center Fisher Pavilion to kick off the 2006-07 program year. Keynote speaker Congressman Jim McDermott discussed the importance of service to our nation and swore in the newest class of AmeriCorps members.



Northwest Leader Corps

The Northwest Leader Corps is a training program for national service participants from Washington and Oregon. Each year, 30 participants with leadership potential benefit from the multi-day, intensive personal development workshop in facilitation, planning, coaching, diversity, and teamwork. Training sessions took place November 12-16, 2006, and February 5-7, 2007. Leader Corps members apply the newly required skills back at their service sites, share elements of the training with their teams, and address unmet needs in their communities.

“Governor’s Volunteer Service Awards”

On April 16, 2007, Governor Gregoire and First Gentleman Mike Gregoire hosted the third annual “Governor’s Volunteer Service Awards” in conjunction with National Volunteer Week. Organizations from across the state nominated community volunteers who represent the best qualities of the many individuals who serve their communities. Forty volunteers and one business were recognized.



The ceremony was broadcast statewide on TVW, the state’s public affairs network. Through the statewide broadcast, there was potential for households across the state to become exposed to the recognition event. This was the second year in which TVW has been a vehicle to increase visibility and public awareness for AmeriCorps and volunteerism.

Northwest Service Symposium

On May 14-15, 2007, approximately 300 national service members attended the 12th annual Northwest Symposium held at Portland State University in Portland. Each year, members from across Oregon and Washington transform their service experiences into writing, art, and performances. Genres include service stories (short creative nonfiction pieces inspired by service); poetry and fiction; visual arts (painting, sculpture, and photography); and performing arts (dance, video, and music).

Washington Celebrates National AmeriCorps Week

AmeriCorps members and alums from Washington State were actively engaged in the first-ever National AmeriCorps Week campaign. Governor Gregoire proclaimed April 13-20, 2007, to be AmeriCorps Week in Washington. Two members of the Washington Reading Corps were included in a CNCS-produced video that reflects the many ways that our members and project sponsors are addressing critical needs. "Heroes Wanted", a comic-style video projected by AmeriCorps Alums Josh Proehl and Kathy Young, was selected as the winner of the first-ever video contest sponsored by CNCS. The 60-second video tells the story of a young woman who wants to make a difference in her community but doesn't know how.

Leadership Forum for National Service Executives

For the last seven years, the WCNCS has partnered with the University of Washington Evans School of Public Affairs to offer a unique learning opportunity designed specifically for AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and Learn and Serve program staff. Students complete a three-course sequence leading to a certificate in non-profit management.

Participants gain skills in program design, budgeting, assessment, and leadership that are directly applicable to on-the-job challenges. They also share field experiences with, and gain important insights from faculty and fellow students. This year's session was held on June 18-22, 2007, and focused on program assessment. Kristin McSwain, Director of AmeriCorps State and National, attended the final day of the course and served as a consultant to critique the student's presentations related to increasing an organization's sustainability by conducting outreach to the baby boomer population. McSwain also helped present certificates of completion to attendees.

Pacific Rim Network

The WCNCS co-sponsored the Pacific Rim Network (previously known as the Northwest Network) on June 25-27, 2007, at Portland State University in Portland. The Northwest Network is a cross-stream event designed to meet the training and professional development needs of national service program directors and staff. This year's audience included Senior Corps directors from Alaska, California, Oregon, and Washington. The three-day event featured cross-stream issue sessions on topics such as recruiting and engaging volunteers, bringing baby boomers into national service, meeting the needs of disadvantaged youth, and an array of stream-specific skill-building sessions.



S e r v i n g C o m m u n i t i e s

The Washington Commission for National and Community Service has a long history of helping bring about change in communities through service activities. Hundreds of communities and organizations have benefited from the hard work of AmeriCorps members, and as a result the lives of many have been changed for the better.

Another benefit of these service activities is that the lives of the participants have been changed as well. Through helping others, many AmeriCorps members have learned the skills or gained the confidence that have led them to better lives – often while retaining a life-long ethic of service.

The following pages tell the stories of a few of the many who have benefited from Washington State AmeriCorps programs.

Learning to Learn

A Clallam AmeriCorps member described the experience of tutoring and engaging young children. “Let’s call this little boy ‘Mr. Fidget.’ He is a seemingly bright



first grader with a few problems sitting still and concentrating. When I could get him to glance at a book, in between jumping from chair-to-chair and table-to-table, he would

shout out the sentence he was supposed to be reading with some pretty good results. I felt that I had grabbed only about half of his attention and gathered from that, that he wasn’t particularly interested in our activity. What a pleasant and heart warming surprise I had when he dashed into his grandmother’s arms, who was there to pick him up, and I overheard him proudly proclaim that he read an entire book all by himself!”

~ Clallam AmeriCorps

Deployed in a Time of Disaster

When the Centralia and Chehalis areas were hit hard by the early December 2007 storm, the small town of Adna was devastated. The Cowlitz AmeriCorps Network (Longview) and the Washington Service Corps’ Cispus Learning Center (Randle) programs deployed 15 AmeriCorps members to deliver food and water to residents, clean a local church and Grange to be used as relief centers, and organize donations at the flood relief distribution center managed by the United Way of Lewis County. One week later, the dedicated AmeriCorps members returned to sort new donations of clothing; move heater meals; organize donations of toys, food, toiletries and furniture; and load vehicles of flood victims with needed supplies.

~ Cowlitz AmeriCorps Network



Kindling a Spirit of Service

Regional Service Corps member Brian Pope reflects: “The AmeriCorps experience has taught me so much about myself. I love to serve. I love to lead. I love



to make a difference. The greatest satisfaction I felt was when I saw goodness take over where only despair and difficulty was present. Throughout the year I have learned so much about my own habits, and how putting yourself in a not-so-comfortable setting can help you mature as an individual.

Many times I doubted myself and didn't know if my thoughts or abilities were an asset to my team. But as the year progressed, the head knowledge that I

had gained in school began to evolve into something greater. This year, experience was my teacher. It taught me that my community needs individuals to step out. Children need people to let them know that they care.

As with anything in life, if you don't learn from it, then it wasn't really worth your time in the first place. AmeriCorps has kindled a spirit of service inside me.”

– Brian Pope, Class of 2007, Regional Service Corps

Beats, Rhymes, and Hip Hop: Catalyst for Change

Kirby Grey uses beats, rhymes, and hip hop as a catalyst for positive change in her community. A Solid Ground JustServe AmeriCorps member, Kirby serves as Prevention Program Coordinator for the Washington Asian Pacific Islander Families Against Substance Abuse (WAPIFASA). She's teamed up with local hip hops artists from the Mass Line label to create the Katalyst Project – training youth in the Hip Hop arts as a meaningful alternative to violence and stagnation through personal expression.

Participants deal with many of the stresses youth commonly face in our culture. “There are drugs and alcohol and violence everywhere,” explains Kirby. Additionally, the youth grapple with issues specific to immigrant communities.

“We're so inspired by Kirby and this project at WAPIFASA,” says JustServe AmeriCorps Supervisor Tera Oglesby. “They're addressing violence and poverty at the root level, investing in the youth as activists and as agents for change. That's real prevention.”

~ JustServe AmeriCorps



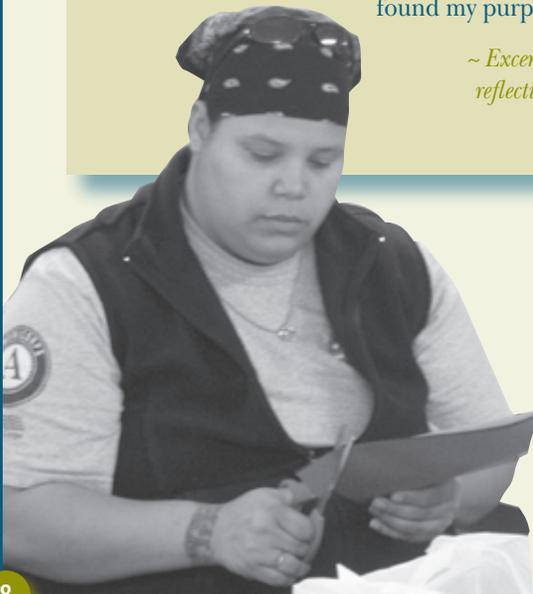
Finding a Purpose

Tre came into our program as a young woman in transition. Her recent history includes being a homeless teen and meth addict, as well as having anger management issues and little hope that she could move beyond her work in labor and food service. She entered AmeriCorps in order to give back to the community that has helped her, but did not expect that the experience would change her life so dramatically for the better. Tre has evolved into our most passionate, dedicated, goal-oriented member. This is a woman who recruited a host site for her second year of service because she wanted to gain experience in youth probation while serving as a member – so she found a way to do just that.

*~ Samantha Spitzer, Program Director
Snohomish County AmeriCorps*

“When I got here, I knew I wanted to be doing something else; what I didn’t know was that I wanted to live something else. I wanted to stand for my purpose. I have come to know so many amazing people through AmeriCorps. People who have bigger hearts than I ever knew existed; people fighting to empower youth just like I am. I went from someone who could be replaced at the drop of a hat to someone who was awarded a \$10,000 scholarship to study law. I have become a confident, powerful, and motivated person; from someone broken with no hope of a better life to someone living this AmeriCorps dream. So how has AmeriCorps changed my life? By experience, new skills, amazing networks, honest humility, and the process of stability. With all of these things I’ve found my purpose.”

*~ Excerpt from a
reflection by Tre*



New World of Possibilities

In 2001, Scott Florence was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. On the second day of 2002, he was laid off. “I still felt I had something to contribute, but how?” Scott recalled.



Scott Florence prepares meat for the grill at a barbecue he organized to thank community volunteers.

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation helped Scott go back to school, and offered job leads. That led to him serving as a coordinator in the first year of the Retention Project at Spokane Community College for Campus Compact AmeriCorps, where he matched college and high school students in mentor/tutor relationships. Since the project was new, Scott was free to be creative. As he looked forward to serving a second year, Scott remarked, “I have gained invaluable experience that has opened up a whole new world of possibilities. Thank you!”

~ Scott Florence, Retention Project

Building a House, Making a Home

May 18, 2007 was a day of celebration: the E. Euclid duplex in Spokane was completed with a dedication ceremony. More than 55 community members attended the event, an opportunity for the Spokane Service Team to express appreciation to the many supporters. The AmeriCorps members who built the house found additional inspiration in meeting the individuals and care providers who will make this house a home. Six, low-income, developmentally delayed adults moved in on June 1, 2007. Three are wheelchair bound, and all are appreciative of accessibility features, which will ensure the greatest possible mobility.



~ Spokane Service Team



In Came the WCC

The Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) was very active with emergency response activities. Over the winter, Washington State faced precipitation at a 500-year interval level, having major impacts on both sides of the state. On the western side, major flooding occurred. One hundred WCC AmeriCorps members responded to the communities in need immediately, filling and laying sandbags around homes and businesses most in peril – including a cell phone operation center, thereby preserving a vital source of communications during this time of need. As the floodwaters subsided, WCC members began the slow process of assisting citizens with the dirty task of cleaning up and “mucking out” their homes to allow them to move back in and regain their lives. Crews moved mud, stripped houses of carpets and drywall, and took waste and destroyed belongings to disposal sites.

In Eastern Washington, snow levels in and around Spokane were at record levels. Elderly and disabled citizens were trapped in homes. Some public school buildings were at risk to the snow loads on flat roofs. In came the WCC. Crews assisted homeowners to shovel out, allowing access to many who were unable to get out to buy food. Twenty members spent the best part of a week removing snow from Riverside School. Damage to the school was averted thus allowing the elementary students to get back to their classes with minimal delay.



~ Washington Conservation Corps

Getting a Sense of How to Serve

Elizabeth Rivera credits her experience in the Washington Reading Corps for her position as National Coordinator of Literacy*AmeriCorps with the Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council.



When Elizabeth left a big city in the east to serve as an AmeriCorps member at Warden Elementary by Moses Lake, her idealized view of a small town gave way to the realities of a dusty, rural farming area. She was sure that one year would be enough and was ready to go home. However, at the last minute, she applied for a VISTA Leader position, serving out of the Intermountain AmeriCorps office in Chelan.

“I absolutely loved my service,” Elizabeth remarked, “and it gave me a new sense of how I could serve, not so much in the traditional view of out in the field, but by giving others tools and resources so that they could recruit volunteers.”

Elizabeth eventually went back to Pittsburgh for her Master’s in Education. While finishing, she thought her AmeriCorps life was over, but saw an announcement for the Literacy*AmeriCorps position. “I have a chance again,” she told herself. Since getting the position, Elizabeth has developed a mini version of SERVES, and delights in empowering members to take leadership roles.

~ From an interview with former WRC member, Elizabeth Rivera

Building Literacy Through Family Nights

At Firgrove Elementary School in Puyallup, Washington Reading Corps members have taken full responsibility for planning and presenting up to four “Caldecott Nights” per year – an activity that increases awareness about the importance of literacy. With a growing number of children who speak only Spanish at home, the AmeriCorps members are providing a communication between the school and the parents.

Dinner is provided during “Caldecott Nights”, then members read aloud a selected story to the children and families. The children then participate in an art project while the parents attend a free English lesson. As they leave the event, each family can bring home the selected story. Children regularly ask the WRC members about the next “Caldecott Night”. They are excited about the event, about the books, and reading and learning.



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~ Washington Reading Corps

Charting a Career of Public Service

In 2007, Todd Dixon received Governor Gregoire's "Management in Leadership Award" for increasing employment outcomes for job seekers in the Puget Sound area. He is the Area Director for Washington State Employment Security representing Benton and Franklin counties.

Todd started his professional career as a Washington Service Corps member in 1984, serving a term with the Waterville Chamber of Commerce (in North Central Washington). "This was my first professional job, outside of my paper route in high school," he says. "I knew after this experience that I wanted to work in government, helping individuals and communities prosper."



"This Service Corps opportunity taught me to be accountable, how to give formal presentations, and how to communicate with stakeholders." Todd remembers living on a stipend of \$380 monthly. "It taught me budgeting real quick. However, those months paid off in the long run and got me on a track in public administration."



Tacoma Members Help Low-Income Receive Free Tax Preparation

Tacoma Housing Authority's AmeriCorps Team selected the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program as their community engagement project to bring a significant economic boost to the area's low-income families. Members conducted outreach, volunteer recruitment, and became certified tax preparers to help people who cannot prepare their own tax returns.

"Super Refund Saturday" was a one-day kick-off event that provided the free tax preparation, with an eye toward taxpayers who may be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit. Representatives from Key Bank were on site to offer no-minimum balance checking accounts and free financial education. Team members continued to support the site, serving 72 community members as of March 2007.

~ Washington Service Corps

One Race: The Human Race

At a Martin Luther King Day multi-cultural and diversity festival in the Tonasket High School commons, AmeriCorps members from Tonasket and Ferry County split into teams, selecting various countries from around the world through which to honor and educate others about cultural differences. Visitors were encouraged to have their "One Race: the Human Race" passport stamped after traveling to booths depicting art and culture from countries as diverse as Japan, Italy, Mexico, Australia, Israel, Ireland – and even the United States. The various nations in Africa were highlighted with a display celebrating the entire continent. Near the end of the three-hour bazaar, foods from differing cultures around the world were served in a global potluck.

"This celebrates Martin Luther King and all that he stood for," second-year Tonasket AmeriCorps member Otis Jacobsen said. After serving for two years, Otis went on to a VISTA Leader position with the Washington Service Corps.

~ Washington Service Corps



One Person Can Make a Difference

“When I first joined AmeriCorps, I wanted to make a difference and I thought that it wouldn’t hurt to be earning a little extra money for college. What I didn’t expect was the impact AmeriCorps had on me. Serving for a year (at Tenino Elementary School) really shined the light on how important it is to have a close community and that, yes, one person can make a difference. Not only did I help to better and change lives, my life also changed in my AmeriCorps service. I now have the friendships I have always wanted, the patience and organization it takes to get things done, and a lifetime of important skills that will help me in my future. I had such a positive experience with AmeriCorps that I decided to serve one more year. Thank you AmeriCorps!”

~ Kaitlin Gilkey, Youth in Service
Community Youth Services



The Need Is Still There

Joyce Davison has a long history of serving the community. She was a member of the Bremerton School District Board, and is a long-time member of the Lion’s Club. After a successful term as an AmeriCorps member at the age of 82, Joyce decided to serve a second year as a tutor at an elementary school where the staff and children love having her there. When asked why she still serves after so many years, Joyce replied, “The need is still there even if we do get older.” She also shared that it is more and more difficult to make ends meet on a fixed income, and AmeriCorps service supplements her income to the point that it makes living more comfortable.



~ Kitsap Community Resources

Putting AmeriCorps Skills to Use

A program supervisor with Kitsap Community Resources writes: “Throughout the program year we provide training in CPR, first aid, civic engagement, emergency preparedness, and Community Emergency Response Team. At times we wonder if the training really sinks in. An incident in July 2007 validated that it does.

“On July 23, AmeriCorps member, Tammy Pepi arrived home to the sounds of a gunshot and blood curdling screams. She called 911, stayed on the phone while she spoke with the people in the next apartment to ascertain if the gun was still there and inquired if it was safe to enter and assist.

“She entered the home, made sure it was safe, saw a man bleeding from the face from a gunshot wound, calmed the woman standing next to the man, applied pressure on the man’s wounds, simultaneously treating him for shock, and waited for emergency services to arrive. Her efforts allowed sufficient time for the wounded man to be transported to a local hospital where he survived.

Tammy’s heroic actions reflected highly on the AmeriCorps program and are a testament to her ability to “do the right thing under extreme pressure.” Her willingness to take personal action under such dangerous and uncertain circumstances demonstrates that the training she received was not only learned – but applied in the heat of the moment.”

~ Kitsap Community Resources



WCNCS 2007 Funding

The success of national service in Washington is aided by the wide range of financial contributions necessary to meet the critical needs of the state and to coordinate thousands of AmeriCorps members and volunteers. Local cities and counties have made commitments to identify needs in their communities and address them. For service programs to provide solutions to serious needs in the community, there must be ongoing support from local and state organizations. This will ensure national service is part of a long-term strategy to address those needs.

Local communities have been very supportive in providing funding and training, as well as books for students, building materials and technical support for low-income housing construction, safety equipment for environmental restoration and disaster response activities, and space for after-school youth activities.

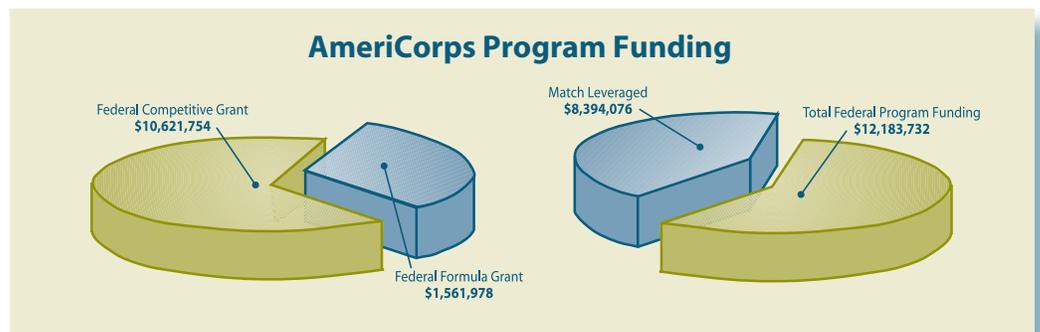
During the federal fiscal year ending September 30, 2007 (FY 07), the Washington Commission for National and Community Service received \$12,183,732 in federal funding to provide support for AmeriCorps*State programs across Washington. These programs included six State Competitive and six State Formula programs.

AmeriCorps programs also leveraged a total of \$8,394,076 in state, local, private, and in-kind match support – a total of 41 percent of the total program costs. Federal support is utilized primarily toward member living support and operational costs needed in maintaining an AmeriCorps program. The inputs are relatively small compared to the positive outcomes seen in communities.

The Washington Commission for National and Community Service also receives federal support to ensure the strong administrative oversight of the many AmeriCorps grant programs that it oversees, to ensure AmeriCorps members with disabilities have access to reasonable accommodation, and AmeriCorps program staff have program development and training opportunities and resources.

Of the total federal funding received for Commission costs, 63 percent was available for administrative support, 13 percent was earmarked for disability outreach and reasonable accommodation of grantees, and 24 percent was utilized for program development and training. Total federal funding for Commission-related functions is only 4 percent of the total federal funding that the state receives for both the AmeriCorps program and Commission administrative support. The Commission also leverages approximately \$377,752 in state cash and in-kind support primarily for administrative costs.

Citizen Corps efforts have been coordinated by the Washington Commission for National and Community Service since 2005 in helping promote personal responsibility in developing preparedness plans; training in emergency preparedness; and working with disaster relief, law enforcement, fire, medical, public health, and community service organizations in promoting volunteer service in times of emergency. Funding obtained by the Commission through the Department of Homeland Security totaled \$291,664 for 2007.



The Washington State Commission

Commission Vision Statement

Our vision for Washington State is vibrant and caring neighborhoods and communities strengthened and sustained through service and volunteerism.

Commission Mission Statement

We seek to expand the ethic of service throughout Washington State by inviting citizens of all ages and backgrounds to contribute their time and talents to strengthen and promote service and volunteerism as strategies for building healthy communities.

About the Commission

In February 1994, Governor Mike Lowry established the independent, bipartisan Washington State Commission for National and Community Service (WCNCS). The WCNCS is made up of Commissioners appointed by the Governor. The Commission implements AmeriCorps programs in Washington; sets priorities for results-oriented community service programs; provides training and technical assistance; evaluates programs; and leverages federal program dollars with additional local, state and private sector resources.

WCNCS Commissioners Serving in 2007

Adam Cornell	Chair, U.S. Attorney's Office-Western District of Washington
Eleanor Andersen	Vice Chair, Junior Achievement of the Inland Northwest (retired)
Terri Barbee	Washington State Employment Security Department
Alison Carl White	Seattle Works
Grace Chien	Girl Scouts of Western Washington
Federico Diaz	Blue Mountain Action Council
Peter Heinaru	Corporation for National and Community Service-Washington State Office
Brian Heinrich	Washington Campus Compact, Western Washington University
Peter Jackson	Henry M. Jackson Foundation
Beth Kelly	Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Denise Nichols	Selah City Council and City of Yakima Parks and Recreation Department
John/Juan Ramirez, Ph.D.	Washington State University
Rob Spath	Washington Conservation Corps
Chris Sullivan	Volunteer Center/RSVP of Lewis, Mason, and Thurston counties
The Honorable Axel Swanson	Cowlitz County Commissioner
Patrick M. Towner	Washington State Labor Council
Mary Wilkosz	Washington Mutual Bank
Krystal Wood	Youth Representative

Citizen Corps Commission Members

Terri Jones	Northshore Fire Department/King County Fire Department #16
Tami Kihl	Vancouver Fire Department
Mary Mapes	Inland Northwest Chapter American Red Cross
Scott Smith	Tulalip Tribal Police Department

WCNCS Staff

Bill Basl	Executive Director
Brian Lock	Assistant Director
Debbie Schuffenhauer	Associate Director
Denise Berns	Administrative Assistant
Tyler Ray	Citizen Corps Program Coordinator
Bruce Lehman	OFM/Governor's Office Accounting Unit
Mary Van Verst	Program Development and Evaluation Coordinator

Washington Commission for National and Community Service

For additional information,
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