



NATIONAL SERVICE & THE ARTS

Part of the Federal Resource Guide Series for Nonprofit Arts Organizations

SNAPSHOT

Resource Guide 9

2008

Legislation:

National and Community Service Act of 1993, incorporating both the National Civilian Community Corps (est. 1992) and the Commission on National and Community Service (created by the National and Community Service Act of 1990). Regulations are at 45 CFR Chapter XII and Chapter XXV.

Type of Assistance:

Volunteers and/or competitive grants administered by the Corporation for National & Community Service through Corporation State Offices, Governor-appointed State Service Commissions, and three regional campuses.

Who May Apply:

Nonprofit community organizations, schools, local government agencies, faith-based groups.

FY 2008 Appropriations:

Total Appropriations for the Corporation for National & Community Services, an independent government agency: \$856,331,000

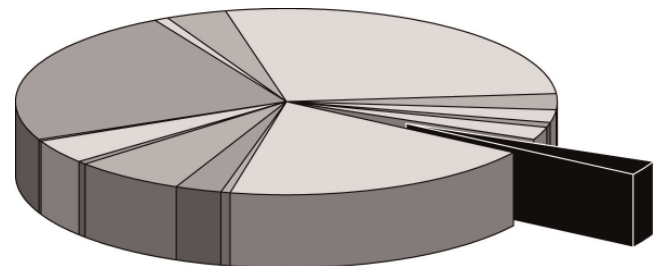
Appropriations Per Program:

Learn and Serve America:	\$37,459,000
AmeriCorps*NCCC:	\$23,782,000
AmeriCorps*State and National:	\$256,805,000
AmeriCorps*Vista:	\$93,800,000
National Senior Service Corps:	\$213,785,000

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FY 2008 Federal Budget



National Service



BACKGROUND

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNS) is an independent federal agency created to engage Americans of all ages and backgrounds in volunteer service through three umbrella organizations: AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, and Senior Corps. AmeriCorps consists of AmeriCorps*VISTA, AmeriCorps*State and National and AmeriCorps*NCCC, while Senior Corps consists of the RSVP, Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion programs. These service initiatives are administered by an extensive web of national and state offices, governor-appointed state service commissions, and regional offices.

The Corporation for National and Community Service can connect your arts organization with volunteers and financial support!

Nonprofit art organizations, schools, colleges, and local agencies are all eligible to receive volunteers and/or financial assistance from the Corporation for National and Community Service. Through a variety of service programs, grants, and special initiatives, CNS strives to enhance the capacity, effectiveness, and sustainability of community organizations that work to meet unmet community needs in education, the environment, poverty, the elderly, public safety, and health.

This year alone, CNS volunteers have created murals, poetry and dance with children from low-income housing, increased fundraising, public relations, and programming for a community art center, and brought the visual arts, dance, and theatre to the mentally and physically disabled and the elderly. Art organizations, college programs, local art agencies, public and private schools, and summer art camps have all benefited from the volunteer and financial support offered by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

To date, AmeriCorps programs have benefited over 2,000 nonprofit organizations, Learn and Serve America has connected with over 1,000 schools and higher education institutions, and Senior Corps programs have supported over 12,000 non-profit organizations.

To access CNS resources, art organizations should determine which CNS service program best matches their project and contact the appropriate administering office.

AMERICORPS

AMERICORPS

AmeriCorps consists of three programs: AmeriCorps*State and National, AmeriCorps*VISTA and AmeriCorps*NCCC. Full time AmeriCorps volunteers, referred to as “members,” receive a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award of \$4,725 to be used towards college, graduate school, or qualified student loans.

AMERICORPS (CONT.)

AMERICORPS*STATE AND NATIONAL

AmeriCorps*State awards grants through Governor-appointed State Service Commissions to projects operating solely within one state, while AmeriCorps*National offers grants to projects spanning multiple states and is administered directly through the Corporation for National and Community Service. AmeriCorps*State and National transfer responsibility to sponsor organizations to recruit, train, and place the AmeriCorps members as well as manage the member's living stipend payments. This decentralized method of disbursing volunteers and funds allows organizations and programs to have significant independence and responsibility. AmeriCorps members who serve through the AmeriCorps*State and National program may work part-time or full-time and may serve for a summer or one year.

In other words, the majority of AmeriCorps grant funding is passed down to the Governor-appointed State Service Commissions to be awarded through a competitive grant process to nonprofit organizations. In return, these groups recruit AmeriCorps members in community projects that address unmet needs in education, the environment, health, public safety and other relevant areas.

AMERICORPS*NATIONAL GRANTS

Community nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply for the following national grant programs:

AmeriCorps*National Direct Program

- Proposed project must address community needs in at least two states
- Grant recipient must have partner organizations in different states to oversee the local programs
- A portion of the grant monies must be applied towards AmeriCorps members' living stipend

AmeriCorps*National Planning Grants

- Awarded to organizations to assist with the development of an AmeriCorps program of national scope
- Planning grant monies may not be used to support the AmeriCorps member's living allowance

AmeriCorps' Three Programs:

AmeriCorps*State and
National

AmeriCorps*VISTA

AmeriCorps*NCCC



AMERICORPS (CONT.)

AmeriCorps*National Professional Corps Grants

- Awarded to programs that recruit and place qualified participants in professional positions such as teachers, early childhood development staff, and other professions that provide service to meet educational, public safety, human or environmental needs in communities with an inadequate number of such professionals
- Program must operate in more than one state

AmeriCorps*National Educational Award Grants

- Usually awarded to pre-existing service programs
- Program must operate in more than one state, unless sponsored by an institution of higher education or a state education agency

For more information on AmeriCorps*National Grants, please visit:

<http://www.americorps.gov/about/programs/national.asp>

http://www.americorps.gov/pdf/07_0517_nofa_ac_instructions_national.pdf

AMERICORPS*STATE GRANTS

Each State Service Commission offers a variety of unique grant programs. In order to learn about AmeriCorps*State Grants in your area, including specific guidelines and application requirements, contact your Governor-appointed State Service Commission: <http://www.americorps.org/about/contact/statecommission.asp>.

EXAMPLES: Arts Organizations with AmeriCorps*State and National Support

Community Art Corps, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD

AmeriCorps*State (2003-2007)

Community Art Corps (CAC) engages 19 artists (often MICA art students in the Masters Program in Community Art) in community, art-oriented service with youth and residents of disadvantaged neighborhoods. CAC currently reaches 15 Baltimore-based art organizations while requiring the student-artists to serve for a 10-month period, from mid-September to the end of July.

Past projects have included the creation of murals in vacant lots, expanding programming and administrative capacity at local non-profit organizations, filming a video about the voting and political process, and teaching teens the skill of animation, digital photography, and web design.

Through the Maryland Governor's Office of Service and Volunteers, MICA has been awarded the following AmeriCorps*State Competitive Grants:

2003-2004	\$50,000 Planning Grant
2004-2005	\$61,200 Formula Grant
2005-2006	\$155,967 Competitive Grant
2006-2007	\$237,930 Competitive Grant
2007-2008	\$238,811 Competitive Grant (preliminary amount, unconfirmed)

AMERICORPS (CONT.)

Arts on Grand, Spencer, IA AmeriCorps*State (2006, 2007)

Arts on Grand, home to the Spencer Area Arts Council, engages one AmeriCorps member to oversee the Summer Art Camp and the after-school art program, Art PM. Located on Main Street in Spencer's Historic District, Arts on Grand increases arts awareness through exhibits, classes, children's programming and by collaborating with other nonprofits in the area.

During the Summer Art Camp, the AmeriCorps members develop programs that invite children to experience art in nature. Past activities have included primitive pottery, animal sketching, cloud drawing, musical improvisation, and mural creation. During the school year, the AmeriCorps member designs and teaches after school community art classes.

The AmeriCorps program at Arts on Grand received Formula Funding as a sub-grantee of North West Iowa State AmeriCorps, housed at the Iowa State University Clay County Extension Office. North West Iowa State AmeriCorps

Rockingham Arts and Museum Project, Bellows Falls, VT AmeriCorps*State (2007)

The Rockingham Arts and Museum Project (RAMP) engages an AmeriCorps member to coordinate artists in community service projects and develop community art programs. The member serves part-time for 11 months. RAMP is a nonprofit organization that focuses on community art programs, cultural enrichment, and economic development through the arts.

RAMP receives their AmeriCorps members through the Vermont Community Stewardship Program at the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board.

AMERICORPS*VISTA

AmeriCorps*VISTA is administered by the Corporation State Offices and supplies volunteers to organizations with long-term projects that aim to alleviate poverty and help low-income neighborhoods and their residents. VISTA volunteers work full time for one year, perform indirect services such as marketing, development, project design, and general administrative activities. The AmeriCorps*VISTA program tends to award only volunteers, though some state offices may offer grant money as well. VISTA volunteers are required to work forty hours per week, may not have a second job, and may not provide direct services such as teaching.

Most AmeriCorps*VISTA programs do not have an application deadline, though it is wise to apply in advance of a Pre-Service Orientation. Contact your Corporate State Office for a Pre-Service Orientation schedule, to receive guidance on your proposed project, and for application information unique to your state. Locate your State Office by visiting: <http://www.americorps.gov/about/contact/stateoffices.asp>.



AMERICORPS (CONT.)

EXAMPLES: Arts Organizations with AmeriCorps*VISTA Support **KIC Program, Landis Community Outreach Center, Lafayette College, PA** **AmeriCorps*VISTA (2007)**

Started by Lafayette College students, the Landis Community Outreach Center oversees more than 25 community-service programs. One program in particular, Kids in the Community (KIC), engages an AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteer to design and implement summer and school-year programming. The KIC program involves hundreds of Lafayette student volunteers, five student-employees, and one AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteer.

KIC connects college students with children in the public housing district of Eaton, Pennsylvania through community art projects. Every day, at least ten student-volunteers visit the children of Eaton, working and learning with them to complete art projects. Some of the art projects include:

- A mural, designed and created by the children, in the public housing community room
- Drum circles
- Collage work
- Talks about art
- Spoken word events for 13 to 17 yr olds, encompassing poetry, performance, and dance
- Self-portraits created by 3 to 12 yr olds, culminating in a public showing on Lafayette's campus

In addition to the regular programming, the VISTA member oversees a four-day summer camp and special events with the After School Alliance and the Big Read: Lights on after School and Literacy Day. For these events, KIC partners with other student-run activity groups at Lafayette College to bring community children to read, develop plays, and celebrate the KIC program.

The AmeriCorps*VISTA program at Landis Community College is administered by the Pennsylvania Campus Compact.

Hamilton Hill Art Center, Schenectady, New York **AmeriCorps*VISTA (2007)**

Hamilton Hill Art Center engages four AmeriCorps*VISTA members to fulfill administrative needs in program development, grant writing, boutique sales, and public relations.

The Center introduces art to disadvantaged children as a means to encourage creative expression to deal with life challenges, productively direct energy, and increase self image. The center focuses on the art, culture, and history of Africa and African Americans and develops art programs to enrich the quality of life within the community.

AMERICORPS (CONT.)

VSA North Fourth Arts Center of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

AmeriCorps*State (2000-2007)

AmeriCorps*VISTA

For the past seven years, VSA North Fourth Arts Center has engaged up to 26 AmeriCorps members to serve as Artist-Teachers and Assistant Artist-Teachers. From designing a tile mosaic to recording and presenting the oral history of hospice patients, the Artist-Teachers use creative expression to enhance the lives of the mentally and physically disabled and the elderly. VSA North Fourth Arts Center further uses their black-box theatre and lobby-gallery to showcase theatre, dance, and the visual arts. More recently, an AmeriCorps member, serving as an Artist-Teacher, created a Radio Show with people with disabilities as part of the Art Center's program to empower the disabled to stand up and speak out. This program is in its second semester and will be traveling to Chicago.

VSA North Fourth Arts Center has been a Sponsor Organization for seven years, has successfully engaged an AmeriCorps*VISTA member to assist with fundraising and capacity building and just received an AmeriCorps*State Competitive Grant in the amount of \$220,610 to increase their volunteer spaces.

The AmeriCorps programs at VSA North Fourth Arts Center are administered by the New Mexico Commission for Volunteerism.

Arts and Education Project, Westcott Community Center, Syracuse, NY

AmeriCorps*VISTA (2005, 2007)

The Westcott Community Center for Arts and Education has engaged three to four AmeriCorps*VISTA members to enhance administrative duties in the areas of outreach, service expansion, resource development, volunteer development, community assessment and curriculum development. Further, the VISTA members have served as project coordinators and assisted with marketing and grant writing.

As of summer 2007, one VISTA member is coordinating the event, Project in the Park, a 10-week series pairing an art activity with a particular mission or theme. Examples of art activities include origami, papermaking, found object collage, clay tiles, mosaics, community murals, stain glass, button making and beaded works. Additional planning is underway for a winter carnival in the park, a community art gallery, and for senior and after-school projects.

AmeriCorps*VISTA members at the Westcott Community Center receive a living allowance of \$10,380 per year, health plan, child care (if qualified), loan forbearance, travel reimbursements, and the choice between an education award (\$4,725) or a stipend (\$1,200) at the completion of the service term of one year.

AmeriCorps*VISTA at the Westcott Community Center is administered by the New York State Corporation Office.



AMERICORPS (CONT.)

Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire, Littleton, NH AmeriCorps*VISTA (2007)

The Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire (AANNH) works to promote, support, and sustain the arts and heritage of rural northern New Hampshire. The VISTA member serving AANNH works with the staff to develop youth volunteer programs that aim to connect youth to their communities through art projects.

Rhode Island School of Design AmeriCorps*VISTA

The High School Student Initiative Program at the Rhode Island School of Design works to develop college preparation resources for under-represented, low-income students who are interested in studying art and design in high school and college. RISD engages the VISTA member to expand the quality and number of partnerships at schools and community art organizations, develop program evaluation tools, enhance college preparatory resources for students and parents, and recruit and train mentors. This AmeriCorps*VISTA program is administered by the Rhode Island Campus Compact.

Lincoln Arts Council, Lincoln, NE AmeriCorps*VISTA (2005-2007)

The Lincoln Arts Council engages one AmeriCorps member each year to assist full time with a variety of administrative, programming and community outreach tasks. In the past, AmeriCorps members have updated the website and event listings, developed databases, assisted with the Arts and Economic Prosperity study, coordinated venues for various art programs, and created and implemented new community art initiatives.

More recently, the AmeriCorps member assisted with Stories of Home, which placed one of twelve sculptures in a home or business for a two week period. Each sculpture was inspired by and based on a family living in Lincoln, Nebraska. The AmeriCorps member was responsible for overseeing the rotation of each sculpture, identifying and securing new locations, and acting as the liaison between the Art Council and the venue.

The AmeriCorps program at the Lincoln Arts Council is administered by the Star Cities AmeriCorps in Lincoln, Nebraska.

AMERICORPS (CONT.)

AMERICORPS*NCCC

AmeriCorps*NCCC is administered by three Regional Campuses and places AmeriCorps members, ages 18-24, in teams of ten to twelve to assist with relevant community issues. Projects tend to be short-term (three weeks – two months), with a focus on the environment, natural disasters, and poverty. NCCC volunteers commit to 10 months of service and travel in teams from one project to another. Examples of past NCCC projects have been to engage a team of volunteers to help low income individuals file their taxes, assist with the start of a summer camp (working with the marketing, development, public relations, and administrative duties), and rebuilding homes in New Orleans.

AmeriCorps*NCCC has application deadlines as where most AmeriCorps*VISTA programs do not. Contact your Regional Campus for more information on the application process at http://www.americorps.gov/for_organizations/apply/nccc.asp

Examples of arts organizations receiving support from AmeriCorps*NCCC are not readily available. However, art projects that may be eligible to receive a team of NCCC members may include the development of a summer arts camp, a community arts projects that assists victims of natural disasters, and a community arts projects that works to increase protection of the environment.

Endeavors that may be eligible to receive a team of NCCC members include:

- The development of a summer arts camp
- A community arts project that assists victims of natural disasters
- A community arts project that works to increase protection of the environment



LEARN AND SERVE AMERICA

Learn and Serve America engages students, from kindergarten through college, in community service activities through in-classroom learning. The program mainly focuses on schools and student volunteers, though nonprofit organizations, local agencies and Indian tribes may apply for specific grant programs.

Art organizations are eligible to apply for the following Learn and Serve America Grants:

For More Information on Learn and Serve America grants and intermediary organizations in your area, please visit:
www.learnandserve.gov

School-Based Competitive Grant

- Awarded to nonprofits that award grants to schools in two or more states
- Twenty grants offered in this category each year
- Proposed program links history, civics and service or deals with community, higher education and school partnerships

Community-Based Programs

- Awarded to nonprofit groups making grants to community-based organizations in two or more states and to State Commissions on National and Community Service
- Up to thirty grants awarded each year

Higher Education Programs

- Awarded to partnerships between higher education institutions and nonprofit organizations
- Up to seventy grants awarded each year

Learn and Serve America grants tend to be awarded to organizations that redistribute the funds to sub-grantees. Therefore, it may be possible for your organizations to receive a grant through an intermediary organization.

EXAMPLES: Arts Organizations with Learn and Serve America Support

Handbook Development on Arts Education

My Art... My World: A Handbook on Integrating Service Learning into the Art Classroom (2006)
by Raquel Kennedy Roy and Min Cho, Ph.D.

Florida Learn & Serve

Developed by Florida Learn & Serve, "My Art...My World," explores service learning in the art classroom. Based upon work supported by a Learn & Serve grant, the handbook outlines lesson plans for grades K-12 aimed at exploring relevant community issues through carefully designed art projects. Community issues addressed include hunger awareness, citizenship, multiculturalism, violence & drug prevention, senior expression, oral history, community beautification, wildlife protection and nature preservation.

Florida Learn & Serve is a project of the Florida Department of Education and Florida State University's Center for Civic Education and Service. The handbook is available in PDF at:
<http://www.fsu.edu/~flserve/resources/handbook/index.html>.

LEARN AND SERVE AMERICA (CONT.)

Community Art Projects and Disabled Populations ArtSouth and the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Florida Learn & Serve (2006-2007)

ArtSouth, a nonprofit community art center, receives Learn and Serve support to connect students and the residents of low-income, disadvantaged neighborhoods through community art projects. ArtSouth has partnered with the Miami-Dade County Public School District to train education majors, from the Miami-Dade College, to teach art to high school students. The high school students then enter the community and conduct art workshops for disabled children and adults, physically handicapped children, seniors in an assisted living facility, migrant children in an aftercare program and homeless pre-school children. The project received \$48,669 from Florida Learn & Serve for 2006-2007, affected 4,000 students and resulted in 200,000 Service Learning Hours.

Another program allows forty students, grades 9-12, to receive course credit in their current art class while being trained at the ArtSouth community center. Following their training, the students teach art techniques to local disabled populations including physically/emotionally handicapped youth and senior citizens. Art projects include textiles, painting, woodcarving, mosaics, and pottery. The project received \$4,910 as a Renewal Project through the Florida Learn & Serve program.

Playwriting Class at Southside Fundamental Middle School, St. Petersburg, Florida Florida Learn & Serve 2006-2007

Ninety-five students, grade 6-8, use reading, writing, visual arts, video, instrumental music and song to celebrate the voices and perspectives of the primarily African-American residents of Midtown St. Petersburg. Students interview local residents to create radio plays, and participate in productions of the plays at community venues. The project received \$5,350 for 2006-2007 as a Renewal Project Grant from the Florida Learn & Serve.

International Mural Project, Orange County, California California Learn & Serve (2004)

Students at the Santiago Creek Community School in Santa Ana, California created and exchanged murals with students conducting a similar project in Capetown, South Africa. Santiago Creek Community School serves students who have been expelled from the public school system. The international exchange mural project sought to reconcile some of the student's difficult experiences and connect them with another culture. In preparation for the mural, students studied South African government, apartheid and gained insight from guest speakers. The students researched Los Angeles muralist Judith Baca, traveled to visit her mural in the San Fernando Valley, and ultimately created a mural, entitled "Tree of Hopes." The mural was then presented to the South African students as part of the First Annual Amy Beihl International Youth Festival.

The project took place from January through July of 2004. Partners included the Amy Biehl Foundation, the Orange County Human Relations Council, Soka University, and local artists, with the teacher from ACCESS (Alternative, Community and Correctional Education Schools and Services) working to maintain the partnership.



SENIOR CORPS

Administered by the Corporation State Offices, Senior Corps engages Americans ages 55 and older in a wide range of community activities through three unique programs: RSVP, the Foster Grandparent Program, and the Senior Companion Program.

Senior Corps engages Americans age 55 and older in a wide range of community activities, such as service projects, service with disadvantaged or disabled youth, and service to elderly adults.

RSVP

The most flexible of the Senior Corps programs, RSVP allows volunteers to choose their hours and service projects while receiving on-duty supplemental insurance (automobile liability and accident insurance). The RSVP program offers organizations the option to receive enhanced administrative support such as fundraising, mass-mailings, and assistance for special projects.

Foster Grandparent Program

The Foster Grandparent Program places volunteers, ages 60 and older, in service with disadvantaged or disabled youth. Volunteers with this program receive a modest stipend and must work 15 – 40 hours per week.

Senior Companion Program

The Senior Companion Program allows volunteers, ages 60 and over, to assist adults with special needs while serving 15 – 40 hours per week. Senior Companion members improve the life of an elderly adult through such activities as helping them with simple chores, offering companionship and friendship, and providing transportation.

EXAMPLES: Arts Organizations with Senior Corps Support

21st Century Charter School – Volunteers in Art Classroom, Gary, Indiana Foster Grandparents Program (2006-2007)

The 21st Century Charter School integrates senior volunteers, members of the Foster Grandparent Program, into the art classroom five days a week. Prior to participating, the Foster Grandparents are given a physical evaluation and information screening, and once engaged receive a stipend, sick days and vacation days.

The Foster Grandparent Program at the 21st Century Charter School is sponsored by the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Gary, Indiana.

SENIOR CORPS (CONT.)

Earth Day Activities, Glendale, AZ

Foster Grandparent Program (2005)

Foster Grandparents partnered with Promising Practices in Afterschool (PPAS) to engage children with the design and creation of five murals and several garbage bins for Earth Day. “It takes a whole village,” served as the theme for one mural. In all the Foster Grandparents and community children painted 5 murals and several garbage bins on themes relating the community and the environment. The murals were painted in the school, the Head Start building, and at the Community Center. Murals were chosen as the perfect service-learning opportunity as they require collaboration, team work, and draw attention to community issues.

Girls Inc., Rapid City, SD

Foster Grandparent Program (2007)

Girls, Inc. is an after school program for girls, kindergarten through middle school. Foster Grandparents connect with the girls through such activities as crafts, art projects, recreational activities and reading. Currently, the Foster Grandparents assist the girls in pottery classes held at Youth and Family Service centers. The goal is to provide an intergenerational relationship and create fun, educational after-school activities.

The Foster Grandparents at Girls, Inc., Rapid City, are administered by the Black Hills Foster Grandparent Program in Sturgis, South Dakota.

Art Goes To School, Inc., Delaware Valley Region

RSVP (2007)

Art Goes to School is a non-profit volunteer organization of over 700 members, who bring art appreciation classes to nearly 155,000 elementary school children in the Delaware Valley. The program engages and trains RSVP volunteers to explore art with elementary school children (no previous art experience required). RSVP members and children discuss reproductions and analyze color, shapes and interpretations. Art Goes to School further uses art from around the world to help children understand and appreciate diversity.



SENIOR CORPS (CONT.)

Further Examples of Organizations Receiving RSVP Support:

Center for Creative Therapeutic Arts, Las Vegas, NV
Guggenheim Las Vegas Museum, Las Vegas, NV
Henderson Art Association/Old Town Gallery, Henderson, NV
Hispanic Museum of Nevada, Las Vegas, NV
Las Vegas Art Museum, Las Vegas, NV
Las Vegas Natural History Museum, Las Vegas, NV
Lost City Museum, Overton, NV
Silver Belles Dance Company, NV
Fraunces Tavern Museum, New York City, NY
Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, CA
San Francisco Aviation Museum, San Carlos, CA
San Mateo County History Association & Museum, Redwood City, CA
Manual Arts High School, Los Angeles, CA

SPECIAL INITIATIVES

Summer of Service

A unique coalition of youth-service organizations that engage citizens, ages 5 to 21, in summer long service activities. The Summer of Service program offers participating organizations a Toolkit listing easy and successful summer service projects, online resources, and the ability to receive increased marketing through local newspapers, magazines, TV and radio announcements.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

The Corporation for National and Community Service assists organizations and individuals that wish to develop or participate in Martin Luther King, Jr. service activities scheduled for the federal holiday. Grants may be awarded to organizations to support service projects that reach across one state or an entire region.

EXAMPLES: Art projects receiving Special Initiative Support

United Way of Lane County, Oregon

Martin Luther King, Jr Day of Service, RSVP, AmeriCorps*NCCC

-2006, Received \$1000 Martin Luther King, Jr. Mini Grant (a CNS Special Initiative)

-RSVP of United Way partnered with AmeriCorps*NCCC

Project includes a book fair, free book distribution event, after-school programming, the construction of an MLK Appreciation Wall and other art displays as well as performing community outreach. Grant funds support purchase of reduced-cost books, materials, art supplies and refreshments.

GENERAL APPLICATION GUIDELINES & TIPS

To access resources offered by the Corporation for National Service, art organizations should determine which CNS service program best matches their project and contact the appropriate administering office. Visit the “Interactive Program Selector” (http://www.nationalservice.org/for_organizations/programs/selector.asp) for assistance in selecting the best CNS program for your organization.

To Locate the **Corporation State Office** in your Area:
<http://www.nationalservice.org/about/contact/stateoffices.asp>

To Locate the **State Service Commission** in your Area:
<http://www.nationalservice.org/about/contact/statecommission.asp>

To Locate the **State Education Agency** in your Area:
<http://www.nationalservice.org/about/contact/sea.asp>

CNS Program, Administering Office, Website:

AmeriCorps*VISTA
Corporation State Offices
<http://www.americorps.gov>

AmeriCorps*State
Governor-appointed State Service Commissions
http://www.americorps.gov/about/programs/state_national.asp

AmeriCorps*National
Corporation for National and Community Service
http://www.americorps.gov/about/programs/state_national.asp

Learn and Serve America
State Education Agency
<http://www.nationalservice.org/about/programs/learnandserve.asp>

Senior Corps
Corporation for National and Community Service
<http://www.nationalservice.org/about/programs/seniorcorps.asp>

RSVP Program
Corporation State Office
<http://www.seniorcorps.gov/about/programs/rsvp.asp>

Arts organizations
can visit the
“Interactive
Program Selector”
for assistance in
selecting the best
CNS program for
their organization.



GENERAL APPLICATION GUIDELINES & TIPS (CONT.)

Foster Grandparent Program

Corporation State Office

<http://www.seniorcorps.gov/about/programs/fg.asp>

Senior Companion Program

Corporation State Office

<http://www.seniorcorps.gov/about/programs/sc.asp>

HOW TO BECOME AN AMERICORPS SPONSOR ORGANIZATION

1. **Contact your AmeriCorps State Office**
 - Each state has different application requirements; some do not accept projects for less than three AmeriCorps volunteers
 - The Corporation State Office works with organizations to verify the application requirements, the number of members available for the project, the types of programs that state office focuses on, etc.
2. **Submit a concept paper online**
 - This paper will be automatically directed to the appropriate State Office
 - The State Program Director will contact the applying organization and give them feedback on their project idea – they may even suggest a different type of project to the organization or work with them on modifying their timeline, etc.
 - The State Program Office will then accept the organization's project concept or ask for it to be modified and re-written
3. **Complete the full application**
4. **List project on the AmeriCorps website with the open volunteer positions**
 - It is the responsibility of the new sponsoring organization to interview AmeriCorps members for their project
5. **Select and invite AmeriCorps volunteers for your project**
 - Members must also accept the offered position
 - Once both the sponsoring organization and members have accepted each other, the state office will be notified
6. **Pre-service orientation:**
 - All AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteers must participate in the three-day orientation at the state office
 - The sponsoring organization must also select a staff member to be the AmeriCorps Supervisor who will oversee the AmeriCorps volunteers and act as liaison between the state office and the VISTA sponsor organization

The Corporation for National and Community Service usually works with an AmeriCorps sponsor organization for three years. However, since the Corporation's funding is appropriated, all organizations must reapply each year. Reselection is performance based, according to the goals and targets listed in their initial application

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Corporation for National and Community Service

<http://www.nationalservice.org>

Interactive Program Selector:

http://www.nationalservice.org/for_organizations/programs/selector.asp

Who and When to Contact

http://www.nationalservice.org/about/volunteering/states_offices.asp

CNS Online Resource Center

<http://www.nationalserviceresources.org/resources/>

Effective Practices from AmeriCorps

http://www.americorps.gov/about/americanweek/effective_practices.asp

2008 AmeriCorps*National Application Instructions

http://www.americorps.gov/pdf/07_0517_nofa_ac_instructions_national.pdf

Schedule for Technical Assistance Conference Calls for AmeriCorps Help

<http://www.americorps.gov/about/americanweek/techcalls.asp>

Learning in Deed: Making a Difference through Service-Learning

<http://www.learningindeed.org>

National Service-Learning Partnership

<http://www.service-learningpartnership.org>

National Service-Learning Exchange

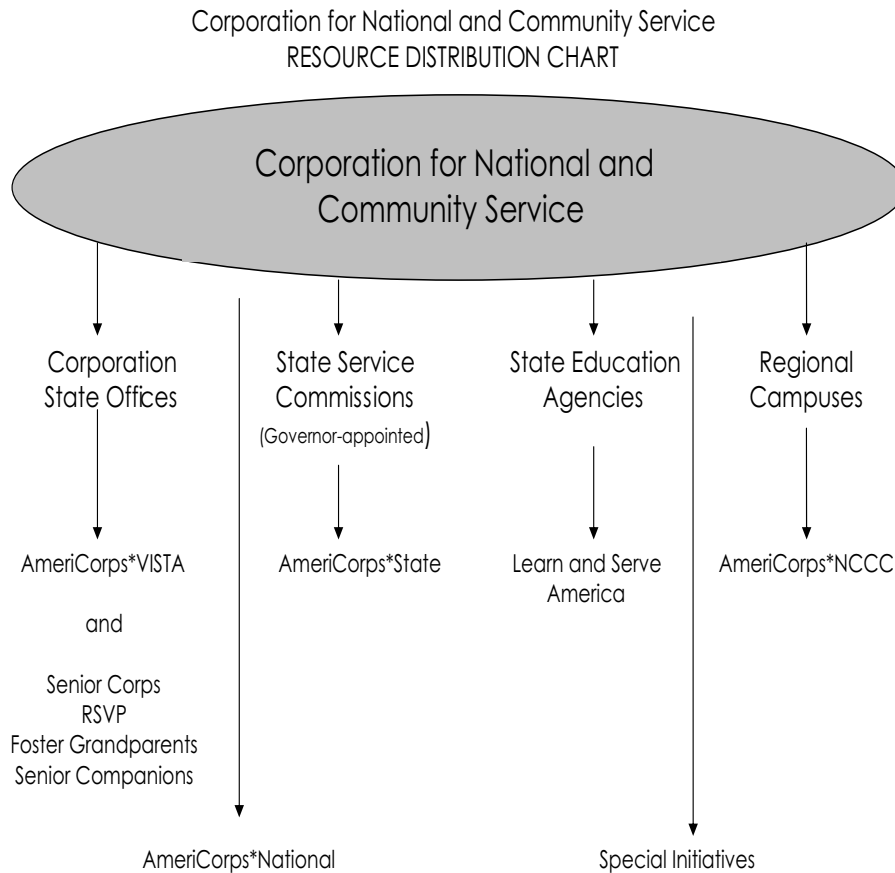
<http://nslexchange.org>

TIPS FROM PAST CNS PARTICIPANTS

- *Be in contact with your state AmeriCorps office! Each state has different monetary resources, areas of interest, and deadlines. The state office is there to assist you throughout the application and implementation process. Develop a relationship with them!*
-AmeriCorps Program Director, Corporation State Office (Administers AmeriCorps*VISTA and Senior Corps)
- *Have specific, short-term goals for the AmeriCorps volunteer working at your organization.*
-Executive Director, sponsor art organization

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES (CONT.)

- *Be prepared for the lengthy application process that must be done each year – despite the paper work, the program is worth the human capital received.*
-Executive Director, sponsor art organization
- *If you can find the right volunteer, you can do many wonderful things.*
-Executive Director, sponsor art organization



GLOSSARY TERMS

Campus Compact

Campus Compact is a national coalition of nearly 1,100 college and university presidents dedicated to promoting community service, civic engagement, and service-learning in higher education. Campus Compact administers CNS programs and connects colleges and their students with community organizations.

Member

A volunteer with the Corporation

NCCC

National Civilian Community Corps

RSVP

Retired Service Volunteer Program

Sponsor Organization

A community organization that has been awarded an AmeriCorps*State or National grants or an AmeriCorps*VISTA member(s)

VISTA

Volunteers in Service to America

Volunteer Station

Organizations or local agencies that oversee the placement and supervision of RSVP volunteers as well as develop the service assignments, document the job description, provide an orientation and submit reports as requested by the RSVP program



QUESTIONS

For more information about the *Federal Resource Guide Series for Nonprofit Arts Organizations*, please contact Director of Federal Affairs, **Narric Rome**, at nrome@artsusa.org.

RESOURCE SERIES

Resource Guide 1.....Arts Education
Resource Guide 2.....CDBG
Resource Guide 3.....Transportation
Resource Guide 4.....Cultural Exchanges
Resource Guide 5.....Military Bases
Resource Guide 6.....Earmarks
Resource Guide 7.....Humanities (NEH)
Resource Guide 8.....Rural Development
Resource Guide 9.....National Service
Resource Guide 10.....Earmarks II

ABOUT AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS

Americans for the Arts is the nation's leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts in America. With more than 45 years of service, it is dedicated to representing and serving local communities and creating opportunities for every American to participate in and appreciate all forms of the arts. With offices in Washington, DC, and New York City, and more than 5,000 organizational and individual members across the country, Americans for the Arts is focused on three primary goals: 1) to foster an environment in which the arts can thrive and contribute to the creation of more livable communities; 2) to generate more public- and private-sector resources for the arts and arts education; and 3) to build individual appreciation of the value of the arts.

In 2004, Americans for the Arts launched **Americans for the Arts Action Fund**, a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization, to serve as its political advocacy arm and a national voice for the arts. With more than 25,000 citizen members and 100,000 online activists, the Arts Action Fund is significantly expanding arts advocacy outreach in America to help make certain that arts-friendly public policies are adopted at the federal, state, and local levels.

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