

National Service and Mentoring



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The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) supports mentoring for children and youth from disadvantaged circumstances through several of our programs. We believe that caring and capable adults can make a critical difference in the lives of children and youth in need. Mentoring is a proven method to ensure students complete their education. Youth with a mentor more readily attend and engage in school and are therefore more likely to finish high school and continue their education. Mentors model precisely the attitudes and aptitudes youth need to thrive: intellectual curiosity, compassion for others, and determination to succeed.

National service members serve in two ways: as mentors and by building the capacity of mentoring organizations through mentor recruitment and management, fundraising, and program administration. Last year, more than 837,000 children and youth from disadvantaged circumstances were mentored through CNCS supported programs.

Mentoring at CNCS

Senior Corps

Senior Corps, through its RSVP and Foster Grandparent programs, mentors nearly 300,000 children and youth from disadvantaged circumstances across the United States. In the Foster Grandparent Program, volunteers age 55 and older provide mentoring and other support services to more than 215,000 children and youth with exceptional needs in

schools, hospitals, drug treatment centers, correctional institutions, and other settings. Foster Grandparents often work one-on-one with children, maintaining an intensive relationship with them for a year or longer. In FY2013, RSVP volunteers provided mentoring services to more than 82,000 children.

- At the El Paso Foster Grandparent Program in El Paso, TX, 13 Foster Grandparents work with 30 children who attend the Fort Bliss Child Development Center. The children, who range from 2 to 5 years old, exhibit signs of adjustment disorders, detachment disorders, and/or developmental delays due to the absence of one or more parents who serve in the military. The Foster Grandparents provide nurturing and emotional support, engage in play therapy, and model appropriate behavior to help the children reach developmental milestones.
- RSVP School Buddies matches volunteers age 55 and older with elementary school children whom teachers have identified as not meeting current academic standards. Volunteers serve 1-2 hours per day, 1-2 times per week for an entire school year. RSVP School Buddies serve at the school site and are supervised by a classroom teacher. Volunteers assist children with reading, math, spelling, or other academic areas. In the past year, 49 volunteers served 237 children at 21 sites providing over 1,623 hours of service. The Program is sponsored by the United Way of Chittenden County in Burlington, VT.

AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps members, serving through AmeriCorps State and National, AmeriCorps VISTA, and the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), provided mentoring to more than 538,000 disadvantaged children and youth in FY2013. While State and National members mostly serve directly as

mentors, VISTA members focus their efforts on building the capacity of mentoring organizations to increase the number of people they serve by recruiting community volunteers, devising business plans, setting up administrative operations, bringing in donations of goods and services, and raising funds.

- Nearly 550 AmeriCorps VISTA members help strengthen the capacity of more than 70 mentoring programs for educational success across the country. One highly successful, award-winning program is Higher Achievement, an organization that provides middle school students from underserved areas with year-round academic enrichment. Nine VISTAs currently assist Higher Achievement to serve more than 700 scholars per year and operate Achievement Centers in Washington, DC; Alexandria, VA; Baltimore, MD; Pittsburgh, PA, and Richmond, VA. VISTAs play an active role in expanding Higher Achievement's after-school and summer academy program, generating nearly \$300,000 in cash and in-kind resources. They also develop connections with the community surrounding each Achievement Center to build grassroots support and recruit community-based volunteers and mentors. This year, VISTAs recruited and managed nearly 700 mentor volunteers who provided academic instruction and guidance and personal support to more than 1,000 scholars. All of this support is critical. At Higher Achievement, 96 percent of the scholars graduate from high school—two times the rate of their peers. And, 75 percent graduate from college—four times the rate of their peers.

Social Innovation Fund

The Social Innovation Fund provides funding for a broad portfolio of evidence-based innovative programs, including mentoring organizations. One of the Social Innovation Fund intermediary grantees, New Profit, provided a \$1.1 million subgrant to iMentor, whose mission is to improve the lives of high school students from underserved communities through innovative, technology-enabled mentoring. Since 1999, iMentor has matched and supported thousands of mentor-mentee relationships. With the help of their technology platform, iMentor Interactive, the organization matched over 4,500 one-to-one mentoring pairs in the 2012-2013 school year.

National Mentoring Month

National Mentoring Month, held each year in January, draws a spotlight on mentoring and the positive effect it can have on young lives. Spearheaded by the Harvard Mentoring Project of the Harvard School of

Public Health, MENTOR, and the Corporation for National and Community Service, the goals of National Mentoring Month are to raise awareness of mentoring, recruit individuals to mentor, especially in programs that have waiting lists of young people, and promote the rapid growth of mentoring by recruiting organizations to engage their constituents in mentoring.

About CNCS

The Corporation for National and Community Service is a federal agency that engages more than five million Americans in service through its AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, Social Innovation Fund, and Volunteer Generation Fund programs, and leads the President's national call to service initiative, United We Serve. For more information, visit NationalService.gov.

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