



# **Maximizing Service in Virginia: Opportunities for Community Solutions**

# Think about community issues:

- Food insecurity, hunger
- Dilapidated or unsafe housing
- Illiteracy
- Undeveloped or neglected public land
- Veterans needs
- No access to safe drinking water

# Now think about solutions:

## Targeted Need:

- Families going hungry
- Housing rehab for low income households
- Kids reading below grade level or failing grades
- Public land with no improvements
- Veterans who don't use their educational benefits
- Installation of public water system

## Possible Solution:

- Start or expand foodbanks
- Housing 'blitz' by trained, organized teams
- Provide after school reading tutoring
- Build trails, playgrounds, and other public space
- Offer vet-to-vet academic 'navigators'
- Team to support a community self-help project

# Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)

**The Mission of CNCS is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering.**

# Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)

- Independent federal agency since 1994
- Engages more than 2 million individuals annually to provide service
- Different programs provide different types of service

# CNCS Priority Areas

- Education
- Opportunity (primarily economic)
- Veterans, active military, and military families
- Disaster Services
- Healthy futures
- Environmental Stewardship

# AmeriCorps Community Benefits

- Committed individuals address community needs
- Members become role models in their communities
- Members can be recruited from the community and may receive the benefits of AmeriCorps service (living allowance, education award, etc.)
- Development of engaged citizens:
  - Knowledgeable about community problems
  - More likely to choose public service careers



# AmeriCorps Organizational Benefits

- Increases the number of people an organization can serve: 92% of participating organizations report that members helped them to increase the number of persons served
- Recruitment of additional community volunteers to help serve an organization's target population
- Enhances visibility/reputation
- Connects to the National Service Network



# AmeriCorps Member Benefits

- Valuable training and experience
- Development of ethic of service and civic engagement
- In most cases, a modest living allowance
- Post-Service Award (education or other)
- In some cases, health insurance and childcare



# CNCS Programs Highlighted Today

- **AmeriCorps\*NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps)**
- **AmeriCorps\*VISTA**
- **AmeriCorps\*State**



# The AmeriCorps ‘Pipeline’

- **AmeriCorps\*NCCC: short term, high impact, low cost, indirect or direct service**
- **AmeriCorps\*VISTA: long term, high impact, variable cost, indirect service**
- **AmeriCorps\*State: long term, high impact, minimum 24% match, direct service**

**Thank You! This  
information presented by**

**The Office on Volunteerism and  
Community Service**

**Virginia Department of Social Services**

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**[www.vaservice.org](http://www.vaservice.org)**

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