**Elimination of national service funding – template press release for local community leader/working group member**

YOUR LOGO

Contact: Name, number, email

**President Trump’s Budget Proposes Elimination of AmeriCorps and Senior Corps**

*The White House budget would be a huge blow to [city/state]’s ability to help veterans, tutor underserved children, and respond to natural disasters*

[CITY, STATE] (May xx, 2017) – The budget proposed [today/this week] by President Donald Trump would end our nation's 80-year investment in national service, leaving [name of city/state, e.g. Oklahoma’s] veterans and their families underserved and our schools understaffed. The White House’s full budget for fiscal year 2018 would provide a small amount of funding to support the shutdown of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the federal agency that administers national service programs, including AmeriCorps and Senior Corps, setting the agency up for assumed elimination the following year.

In March, the administration made the same recommendation to Congress in the so-called skinny budget, but bipartisan legislative champions, including Senators Roy Blunt and Patty Murray and Representatives Tom Cole and Rosa DeLauro, sustained funding for the critical work of AmeriCorps and Senior Corps, so communities would continue to benefit from these important programs for another program year.

“The elimination of national service funding would have significant negative effects here in [name of city/state],” said [name], [title], [organization]. “In our community, AmeriCorps and Senior Corps members help local residents achieve their full potential by enabling nonprofit and faith-based organizations such as [list three iconic organizations] to deliver critical services in high-need areas such as education, health care, and veterans services.

“This year alone xxx number of young Americans and seniors provided intensive, results-driven service to meet local needs across [city/state]. In exchange for their service, these dedicated and talented Americans also enhance their job skills and earn an education award they can use to pay for college or to pay back students loans.

“Fortunately, the Administration’s budget is just one step in the process to determine fiscal year 2018 funding. Congress ultimately decides which federal programs are funded and at what levels. We look forward to working with our congressional delegation – including Senators x and y and Representative x – to ensure that national service continues to provide vital support to communities across [state].”

Background on the Corporation for National and Community Service

National service programs supported by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) harness the energy and ingenuity of our nation’s most valuable resource – our citizens – to address community needs and help local economies grow. Working hand in hand with thousands of nonprofit organizations, dedicated Americans deliver vital services and recruit and manage millions of additional volunteers. At the same time, national service expands opportunity for its participants, especially young Americans, to gain marketable job skills and pursue higher education, which increases their employability and earning potential.

CNCS’s FY 2017 budget of $1.03 billion makes up less than .03 percent of the federal budget. National service is a public-private partnership that recognizes that no one sector can meet our challenges alone. [CNCS, which leverages more than $1.26 billion in resources from the private sector, foundations, and local agencies](https://www.nationalservice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/CNCS_Solving_Problems_and_Expanding_Opportunity_0.pdf), is helping organizations across the country work in creative ways to tackle our most persistent and costly challenges. A [study by economists at Columbia University](https://voicesforservice.org/research-and-reports/economic-value-national-service/) found that for every dollar invested in national service, there is a $3.95 return to society in terms of higher earnings, increased output, and other community benefits.

National service is tremendously popular. A [poll](http://voicesforservice.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Voices-TP-One-Pager.pdf) in nine presidential battleground states found that 83 percent of registered voters, including 78 percent of Republicans, support increased or maintained federal investment in national service.

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[Insert your organization’s blurb.]