



NATIONAL SERVICE: AN ISSUE AMERICANS AGREE ON

83% of voters want to maintain or increase the federal investment in service

For more than two decades, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) has tapped our nation's greatest resource—the American people—to strengthen education, support disconnected youth, help seniors live independently, connect returning veterans to employment, rebuild after disasters, and more.

Working hand in hand with thousands of local partners, CNCS programs—**AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, the Volunteer Generation Fund and the Social Innovation Fund**—empower citizens to solve problems. National service programs also offer a ladder of opportunity for those who serve—by helping them graduate, gain career skills, pursue higher education, and find work.

Service has strong bipartisan support. 83 percent of voters in presidential battleground states want to maintain or increase the federal investment in national service.

Service programs are managed locally. Neighborhood, community and faith-based institutions lead bottom-up, citizen-led strategies, not top-down government solutions.

Service is cost-effective and represents a smart investment for the nation. Every federal dollar invested in national service generates returns to society of \$3.95 in terms of higher earnings, increased output and other community-wide benefits.

Service invests in prevention, saving taxpayer dollars. Through prevention and early intervention practices, service helps to minimize the high costs of social challenges down the road.

Service makes higher education more affordable. AmeriCorps members are rewarded with an education award that can defray the burden of mounting student loan debt.

Service prepares Americans for the workforce and helps them find jobs. Unemployed individuals who volunteer are 27 percent more likely to secure full-time employment.

Service unites Americans, fostering tolerance and understanding. Nine out of ten AmeriCorps alumni express confidence in interacting with diverse people and respecting others' values.

Americans want to serve. On average, AmeriCorps programs receive five applications for every available position. Some programs have a 13:1 applicant to acceptance ratio. Hundreds of thousands are turned away annually, with many applicants coming from demographic groups with high unemployment rates, such as young adults, minorities and veterans.

Let's step up our investment in the programs funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Between FY10-FY13, the CNCS budget was cut by 13 percent, or \$154 million. The repercussions include the elimination of service learning programs for 1.5 million students, the reduction of AmeriCorps by 18,000 positions, and the displacement of more than 113,500 Senior Corps members. These cuts are all the more painful because of surging interest in service and mounting community needs. **In recent years, less than two-thirds of the cuts to the CNCS budget have been restored.** **Voices for National Service is seeking \$1.47 billion for CNCS.** This investment will engage millions in service, bolster civic and faith-based organizations, support evidence-based solutions, and create pathways to employment and a pipeline of citizen leaders.

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#Stand4Service

