HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING COMMISSION
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# OREGON VOLUNTEERS

## Commission for Voluntary Action & Service

## State of Service
## 2017-2018

oregonvolunteers!

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# ABOUT OREGON VOLUNTEERS

Oregon Volunteers, also known as the Commission for Voluntary Action & Service, was created in 1994 to provide Oregonians with a statewide entity to focus service and volunteer efforts, to enhance the ethic of service and voluntarism in the state and provide funds for state-based AmeriCorps programs. As a state commission, Oregon Volunteers' role is to promote and elevate service, volunteerism and civic engagement in Oregon Communities.

*Through House Bill 5201 and House Bill 4163, effective July 1, 2018, Oregon Volunteers moved operations to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). Oregon Volunteers is housed in the HECC Office of Workforce Investments.*

**MISSION:**
Strengthening our communities by inspiring Oregonians to actively engage, volunteer, and serve.

**VISION:**
*For Oregon Volunteers:*

- Oregon Volunteers is the trusted resource on volunteerism and civic engagement.
- Oregon Volunteers is integral and vital to Oregon's addressing of our state's greatest needs.
- Oregon Volunteers is sustainable with resources and stability to meet its mission.

*For Oregon:*

- Volunteering is an integral, prominent, and essential part of everyday life.
- Oregon's 36 counties have strong, healthy communities built and sustained through service.
- Public engagement drives government.

**VALUES:**

- **Community:** Strengthening Oregon through service and volunteerism is the heart of everything we do.
- **Diversity:** Commission programs, members and staff strive to reflect the full diversity of all Oregonians. We are especially attentive to issues of diversity including: race, gender, political affiliation, class, education, geography, interests, disability, sexual orientation, age, culture.
- **Effectiveness:** The results of an efficient, effective, strategic use of resources will further the Commission's mission. We will make decisions in line with short and long term priorities.
- **Mutual Benefit**: We take intentional action to create a triple win (win 3) – a win for the commission, for our partners, and for Oregon communities.
- **Integrity:** We do what we say we will do and only what we are able to do.
- **Partnership:** We invest time in building relationships, honoring diverse perspectives, and creating win3 solutions.
- **Innovation and Creativity:** We encourage new ideas and find solutions to better serve Oregon communities.

# ROLE OF OREGON VOLUNTEERS

Oregon Volunteers, through federal funding provided by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), administers funding to local AmeriCorps programs, called AmeriCorps*State programs. CNCS funds programs and projects that focus on Disaster Services, Economic Opportunity, Environmental Stewardship, Education, Healthy Futures, and Veterans and Military Families.

***AmeriCorps*State programs*** provide an opportunity for people to serve at locations across Oregon through nonprofits, schools, public agencies, tribes, and community and faith-based groups. People serving in AmeriCorps*State programs are called AmeriCorps members. Members serve for a year at their location, earning a living stipend and, at the end of their service year, a Segal AmeriCorps Education award.

Since 1994, more than 19,000 Oregon residents have served approximately 25 million hours through AmeriCorps, earning Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards totaling more than $61.1 million. The award can be used in any state to pay for college, graduate school, vocation training, or to pay back student loans.

Oregon Volunteers operates in this role as the State Commission in Oregon. Per the National and Community Service Act of 1990, state commissions must exist in order for a state to apply and accept national service grants through CNCS.

A State Service Commission is a bipartisan or nonpartisan state entity that is responsible for developing a comprehensive national service plan and administering national and community service programs in the state. (Code of Federal Regulations §2550.2 (l)) The Oregon Volunteer and Community Service Act, passed in 2007, also solidified Oregon Volunteers' role to promote the development of better communities by using citizen participation and volunteerism to foster greater civic responsibility.

***Oregon Volunteers' primary Commission-related duties include:***

- Preparation of a national service plan for the state *(page 16)*
- Development of an application for national service members for the state
- Provide recommendations on priorities for national service programs
- Make technical assistance available to program applicants and grantees
- Assist in the provision of health care and child care benefits to participants in national service programs
- Development and promotion of a state system for the recruitment and placement of participants in programs
- Administration of the state-wide grant program to include selection, oversight, and evaluation of grant recipients
- Development of projects, training methods, curriculum materials, and other materials and activities related to national service programs

## 2018 OREGON VOLUNTEERS COMMISSION ROSTER

The Commission's work is supported and advised by a maximum-25 member board of Governor-appointed commissioners, whose role is to fulfill the statutory responsibilities for state service commissions as authorized by 42 U.S.C. § 12638 and outlined in 45 CFR 2550.50 National and Community Service Trust Act of 1990 as amended by the Serve America Act.

*Volunteer Sector Representative*
Pablo Brito
Volunteer & Outreach Specialist
Friends of Trees
Portland, Oregon

*Participant or Supervisor of a National Service Program, between the ages of 16-25*
Mila Buckland
Curriculum & Training Manager
Campus Compact of Oregon
Portland, Oregon

*Oregon Department of Education Representative Designee*
Cord Bueker
Workforce Policy Analyst
Oregon Youth Development Council
Salem, Oregon

*Educational, Training & Development Needs of Youth/Disadvantaged Youth Expert and National Service Representative*
Jorge Cruz
Program Director
Metropolitan Family Service
Portland, Oregon

*Business Sector Representative*
Ross Cornelius
Client Services Manager
Walsh Construction
Portland, Oregon

*Services Expert*
Bill Deiz
Retired
Portland, Oregon

*Local Labor Representative*
Heidi Edwards
Executive Vice President, Executive Council, PCCFFAP
PCC Federation of Faculty & Academic Professionals
Portland Community College
Portland, Oregon

*Community-based Agency Representative*
Mike Fieldman
Executive Director
United Communities Action Network
Roseburg, Oregon

*Local Government Representative*
Adele McAfee
Secretary, Executive Committee
Executive Assistant
City of Bend
Bend, Oregon

*Volunteer Sector Representative*
Jayesh Palshikar
Member-at-Large, Executive Committee
Volunteer Scout Leader
Scouts BSA
Oregon City, Oregon

*Volunteerism & Service for Older Adults (55+) Representative*
Derenda Schubert, PhD
Co-Chair, Executive Committee
Executive Director
Bridge Meadows
Portland, Oregon

*National Service Representative*
Joshua Todd
Co-Chair, Executive Committee
Executive Director
Campus Compact of Oregon
Portland, Oregon

*Higher Education Representative*
Elias Villegas
Dean, Woodburn Center
Chemeketa Community College
Woodburn, Oregon

*DVSA Program Representative*
Kelly Wessels
Chief Operating Officer
United Community Action Network
Grants Pass, Oregon

*Ex-Officio Commissioner*
Geoffrey Hickox
State Director, Oregon State Office
Corporation for National & Community Service
Portland, Oregon

## AMERICORPS*STATE GRANTEES OF OREGON VOLUNTEERS

**Campus Compact of Oregon**
*Connect2Complete*
The Connect2Complete AmeriCorps program seeks to help participating campuses tackle chronic absenteeism and deepen student engagement for continued success. C2C members develop, implement, and expand K12 academic programs that increase attendance and student engagement through mentorship, family engagement, and service learning. The program focuses on low-income students, students of color, and first generation students.

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**College Possible Portland**
*College Possible AmeriCorps*
College Possible Portland is a nonprofit organization working to close the degree divide for low-income students in Oregon. Programming connects these talented students with dedicated AmeriCorps members using proven campus-based and tech-connected coaching beginning their junior year of high school and continuing through college graduation.

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**Confluence Environmental Center**
*Confluence Environmental Center AmeriCorps*
The Confluence AmeriCorps program is committed to advancing environmental Justice in the Portland area by working to fairly distribute environmental benefits and burdens through innovative projects created in partnership with local organizations. Our projects focus on energy/resource conservation, healthy watersheds, environmental education, climate advocacy, and garden-based education.

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**Ethos Music Center**
*Rural Outreach Project AmeriCorps Program*
This full-time AmeriCorps program provides youth in rural underserved communities with opportunities to access music education and programming, as well as building community through music while stimulating ongoing support for arts education offerings. Members serve in rural towns across the state of Oregon.

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**Forest Grove School District**
*Partnerships for Student Achievement*
AmeriCorps members serve in Washington & Yamhill County elementary, middle and high schools. Member activities include tutoring, mentoring, volunteer management, among others. This is one of the only AmeriCorps programs in the country that provides tutoring services at the high school level.

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**Heart of Oregon Corps**
*Heart of Oregon AmeriCorps*
Heart of Oregon Corps is a youth training and employment program that provides an avenue to reduce poverty, stimulate economic growth and maintain the natural environment. Its AmeriCorps program supports disconnected young adults ages 17-27 by providing service opportunities for members while they work towards their GED or diploma, prepare for college and gain work experience.

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**Metropolitan Family Service**
*Metropolitan Family Service AmeriCorps*
MFS AmeriCorps members support the agency's three critical initiatives: strengthening early childhood development and building youth success; developing and promoting effective approaches to community-based health and wellness throughout the lifespan; and advancing individual and family economic well-being. Members develop and teach life skills and leadership, support early childhood/parent-child interaction groups, coordinate health and wellness focused family events and workshops, recruit and coordinate family and community volunteers, and teach financial literacy workshops for families.

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**Northwest Youth Corps**
*Community Stewardship Corps*
AmeriCorps programs at NYC engage youth and young adults in environmental stewardship projects designed to increase access to open spaces and outdoor recreational opportunities, add economic value, and promote healthy lifestyles among AmeriCorps members and the communities they serve. The Community Stewardship Corps focuses on providing employment skills in the environmental field to opportunity youth throughout the State.

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**Open School**
*Post-Secondary Success Program*
The mission of Open School is to develop connection, capability, and confidence in disconnected youth through relationship-based, quality learning experiences that result in their academic, personal, and community success. Open School recognizes there is an historic and persistent achievement gap between white students and students of color. Post-Secondary Success AmeriCorps members serve closely with staff and students at Open School North, Trillium Charter School and Open School East to create learning environments where underserved students can define and own their success.

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**United Community Action Network** (UCAN)
*United Communities AmeriCorps (UCA)*
UCA members work with nonprofits, government agencies, schools, and faith-based organizations to meet critical needs throughout five SW Oregon counties. By engaging clients at each service site to address unique individual needs, UCA members help bridge barriers to educational opportunity, mentoring, job skills development, employment resources, healthy living. Members' projects promote equity, justice, and inclusion for the region's most vulnerable by improving access to social services.

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**University of Oregon**
*Resource Assistance for Rural Environments (RARE)*
The mission of Resource Assistance for Rural Environments - RARE AmeriCorps - is to increase the capacity of rural communities to improve their economic, social, and environmental conditions through the assistance of trained graduate-level participants. RARE participants live in and assist communities in the development and implementation of projects for achieving a sustainable natural resource base and improving rural economic conditions.

**Northwest Youth Corps**
The Salem Northwest Service Corps Oregon Volunteer Crew worked with the McKenzie River Trust on one of their acquired properties, the Coyote Spencer Wetlands. The project's goal was to restore the oak woodland habitat by releasing the larger legacy oak tree canopy from the smaller encroaching vegetation. The crew completed over 30 acres of oak habitat, identified the tree species to cut, and created slash piles of sawed material to be burned at a later date.

**Heart of Oregon**
Heart of Oregon Corps has a long history partnering with Deschutes County to serve the community, dating back to the program's founding in 2000. Their AmeriCorps program started off as a pilot program in conjunction with Deschutes Co. Juvenile Community Justice to give young adults in the system an opportunity to give back to their community.

For this project, Heart of Oregon cleared over two acres of land in front of the Deschutes County District Office. Their crews ran multiple chainsaws in order to cut down the dense amount of Junipers in the area. All the material removed will help keep neighborhoods in the area safe in the event of an accidental fire.

## 2017-18 SERVICE STATS*

AmeriCorps*State programs placed over 230 members in service sites across the state within the 2017-2018 program year. Those members provided services in their community such as tutoring, environmental education, college readiness, restoration of green spaces, career preparation and volunteer management.

### Education

Oregon Students **1,101** showed academic improvement

Oregon K-12 students **5,935** started education program

Oregon students **742** improved literacy and math

Oregon students **678** entered postsecondary program

### Environment

**23,389** Trees and shrubs planted

**2,206** Acres of parks, public lands, greenspaces restored

Youth **13,126** educated

Adults **12,993** attended environmentally themed activities

### Capacity Building & Economic Opportunity

**59,398** hours by volunteers recruited by AmeriCorps members

**6,391** Volunteers recruited by AmeriCorps members

Over **230** AmeriCorps Members

State General Funds **$250,000**

Allow OV to apply and receive

**$226,920** Commission Investment Fund**

**$250,000** Commission Support Grant**

Subgrantee Funding **$2,894,759**

To administer AmeriCorps funds to subgrantees providing services in multiple performance areas

**$1,011,921** Education

**$1,009,823** Capacity Building & Economic Opportunity

**$873,615** Environment

**$3,779,146**

Which brings in additional match and Segal Education Awards for members

**$1,314,050** Education Awards***

**$2,465,096** AmeriCorps Grant Match

**Based on Year-End reports as of October 2018*
***Based on 2018 award amounts*
****Potential education award amounts based on awarded member slots*

## MORE BENEFITS OF NATIONAL SERVICE TO OREGON

Since 1994, more than 19,000 Oregon residents have served approximately 25 million hours through AmeriCorps, earning Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards totaling more than $61.1 million.

A 2013 study conducted by the Columbia University's Center for Benefit-Cost studies in Education titled The Economic Value of National Service estimated that the social and fiscal benefits of national service for youth and seniors far outweigh the social and fiscal costs associated with it. According to this national study, the aggregate Return on Investment (ROI) findings reflect positive and significant returns over and above costs for youth as well as seniors.

According to this research study, across the 125,750 full-time equivalent national service members annually, the total social cost is $2.0 billion and the total social benefit is $7.9 billion. The benefit-cost ratio is 3.9: **for every dollar invested in the network of national service programs currently operating, there is a social return of almost four dollars.**

The returns to the taxpayers are also substantial. In the aggregate, total taxpayer spending on national service is, nationally, around $1.36 billion annually; the total benefits from this investment for taxpayers are $2.94 billion. The fiscal benefit-cost ratio is 2.2. **For every dollar invested in national service by the taxpayers, over two dollars is returned in taxpayer savings.**

The Commission Support Grant, the primary operating grant for State Commissions, provided by CNCS, requires a dollar-for-dollar match. The General Fund match ensures the Commission's ability to administer AmeriCorps programs and provide funding to AmeriCorps programs. These programs bring in federal dollars, match dollars and potential for Segal Education Awards to be invested back into Oregon education entities.

## MEMBERS MAKING AN IMPACT

**Ethos, Inc.**
"*One of my seventh grade students was quite "festive" (loud and disruptive). I quickly realized that almost everything this student would hear from a teacher would be disciplinary or dismissive in nature ("stop, quit it"). Those phrases don't generally modify a student's behavior. But music class provides an opportunity for students to have a creative outlet that they don't have in any other class. I would engage this student in conversation in various topics (sports, music), leading to a healthy relationship being formed. This student now comes to every after-school music class and is one of my smartest music students.*" – An AmeriCorps member in Spray, OR describing how music can access students who might not otherwise feel successful.

**Campus Compact of Oregon**

An AmeriCorps member is serving at Buckman Elementary with the SUN school through Impact NW. This member is helping run several attendance initiatives including unicorn attendance academy (where students w/ attendance under 90% earn points each week for being at school and opportunities for small prizes), reading groups for students with identified needs, "We are Neighbors Camp" which brings students aged 5-11, families, and community partners together for various activities and service projects, cranium clubs for students to work on homework, STEAM education nights, and serving with a parent equity team.

When reflecting on her service, she stated: "A 4th grader I work with told me that his half-hour with me each Friday is his favorite time of the week. We talk and play and sometimes read together, and he's been becoming steadily more conscious of respect, healthy boundaries, self-regulation, healthy expression, and considerate of others needs/wishes. It's just the beginning, but I've seen some positive changes in these areas. I also see how I am valuable to the Spanish-speaking community at Buckman. There are four mothers I speak with in Spanish when they come in. One in particular has told me that she appreciates me a lot because otherwise she has kept mostly to herself."

# NATIONAL SERVICE IN OREGON: SERVICE PARTNERS

Oregon has a rich history of fostering volunteering and service opportunities and Oregon Volunteers is not alone in promoting service. Although Oregon Volunteers is the State Commission charged with administering AmeriCorps*State programs, other partners in service administer CNCS-funded programs in Oregon.

Altogether, National Service in Oregon is fostered through multiple partnering agencies and offices, ensuring that Oregon communities have access to multiple avenues of capacity building and service delivery.

***AmeriCorps*National Direct*** programs are similar to AmeriCorps*State programs. However, their programs are multi-state and their funding is received directly from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).

- From 2017-2018, AmeriCorps*National Directs placed over **500** participants at 124 service sites in Oregon Communities to provide services in focus areas such as: environmental education, housing, nutrition, education, youth services and healthy communities.

***AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America)*** AmeriCorps VISTA members serve full-time for a year at nonprofit organizations or local government agencies to build the capacity of these organizations to carry out programs that fight poverty. AmeriCorps VISTA members recruit and manage community volunteers, raise funds, and help manage projects. AmeriCorps VISTA members support programs that improve academic performance, expand job opportunities, develop financial assets, reduce homelessness, and improve health services. They also support programs that increase housing opportunities, increase economic opportunities for low-income veterans and military families, and expand access to technology for those living in rural and urban areas of poverty across America. VISTA programs are administered by a State CNCS Office.

In 2017-2018, AmeriCorps VISTA members in Oregon:

- Recruited **5,350** volunteers to support nonprofit organizations in the fight against poverty.
- Raised **$1,645,212** in cash resources and generated **$187,273** worth of in-kind resources to support Oregon communities.

### Senior Corps and AmeriCorps

| | |
|---|---|
| # of Oregon students who improved academic performance in literacy and math | 503 |
| # of Oregon students in mentoring/tutoring programs that demonstrated improvement | 792 |
| # of economically disadvantaged individuals received financial literacy services | 7,805 |
| # of active duty military who received assistance | 400 |

The State CNCS Office also administers ***Senior Corps*** programs in Oregon. Senior Corps is open to persons aged 55 and over. Senior Corps participants are volunteers that meet a wide range of local community challenges through programs such as Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions and RSVP (*Retired Senior Volunteer Program*).

Last year, more than **3,400** Oregon seniors met critical community needs while contributing to them living longer, healthier lives through one of three Senior Corps programs. Through Senior Corps, **3,779** Oregon seniors and individuals with disabilities received independent living services. Senior Corps volunteers also returned **$3,104,007** in tax refunds to low income individuals and families through tax preparation.

## NATIONAL SERVICE IN OREGON: SERVICE PARTNERS

**AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps)** is a full-time, team-based residential program for 18-24 year-olds. NCCC Members develop leadership skills by serving in public safety, environment, and disaster projects. FEMA Corps, a unit of NCCC, focuses solely on disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. NCCC in Oregon is administered regionally by the AmeriCorps NCCC Pacific Region office in Sacramento, CA.

### NCCC Pacific Region Service Activities

Service activities completed by the NCCC Pacific Region, including focus areas of fire prevention, energy conservation, community infrastructure and urban development.

| | |
|---|---|
| # of acres of land burned to prevent fires | 4,620 |
| # of people educated on sustainability/energy conservation | 699 |
| # of homes outfitted with energy efficient modifications | 354 |
| # of acres of land cleared of unwanted brush/vegetation | 6,110 |
| # of trees or shrubs tended or cared for | 1,248 |
| # of acres of wildlife habitats restored or protected | 85 |
| # of people taught in environmental ed classes/workshops | 135 |

| | |
|---|---|
| # of homes painted or renovated | 101 |
| # of meals served | 2,338 |
| # of pounds of food received, inventoried, or distributed | 9,450 |
| # of pounds of food harvested | 4,128 |
| # of gardens started or tended | 112 |
| # of hours spent weeding community gardens | 340 |

| | |
|---|---|
| # of public buildings/facilities in which handicap access improved | 248 |
| # of feet of irrigation systems constructed, repaired, or restored | 590 |
| # of hours members spent planting/tending/fertilizing plants | 544 |

## DAYS OF SERVICE IN OREGON

National events and Days of Service are an important element of serving in CNCS programs. Members develop service projects and recruit community members to volunteer during nationally recognized Days of Service such as MLK Day of Service, September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance, and Cesar Chavez Day. Most AmeriCorps programs incorporate community giving and volunteerism events throughout the service year as well. Volunteering helps members become more acquainted with their community and its needs.

**2018 National Service Recognition Day**
In Oregon, 74 local elected officials joined voices with over 5,200 officials from across the nation in support of the 2018 National Service Recognition Day to honor AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers serving in their local communities.

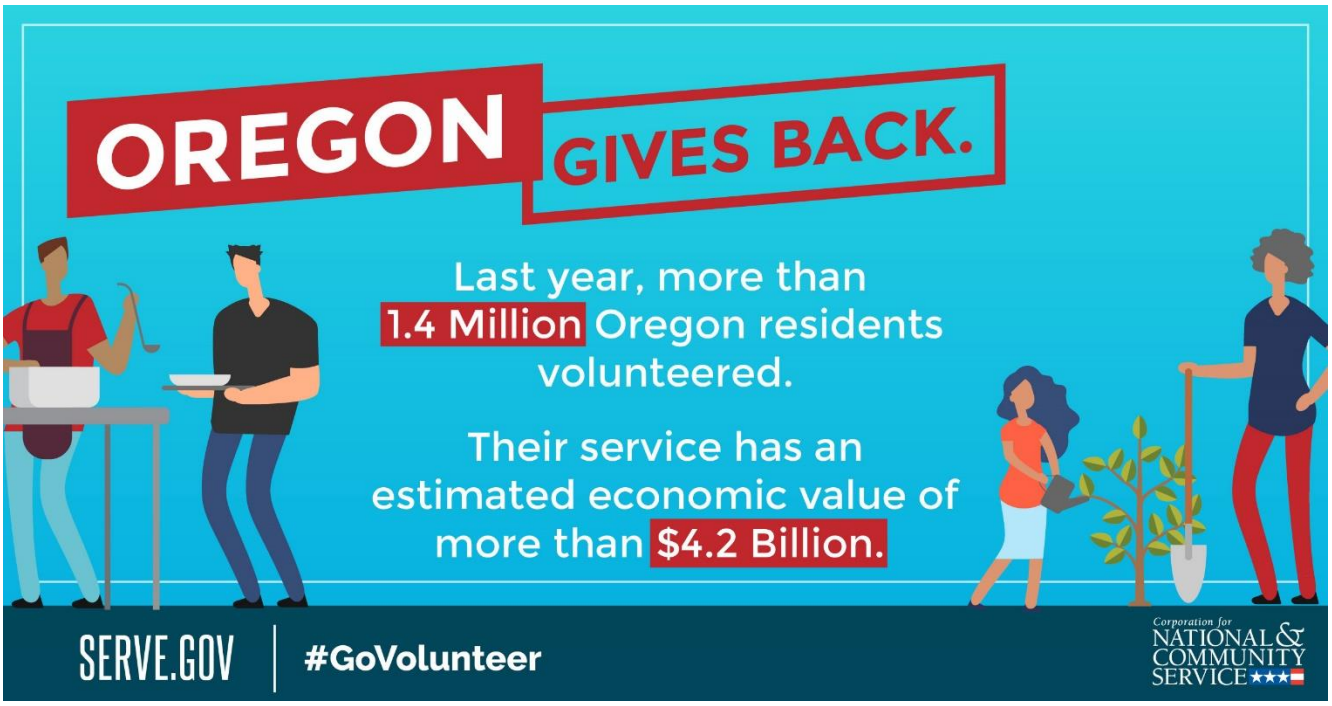
Guests at a National Service Recognition Day event that was held at Meals on Wheels People in Portland, OR on April 3rd, 2018.

The event featured remarks from AmeriCorps and Senior Corps members as well as staff from U.S. Senator Wyden's office and Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith's office.

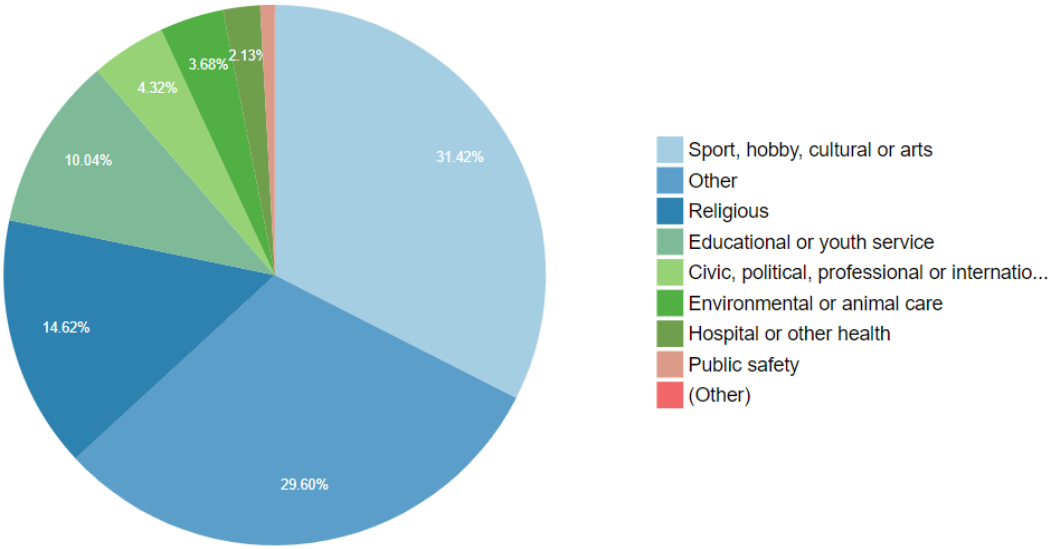
**Metropolitan Family Service (MFS**)
As part of their orientation, AmeriCorps members volunteer their time at Oregon Food Bank to give back to their community and learn more about the importance of food security. MFS provides food pantry services to multiple communities.

## VOLUNTEERISM IN OREGON

In the **2018 Volunteering in America** report, Oregon ranked **THIRD** among states while Portland ranked **FIFTH** among cities. Volunteerism continues to remain an important value of Oregonians.




- 1,448,752 volunteers contribute 177.7 million hours of service
- 43.2% of residents volunteer, ranking them 3rd among states
- Volunteer service worth an estimated $4.2 billion
- 98.9% of residents regularly talk or spend time with friends and family
- 61.9% of residents do favors for neighbors
- 32.7% of residents do something positive for the neighborhood
- 43.1% of residents participate in local groups or organizations
- 62.2% of residents donate $25 or more to charity



# 2018-2020 STATE SERVICE PLAN

In July 2018, the Oregon Volunteers Commission moved to a new home within state government. The Commission transitioned to the Office of Workforce Investments within the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). Aligning with this transition and fresh start under a new state partnership, the Commission decided to strategically focus its efforts in the short term to plan for long-term growth and success.

Oregon Volunteers' primary goals of fostering volunteerism, civic engagement and AmeriCorps service in Oregon remain unchanged. In implementing this State Service Plan, Oregon Volunteers will phase its strategies, focusing first on strengthening the foundation of AmeriCorps programming, one of Oregon's greatest assets promoting service and civic engagement. These efforts will foster a stable environment for continued growth of the organization's capacity, and implementation of the volunteerism and civic engagement strategies described herein.

This plan serves two key roles for the Oregon Volunteers Commission. First, as a three-year State Service Plan, it showcases our priorities, goals, and desired outcomes. Second, as an organizational strategic plan, it provides a roadmap for OV staff, Commissioners, and stakeholders. The goals and strategies of this plan were determined collectively by the Director, OV staff, and Commission members, utilizing input from AmeriCorps program staff, state and federal government partners, and community member participants from a recent statewide community engagement process that took place in 17 communities across all regions of Oregon.

## Goals and Strategies

**GOAL 1: Strengthen Oregon's AmeriCorps programs**

*Outcome*: High quality AmeriCorps programs address local needs identified by communities, leveraging additional resources in terms of funding and people-power, which in turn increases both volunteerism and civic engagement in Oregon.

**Strategies:**

1.1 Provide targeted training and technical assistance to AmeriCorps staff based upon annual needs assessments and emerging community priorities.

1.2 Implement data quality review standards and framework that increase ability of Oregon's AmeriCorps programs to track and submit quality data, providing the Commission and the network with data tools necessary for identifying community needs.

1.3 Support programs to meet or exceed their programmatic performance measures.

1.4 Provide training and technical assistance and other identified supports to AmeriCorps programs on topics of recruitment, retention, marketing and branding.

**GOAL 2: Strengthen Oregon Volunteers: Commission for Voluntary Action and Service**

*Outcome*: The Commission has ample support, staff resources and funding to promote AmeriCorps, volunteerism and civic engagement to strengthen Oregon communities.

**Strategies:**

2.1 Increase diversity of Commission membership through more racial, ethnic, youth and regional representation.

2.2 Increase staffing to ensure successful achievement of OV goals, including increased Volunteerism and Civic Engagement-focused activities.

2.3 Strengthen local, statewide, and national partnerships.

2.4 Develop communication and outreach plan to amplify Oregon Volunteers' voice and reach.

**GOAL 3: Increase National Service Focus on Statewide Education Outcomes**

*Outcome*: Within Oregon's AmeriCorps portfolio, programs providing educational services that align with statewide educational directives are highlighted, promoted and connected.

**Strategies:**

3.1 Raise awareness of state educational priority focus areas, and available resources and funding opportunities, to Oregon AmeriCorps programs.

3.2 Identify partnerships and resources available to assist Oregon Volunteers and AmeriCorps programs in providing programming that support Governor Directives for improving educational services, including measures that strengthen community supports for Early Learning transition of students from pre-kindergarten through 3rd grade.

3.3 Through funding opportunities, support Oregon AmeriCorps programs aiming to provide high school dropout prevention efforts to increase Oregon's four-year cohort graduation rates.

**GOAL 4: Align Oregon project funding opportunities with state and federal partners' priority focus areas**

*Outcome*: Oregon's AmeriCorps programs respond to community issues that are having an impact in communities both locally and nationwide.

**Strategies:**

4.1 Raise awareness of state partner and/or CNCS priority focus areas to Oregon AmeriCorps programs. These include the focus areas of education, environmental stewardship, disaster services, healthy futures, veteran services and safer communities and special initiatives.

4.2 Identify partnerships and resources available to assist Oregon Volunteers and AmeriCorps programs in providing programming that addresses the priority focus areas of state and/or national partners.

4.3 Through funding opportunities, support Oregon AmeriCorps programs providing programming that addresses the areas of: education, environmental stewardship, disaster services, healthy futures, veteran services or safer communities and special initiatives.

**GOAL 5: Support Disaster Preparedness efforts in Oregon**

*Outcome*: The Commission is engaged in statewide disaster preparedness efforts with local and statewide partners.

**Strategies:**

5.1 Establish role for OV within the statewide agency framework by coordinating through the Oregon Office of Emergency Management and other affiliated partners.

5.2 Develop plan for unaffiliated volunteers, AmeriCorps, and CNCS programs to align with statewide response, including all responding state agencies and nonprofits.

**Supplemental Plan for Volunteers Age 55 and Older**

**Goals:**

- Promote resources, research and best practices that highlight the benefits of volunteering, particularly for those 55+.
- Encourage funded AmeriCorps*State programs to engage community volunteers 55+ in Days of Service activities.
- Partner with organizations currently serving the 55+ population to encourage volunteerism and increase awareness of service opportunities.
- Connect with local volunteer associations and centers to gain awareness of ways in which the Commission can support their mobilization efforts for community members 55+.

## STATE SERVICE PLAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

**Year 1**

- Secured $250,000 state funding for 1-1 $ match required for the Commission Support Grant (CSG), Oregon Volunteer's primary operating grant from CNCS.
- Secured $250,000 in federal Commission funding from CNCS through the 2018 Commission Support Grant (CSG).
- Secured $161,537 in additional Commission Investment Fund (CIF) grants to provide training and technical assistance to AmeriCorps*State grantees, members and service partners. These funds will be used to provide support in areas including, but not limited to: program development and expansion, marketing and promotion, recruitment and retention, community engagement, and data quality collection and review infrastructure.
- Secured $19,800 in supplemental CIF funding for disaster response program development and activities.
- Increased Commission membership and representation.
- Transitioned to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), ensuring continued impact of AmeriCorps presence and service in Oregon communities.

**Looking Ahead: Upcoming Projects Snapshot**

- The Commission is partnered with CNCS State Office and CNCS Senior Corps Office to bring a National Service disaster response training to Oregon (March 2019). In addition to this collaborative training, the Commission and partners will convene follow-up cohort meetings of programs interested in developing disaster response activities.

- Rollout of National Service in Oregon Mapping Project, a project aimed to identify areas of greatest needs in Oregon and underserved communities in order to target AmeriCorps*State, Senior Corps, VISTA and NCCC expansion. This collaboration will introduce communities to the opportunities of these programs, including technical assistance for starting a program through planning, pilot projects, funding opportunities and more.

- Enhanced grant application processes that amplify AmeriCorps and service partners participation in meeting state and national performance measures.