



Oregon Commission for Voluntary Action and Service

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August 11, 2020

Dear Chair Rives, Vice Chair Rowe, and members of the Commission,

I am writing to you as the Co-Chair of the Oregon Volunteers Commission Board. Oregon Volunteers (OV) is the state service commission for AmeriCorps*State programs, and for the promotion of volunteerism and civic engagement activities, in Oregon. In this role, OV receives and administers federal funding to local nonprofits, educational institutions and local governments operating AmeriCorps programs across communities in Oregon. AmeriCorps members serving with these programs provide critical support services to address unmet needs in their community.

Currently, OV does not receive funds to support another crucial part of our mission: community capacity-building and leveraging the power of volunteerism to engage and strengthen Oregon communities. As we move forward, and in our desire to expand the ability of local organizations to increase their volunteer program capacity, Oregon Volunteers requests additional funding support for a Volunteer Services program specialist. The responsibilities of this role will be to address response and recovery, develop emergency preparedness infrastructure, increase outreach to underserved communities, and coordinate with national service efforts. This position will be crucial in increasing Oregon Volunteers' capacity to meet its statutory responsibilities and organizational goals.

The Oregon Volunteers Commission Board would like to express our full support for the Oregon Volunteers Policy Option Package #203, and we recommend the HECC Commission adopt it as part of the Agency's Request Budget for 2021-2023.

Thank you for your time. Please reach out if I can provide more information or details about the Oregon Volunteers Commission and the vital work the Commission supports.

Sincerely,



Derenda Schubert, PhD

Oregon Volunteers Commission Co-Chair