



## Oregon Commission for Voluntary Action and Service

**Commission**

**Members:**

NATHAN RIX

*Chair*

ELIAS VILLEGAS

*Vice Chair*

DANIEL ALTAMIRANO

HERNANDEZ

SIERRA BARNES

SHENIKA

CUMBERBATCH

JORGE CRUZ

HEIDI EDWARDS

MICHAEL FIELDMAN

TODD JONES

ADELE McAFEE

JAYESH PALSHIKAR

COURTNEY SNEAD

**Commission Staff:**

CARIE BAUER

*Director*

AMY HOLLAND

*Program Officer*

STEPHANIE SOLOMON

*Program Officer*

BRITTANY MELZER

*Board Administrator*

**Technical Advisor:**

KAREN HUMELBAUGH

*Director, OWI*

January 20, 2021

Governor Kate Brown  
900 Court Street  
Salem, OR 97302-4047

*cc: Members of the Advisory Committee*

RE: COVID-19 Vaccine Administration

Thank you for your bold leadership in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic affecting Oregon, and for instituting measures to keep community members safe.

As the planning process continues for the distribution and administration of the COVID-19 vaccine, we request that you consider the vital role AmeriCorps members and volunteers fulfill in supporting the health, educational, economic and environmental sectors in Oregon. We respectfully request you include AmeriCorps members and volunteers in the COVID-19 vaccination plan, and consider them as a resource for successful implementation of response and recovery activities moving forward.

Volunteers and members of AmeriCorps programs support some of our most vulnerable communities, serve alongside school, nonprofit and government staff, and have been a vital part of the state's pandemic response. They are providing services to meet basic needs of both our urban and rural communities, working to advance critical equity and justice work, and supporting online learning activities.

Undoubtedly, as schools begin to plan for reopening, they will be relying on AmeriCorps members and volunteers to provide the necessary in-classroom supports, such as mentoring, tutoring, and program outreach, to ensure student success during this transition and long-term. Their health risk is equal to the staff they serve alongside; for AmeriCorps members or volunteers from communities being disproportionately affected by this crisis, even more so.

As you are developing strategies for the personnel of these sectors to be vaccinated and safely return to work, we hope you will recognize the AmeriCorps members and volunteers that serve alongside them, their critical efforts to response and recovery across the state, and include them in your vaccine distribution strategy on schedule with the sectors in which they serve. Additionally, we encourage you to consider the ways AmeriCorps members and volunteers could be a resource during vaccine strategy implementation; potentially providing supports such as community outreach and education, supporting operations at distribution centers to ensure the safety of the communities where they serve, and more.

Sincerely,

*Members of the Oregon Volunteers Commission*