

## OREGONSERVES COMMISSION AGENDA

**Virtual Meeting Information:** March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025, from 11:00am to 12:30pm

**Join by Video:** [bit.ly/42EJU5Y](https://bit.ly/42EJU5Y)

**Join by Phone:** # (612) 328-1310 Passcode: 3 2 3 6 6 6

**Contact Info:** [oregon.serves@hecc.oregon.gov](mailto:oregon.serves@hecc.oregon.gov)

*OregonServes Commission meetings are open to the public and conform to Oregon public meeting laws. To request accommodations, for deaf or hard of hearing, or persons with disabilities, or to submit a verbal or written public comment, complete our online form at [bit.ly/43lqYiE](https://bit.ly/43lqYiE), or email [oregon.serves@hecc.oregon.gov](mailto:oregon.serves@hecc.oregon.gov). Public comment notices and comments should be submitted 12 hours prior to the meeting. Each individual or group will have a time limit of 3 minutes. Agenda times are approximate. Order of the agenda may vary. Accommodation requests should be sent at least 72 hours in advance. This document is formatted for screen readers. Please email OregonServes if you have requests for improvements.*

Agenda Below in Order by: Timing, the Lead to facilitate or introduce, and Agenda Item.

<b>11:00am</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Meeting Opening</b> (starts on time) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Call to Order</li> <li>- Agenda Review</li> <li>- Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes</li> <li>- Commission Members: News and Announcements</li> </ul> <b>Consent Agenda</b> (approval item) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- OregonServes Director Report</li> </ul>
<b>11:15am</b>	<b>Co-Chair</b>	<b>Report-Out: ASC Leadership Convening &amp; Congressional Visits</b>
<b>11:25am</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Invited Public Testimony – Oregon AmeriCorps State programs</b>
<b>12:05pm</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Commission Discussion</b>
<b>12:25pm</b>	<b>Co-Chair</b>	<b>Meeting Closing</b> Recap: Action Items Reminders: Upcoming Events Requests: Future Agenda Items
<b>12:30pm</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Meeting Adjourned</b>



## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

March 2025

### **Staffing –**

OregonServes staff will reduce by two positions at end of fiscal year. The requests for general funds and budget authority to retain and make permanent the Fiscal Compliance Officer and the Disaster Services Coordinator positions were not successful. Both of these positions were limited duration, funded by 50% state general fund match and 50% American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds – the latter which has expired.

OWI Management is determining ability to repurpose the Program Analyst 2 position (Outreach and Training) to the Fiscal and Compliance Officer position. A plan to meet our federal requirements and needs for outreach and recruitment is being developed, likely to include raising additional funding, through private and public sources, and utilizing contractors. In the meantime, myself and Kelly McNabb, OWI Office Specialist, are juggling communication duties, and all staff are assisting with outreach duties to compensate for the staffing loss.

### **Budgeting –**

AmeriCorps has released the 2025 Commission Support Grant (CSG) and Commission Investment Fund (CIF) guidance. Without an approved federal budget, state allocations were not able to be distributed, however, AmeriCorps sent out the information, regardless, ahead of March 14<sup>th</sup>, so that commissions could be working on their applications over a potential federal government shutdown. Additionally unknown: impact of the 2023 Fiscal Responsibility Act on commission allocations.

### **Monitoring –**

In August 2023, AmeriCorps visited OregonServes for a routine monitoring. Findings primarily centered around written processes and procedures for tracking match, grant reporting, and other fiscal and procurement-related matters. OregonServes successfully completed the corrective action plan through implementation of new procedures and the monitoring has been closed.

### **Site Visits –**

I'm actively working with Congresswoman Maxine Dexter's staff to coordinate site visits to College Possible and Confluence Environmental Center in April 2025. OregonServes staff will join AmeriCorps NCCC Pacific Region staff on March 17<sup>th</sup>, for a site visit to their grantee, Sabin Community Development Corporation at the Isaka Shamsud-Din Apartments in NE Portland. In December, I joined the Oregon Youth Works team for a site visit at their grantee, Community Services Consortium offices, in

Independence Oregon, to learn more about their GED and Career Pathways Program and explore additional program collaborations for AmeriCorps.

### **Legislative Session Updates –**

Over 2500 bills were submitted by legislators this session. None of OregonServes' legislative concepts (staffing, funding, increased benefits for national service) were approved this session. The following bills would impact OregonServes and/or could benefit members: HB2399, HB2885, HB3307, HB2700, HB3754. None are currently scheduled for hearings. March 21<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for bills to be introduced and have a hearing, in order to remain in discussion for the session. Most of these bills are based on the work formed and instructed by Representative Evans. Several of the bills reintroduce the idea of the ORVID system being instituted and managed enterprise-level through the Oregon Department of Emergency Management, with our collaboration and as an advisory entity, of which we support. Were this to be successful, OregonServes still requires additional staffing and funding resources in order to meet this responsibility, and overall duties to coordinate the response of national service and spontaneous volunteers during disaster.

### **Federal Appropriations –**

With the federal appropriations deadline approaching on March 14th, there is growing concern about the potential for a government shutdown. A shutdown could have significant consequences for AmeriCorps programs, including funding delays and operational disruptions. We are closely tracking developments and assessing contingency plans to mitigate any impact on our programs and grantees. FY25 funding, if passed, is expected to have significant reductions. The Fiscal Responsibility Act caps will be in place while the needed stipend increases are also occurring, thus resulting in less funding for member slots: expected decrease from the nationwide average of 75,000 members a year to 45,000 members a year.

It is anticipated that competitive grant awards and formula grant awards will both be delayed by a month, at minimum, due to the need for AmeriCorps to revise grant application guidance and processes to meet compliance with the recently released executive orders. It is believed the earliest formula awards will occur will be mid to late August, per information received during AmeriCorps' monthly ASN grantee call. Any interruptions that would occur from a federal government shutdown will significantly delay these processes further.

**APPROPRIATIONS: CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE (CNCS)**

CNCS PROGRAMS	FY23 Enacted	FY24 Enacted	FY25 PBR	FY25 S4S Priorities	FY25 House	FY25 Senate
<b>AmeriCorps State and National</b>	557.1M	557.1M	591.3M	<b>804.9M</b>	<b>0</b>	592.1M
<i>Members</i>	<i>70,000</i>	<i>44,500</i>	<i>44,500</i>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>0</b>	51,000
<b>AmeriCorps VISTA</b>	103.3M	103.3M	136.5M	<b>137.8M</b>	103.3M	103.3M
<i>Members</i>	<i>7,700</i>	<i>3,300</i>	<i>5,775</i>	<b>7,700</b>	<i>3,300</i>	3,150
<b>AmeriCorps NCCC</b>	37.73M	37.73M	42.5M	<b>43.8M</b>	<b>0</b>	37.73M
<i>Members</i>	<i>1,360</i>	<i>1,040</i>	<i>1,200</i>	<b>1,360</b>	<b>0</b>	1000
<b>National Service Trust</b>	230M	180M	159.9M	<b>211M</b>	<b>0</b>	160M
<i>Members</i>	<i>78,860</i>	<i>48,920</i>	<i>51,550</i>	<b>78,860</b>	<b>0</b>	51,550
<b>Seniors RSVP</b>	55.10M	55.10M	56.5M	<b>63M</b>	55.105M	55.10M
<i>Members</i>	<i>114,870</i>	<i>114,873</i>	<i>116,500</i>	<b>116,500</b>	<i>114,873</i>	<i>114,873</i>
<b>Seniors Foster Grandparents</b>	125.36M	125.3M	124.6M	<b>129.1M</b>	125.36M	125.3M
<i>Members</i>	<i>14,540</i>	<i>14,540</i>	<i>15,400</i>	<b>15,400</b>	<i>14,540</i>	<i>14,540</i>
<b>Senior Companions</b>	56.44M	56.44M	54.3M	<b>58.2M</b>	56.45M	56.44M
<i>Members</i>	<i>7,290</i>	<i>7,290</i>	<i>7,370</i>	<b>7,370</b>	<i>7,290</i>	<i>7,290</i>
<b>Volunteer Generation Fund</b>	8.56M	8.56M	8.6M	<b>30M</b>	8.56M	8.56M
<b>State Commission Support Grants</b>	19.54M	19.54M	19.54M	<b>25M</b>	<b>0</b>	19.54M
<b>Days of Service</b>	6.14M	6.14M	6.14M	<b>6.15M</b>	6.14M	6.14M
<b>Evaluation &amp; Evidence</b>	6.25M	6.25M	6.25M	<b>6.25M</b>	6.25M	6.25M
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1.205B</b>	<b>1.155B</b>	<b>1.206B</b>	<b>1.515B</b>	<b>361.16M</b>	<b>1.170B</b>

## Executive Orders –

AmeriCorps issued directives for grantees to ensure compliance with the following executive orders issued by the current federal administration:

- Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government
- Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing
- Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity
- Unleashing American Energy

Because these directives impact grant activities, and assurances, certifications, and agreements, already in place, and the validity of these orders are being tested in court (*there are two lawsuits in which Oregon is one of 14 plaintiffs*), there are legal implications that require OregonServes to work under the guidance of HECC leadership, the Oregon Department of Justice, and the Governor’s Office in responding to the requirements. This has been a significant area of focus since mid-January and has taken up a significant amount of my capacity and focus, delaying other work, namely coordination of commission board initiatives and meetings for public policy, membership and development, and the civic health index and state service plan initiatives.

## **State Service Plan / Civic Health Index –**

The working group for the Civic Health Index project met to thought partner on the process and potential timeline. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled to discuss the state service plan contractor proposal and other related work. I've received the compiled data from NCoC and have begun reaching out to community partners, including Oregon Humanities, to discuss potential involvement.

## **National Governors Association Center for Best Practices:**

### **Service-to-Career Pathways Policy Academy –**

Service as a Pathway to Economic Opportunity: A Roadmap for Governors –

<https://www.nga.org/publications/service-as-a-pathway-to-economic-opportunity-a-roadmap-for-governors/>

OregonServes successfully applied for the NGA Service-to-Career Pathways Policy Academy grant. As an awardee, OregonServes will receive \$50,000, support to execute our proposed scope of work; participate in a technical assistance curriculum designed to meet the needs of the Policy Academy cohort; and the opportunity to engage in multiple virtual and in-person peer learning opportunities over a 12-month period.

The Oregon team consists of: (myself) Carie Bauer (grant writer and team lead), Myronda Schiding, Jeremy Ahola, Jennifer Rice, Madeline Seghers, and Governor Office Representative Sarah Foster, Workforce, Labor, and Higher Education Advisor.

The primary goals outlined in the application (posted in Basecamp) include: 1) surveying the landscape, 2) convening and aligning partners, 3) setting common goals and data framework, and implementing service-to-career models in high-demand sectors. This work is being implemented with a focus on addressing workforce demands in areas of public health, mental and behavioral health, and climate and clean energy.

## **Youth Mental Health Corps –**

Schultz Family Foundation: Youth Mental Health Corps website

<https://schultzfamilyfoundation.org/what-we-do/youth-mental-health-corps/>

OregonServes has applied for a \$500,000 grant for deployment of a Youth Mental Health Corps. This private funding opportunity is sponsored by a partnership between the Schultz Family Foundation and Pinterest. This opportunity seeks to address the youth mental health crisis and the behavioral health workforce shortage.

YMHC will support state service commissions in creating service-to-career pathways into the for behavioral health field through AmeriCorps and other state-based service programs with opportunities for young people to earn certifications, credentials, and/or higher education credit through one of three pathways: school based mental health navigator, peer support / recovery navigator, and community mental health navigator.

YMHC award notifications are expected to be within the next 1-2 weeks.

### **AmeriCorps Data Updates –**

See Making a Difference in Oregon document for updates on Ed Segal Education Award data and biennial program statistics.



# MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OREGON

## AMERICORPS STATE PROGRAM IMPACTS: 2022-2024 Program Years

### Environmental Education & Stewardship

- 22,349 youth and adults received education in environmental stewardship, equipping them with the tools to protect and preserve natural resources.

### Post-Secondary Support

- 4,500 individuals received support with college enrollment and graduation.

### Academic & Enrichment Support for K-12 Students

- 630 students in rural and frontier communities gained access to music education, fostering creativity where arts opportunities are often limited.

### Strengthening Local Communities and Institutions

- AmeriCorps members recruited and managed 6,216 community volunteers, who gave back to their communities over 40,000 hours of volunteer service, an economic value worth \$1,398,988.
- This work has leveraged significant resources, with over \$8.2 million in local contributions and \$4.7 million in federal funding, ensuring that Oregon communities receive essential support and services.
- Members earned total of \$1,682,773 in education awards to pay back student loans or pay for college education.

## AmeriCorps in Oregon: Transformative Statewide Impact

AmeriCorps programs collectively provide Oregon with unparalleled benefits, driving positive change and strengthening communities:

- Across AmeriCorps State, NCCC, VISTA, and National programs, and AmeriCorps Seniors, over 4,655 members and volunteers have served at 705 service sites statewide.
- These members and volunteers earned over \$4.2 million in education awards, enabling them to further their education and career goals.
- Federal funding has totaled \$15.1 million across all programs, significantly supporting local initiatives and services.

## INVESTING IN OREGON INDIVIDUALS, COLLEGES, AND UNIVERSITIES:

### Ed Segal AmeriCorps Ed Segal Education Award 2023 Update

#### Highlights:

- AmeriCorps Members serving in Oregon have earned \$73M in education scholarships since the start of AmeriCorps in 1994.
- AmeriCorps Members have spent \$45.9M of earned awards in Oregon that they can use to go to school or pay off student loans.
- AmeriCorps members have paid off \$12.1M in student loans in Oregon with their education awards.

#### Top 20 Education Institutions for AmeriCorps Ed Award Payments in Oregon, 1994-2023

In addition to these colleges and universities, AmeriCorps members have spent their awards earning necessary education for trades ranging from midwifery, cosmetology, health sciences, art and design, legal arts, technology, healing arts, and bookkeeping, to nannyng/childcare, woodcraft, heavy equipment operations, mechanics, culinary arts, truck driving, and more.

Portland State University	\$7,173,771
Portland Community College	\$5,000,315
Oregon State University	\$3,996,994
University of Oregon	\$3,644,247
Lewis & Clark College	\$1,919,943
Lane Community College	\$1,190,575
University of Portland	\$1,091,348
Central Oregon Community College	\$1,082,461
Southern Oregon University	\$891,849
Willamette University	\$735,729
Oregon Health and Sciences University	\$611,640
Mt. Hood Community College	\$597,115
Western Oregon University	\$545,836
Chemeketa Community College	\$507,836
University of Natural Medicine	\$414,636
Rogue Community College	\$380,541
George Fox University	\$362,552
Clackamas Community College	\$340,663
Eastern Oregon University	\$335,788
Reed College	\$255,544