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## OREGONSERVES COMMISSION

### PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE AGENDA

**Meeting Date and Time:** October 24, 2025, from 1pm to 2pm

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

[Join Meeting on Zoom](#)

**Public Access and Accommodation Information:** OregonServes Commission meetings are open to the public, follow public meeting laws, and are recorded. Agenda times are approximate. To submit a written or verbal public comment, request accommodations, or request materials in an alternative format, please [complete our online form](#) or [email us](#). Written comments must be received at least 12 hours before the meeting, verbal comments are limited to three (3) minutes per person or group, and accommodation requests should be submitted at least 48 hours in advance. Our meetings and documents are formatted to meet accessibility standards. If you encounter any barriers or have suggestions for improvement, we welcome your feedback.

#### **12:00 pm – Meeting Called to Order**

*Facilitated by Committee Chair*

- Review agenda
- Approve minutes
- Receive public comments *(if applicable)*

#### **12:05 pm – AmeriCorps & Legislative Updates**

*Presented by the Director*

- Report-out on federal shutdown, multistate lawsuit, agency strategic planning, state service plan addendum workplan, upcoming legislative calendar.

#### **12:20 pm – Special Topic**

- Overview of ASC State Policy recommendations.

#### **12:35 pm – Committee Business**

*Facilitated by Committee Chair*

- Open Discussion: Debrief insights from meeting and determine next steps or action.

#### **12:55 pm – Meeting Closing**

*Facilitated by Committee Chair*

- Review of next meeting dates and action items.

#### **1:00 pm – Meeting Adjourned**

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## **OREGONSERVES COMMISSION**

### ***PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES***

**Meeting Date and Time:** August 22, 2025, from 1pm to 2pm

**Location:** Virtual

**Format:** Meeting minutes follow the flow of the meeting agenda for clarity.

#### **Committee Members in Attendance**

- Sierra Barnes, Chair, Public Policy Committee
- Daniel Altamirano Hernandez, OregonServes Commission (OSC) Vice-Chair

#### **Committee Members Absent**

None

#### **Commission Staff in Attendance**

- Carie Bauer, Director, OregonServes
- Alea Soboloski, Executive Support Specialist, Office of Workforce Investments

#### **Meeting Opening**

- Meeting chaired and called to order at 1:08 pm by Chair Barnes.
- Meeting Quorum was not established; review of meeting minutes will be reviewed at the next committee meeting.
- No public comments received.

#### **AmeriCorps & Legislative Updates**

***Report out on Federal and State Activities, Presented by Director Bauer***

##### **State-Level Updates:**

- Director Bauer reported that OregonServes is continuing to align with statewide service and workforce initiatives, including coordination with education and workforce development agencies.
- She noted upcoming legislative opportunities to strengthen AmeriCorps programs in Oregon, particularly around workforce readiness and youth engagement.
- Discussion emphasized the importance of keeping legislators informed of AmeriCorps' impact in communities across the state, especially as Oregon looks to expand support for service pathways.

### **Federal-Level Updates:**

- Director Bauer shared information from AmeriCorps headquarters regarding budget proposals and federal policy direction.
- At the federal level, there are ongoing conversations about funding stability and programmatic priorities, which could affect Oregon's AmeriCorps programs.
- She highlighted that federal agencies are encouraging greater integration between AmeriCorps and state workforce/equity priorities, which may open doors for OregonServes to pursue additional partnerships and funding streams.
- Committee members discussed how these developments could impact future grant cycles and the sustainability of local programs.

### **Committee Business**

#### ***Debrief Insights, Address Old Business, and Introduce New Topics, Presented by Chair Barnes***

- After brief updates on the agency's strategic planning, Chair Barnes highlighted the need to position the committee as a proactive policy voice within the Commission.

### **Meeting Closing**

- Chair thanked members for their contributions and engagement.
- No further business was brought forward.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

Meeting adjourned at 1:53 pm by Chair Barnes.

# PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

***October 24, 2025***

# FEDERAL LANDSCAPE

- House proposal would cut the agency roughly in half beginning FY25.
- Senate proposal still pending; better than the earlier draft that proposed eliminating all AmeriCorps programs.
- “America First Corps” name change proposed—unclear whether it applies only to the agency or also to programs.
- OIG is promoting his “successes reducing waste,” which could impact perception on the Hill.

# FY 26 APPROPRIATIONS

CNCS PROGRAMS	FY24 Enacted	FY25 Enacted	FY26 PBR	FY26 S4S Request	FY26 Senate	FY26 House
<i>Operating Expenses (ASN, VISTA, NCCC, Seniors, VGF, CSG, Innov)</i>	<i>975.5M</i>	<i>975.5M</i>	<i>32.5M</i>	<i>1.03B</i>	<i>975.5M</i>	<i>524.7M</i>
AmeriCorps State and National	557.1M	557.1M	2.45M	592.1M	557.1M	278.54M
AmeriCorps VISTA	103.3M	103.3M	7.1M	103.3M	103.3M	51.6M
AmeriCorps NCCC	37.73M	37.73M	21M	37.73M	37.73M	21M
National Service Trust	230M	180M	0	160M	180M	40M
Seniors RSVP	55.1M	55.1M	0.122M	55.1M	55.1M	55.1M
Seniors Foster Grandparents	125.36M	125.3M	0.122M	125.3M	125.3M	62.6M
Senior Companions	56.44M	56.44M	0.122M	56.44M	56.44M	28.2M
Volunteer Generation Fund	8.56M	8.56M	0	30M	8.56M	8.56M
State Commission Support Grants	19.54M	19.54M	1.563M	19.54M	19.54M	9.77M
Innovation/Days of Service	6.14M	6.14M	0	6.14M	6.14M	6.14M
Evaluation	6.25M	6.25M	0	6.25M	6.25M	3.12M
Salaries & Expenses	99.68M	99.68M	69.627M	99.68M	89.69M	69.6M
OIG	7.59M	7.59M	5.624M	7.59M	7.59M	8.6M
<b>CNCS TOTAL</b>	<b>1.313B</b>	<b>1.262B</b>	<b>107.681M</b>	<b>1.319B</b>	<b>1.252B</b>	<b>643M</b>

# SHUTDOWN AND CONTINUING RESOLUTION

- Senate Democrats are seeking a two-year extension of healthcare premium relief.
- A full-year CR is on the table in exchange for healthcare relief.
- Outcome could be:
  - CR through December, or
  - CR through Spring 2026.
- A full-year CR leaves funding flat—better than a shutdown, but not ideal for long-term planning.
- Staff reductions during shutdown: approximately 220 union staff had returned. Now back down to approx. 20-25.
- Most core processes halted or delayed. Website is still offline.

# REAUTHORIZATION



## Promoting Service through AmeriCorps (PSA) Act

**Introduced in September 2024 by Senators Coons (D-DE) and Cassidy (R-LA) as lead authors in the Senate**

- “Mini” reauthorization bill:
  - Increases the flexibility of the Segal Education Award to expand workforce development opportunities through service and strengthen the pathway from AmeriCorps to post-secondary education.
  - Standardizes administrative flexibilities, eligibility requirements, and benefits across AmeriCorps programs to better support members during and after their service terms.
  - Creates more opportunities to serve by authorizing positions with shorter terms of service and codifying an expanded age eligibility range for NCCC.
  - Establishes an Office of Alumni Engagement to strengthen recruitment and foster a common identity among current and former AmeriCorps members.
  - Reauthorizes the national service laws for the period of 2025 to 2029.



# COMMISSION INITIATIVES: NGA & YMHC

- Oregon's Youth Mental Health Corps (YMHC) continues to advance despite national program disruptions.
- Had to rebuild partnerships after major turnover and shifting timelines, but:
  - New partners have joined (tribal, rural, and education-based).
  - There's strong interest statewide in serving youth mental health needs through service pathways.
- Progress slowed by federal issues:
  - The NOFO has not been released, preventing new applications.
  - EGrants remains offline, halting submissions and slowing program startup.
- Despite these barriers, OregonServes and partners continue preparing to launch placements, building training and communications infrastructure, and coordinating with Schultz Family Foundation and NGA teams.

# STATE SERVICE PLAN ADDENDUM

- **Purpose:** Develop a short-form *State Service Plan Addendum* to meet compliance and capture current priorities for 2025–2026.
- **Status:** Agreement is in with Procurement. Planning with Kaira next week.
- **Schedule:** October 31, then two follow-up sessions in November/December.
- **Discussion & Considerations:**
  - Federal and state funding reductions.
  - Increased partnerships with other state agencies.
  - Consider Oregon's pivot toward state-led service models and future funding diversification.
  - Discuss legislative and policy priorities emerging from Public Policy Committee input.

# OPPORTUNITIES

## **1. Climate and Service Alignment**

- Support the development of a Climate Corps model under Oregon's broader service strategy.
- Engage partners across OWI, ODOE, OHA, OEM, and community-based organizations to advance workforce goals tied to climate resilience.

## **2. HECC Strategy 3 Implementation**

- Position service and volunteerism as core tools for civic engagement and applied learning.
- Contribute to solving community problems through partnerships that connect service, education, and workforce pathways.

# STATE POLICY EXAMPLES



## 2025 Notable State Legislation and Budget Requests

- **North Dakota** — Removing Tax on Ed Award, **HB 1107/SB210** – **Failed on Senate Floor**
- **Massachusetts** — Removing Tax on Ed Award, **HD2030/SB87** – **In Committee**
- **Wisconsin** — Segal Award Match – **Governor's Budget, Removed**
- **Massachusetts** — \$5,000 Student Loan Forgiveness, **HD 2026** – **In Committee**
- **Arizona** — Full Segal Award Match, **HB2616**– **Passed Committee, Failed**
- **Oregon** — \$2,500 Grant to Service Members, **HB2399** – **In Committee**
- **New York** — New York State Service Corps, **A5433** – **In Committee**
- **New York** — New York Youth Climate Corps, **A5896** – **In Committee**
- **Maryland** — Strengthening Dept of Service and Civic Innovation, **HB0033** – **Passed**
- **Utah** — Expands Utah Service Fellowship, **SB 161** – **Passed**
- **South Carolina** — Creates State Service Year Program, **HB3225** – **Failed in Committee**
- **Nevada** — State Service Corps – **Passed Committee**
- **Maine** — Expands Maine Service Fellows Program, **LD 876** – **Passed Committee, Replaced**
- **Massachusetts** — State Hiring Incentive, **HD 2028** – **In Committee**
- **Massachusetts** — Giving Retirement Credit for Service Years, **HD 1109** – **In Committee**
- **West Virginia** — Reorganizing state departments, **HD2009** – **Passed**
- **Colorado** — Credit for Apprenticeships Toward Associates Degree, **HB25-1221** – **Passed**
- **Virginia** — Workforce Development Package, **Budget Amendment** - **Failed in Committee**
- **Vermont** — Pro-Service Bill, **HB 516** – **In Committee/Carried Over**
- **Iowa** — Work/Service Requirements for Assistance Programs, **SF615** – **Passed**