



**SERVE ALASKA
STATE SERVICE PLAN
2016-2019**

Introduction

Serve Alaska, the state service commission, is funded through the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) in partnership with the State of Alaska. The commission consists of no fewer than 15 and no more than 25 volunteer commissioners appointed by the governor.

Serve Alaska is the largest single vehicle for channeling federal resources for national and community service in Alaska. These funds help recruit, train and mobilize AmeriCorps members to address locally identified needs in the designated focus areas:

- Disaster Services
- Economic Opportunity
- Education
- Environmental Stewardship
- Healthy Futures
- Veterans and Military Families

Our Vision

Our vision for Alaska is a vibrant and caring community, strengthened through service and volunteerism, to problem solve and improve the lives of all Alaskans using “Service as a Solution.”

Our Mission

We seek to foster, support and promote the ethic of service and volunteerism to all Alaskans. We invite Alaskans to contribute their time and talents to build healthy communities through the six focus areas.

Serve Alaska will advance our mission

We will increase visibility, public awareness and opportunities for national service and volunteerism by conducting an outreach campaign to urban and rural communities. We will demonstrate how national service creates change in Alaska

We will develop, cultivate and maintain a diverse portfolio of AmeriCorps programs consistent with CNCS requirements and Alaska’s priorities. We will continue to familiarize ourselves with all CNCS activities within Alaska

with the goal of cross-training and supporting the in-state network of national service programs.

We will seek partners and collaborators in our focus areas. We will educate key potential partners through presentations, workshops and trainings around the state. Our efforts will include faith-based organizations and non-profits that develop programs to serve as intermediaries for other groups that may be interested in operating AmeriCorps programs.

We will encourage and increase mobilization of local volunteers serving in our communities as “feet on the ground.” Through our programs, we will develop and grow the ethic of volunteerism across the state.

Program Focus

Serve Alaska will focus on the six CNCS priorities. Additionally, we understand that Alaska has needs that are of special interest to the commission. We look forward to the potential organic programs and partners that will uniquely address Alaska’s needs.

Disaster Services: Serve Alaska endeavors to use subgrantees to cross-train members in volunteer management skills. The training will equip members to contribute in immediate response to declared disasters within the state.

Economic Opportunity: Serve Alaska will continue to assist in addressing the unmet needs of economically disadvantaged individuals. Programs will address workforce development, entrepreneurship and decreased recidivism across the state.

Education: Serve Alaska will prioritize programs related to increasing graduation rates, success of at risk students, as well as mentoring, tutoring, family support and homework help.

Environmental Stewardship: Serve Alaska will instruct, improve and provide leadership around the state in matters concerning energy, ecosystems and climate change.

Healthy Futures: Serve Alaska will address the myriad of health challenges in Alaska, including access to healthcare, mental health services, nutritional education and senior support services.

Veterans and Military Families: Serve Alaska will continue to engage with both the active duty and veteran military communities, making this a special focus as we develop program partners.

Governor's Focus: Serve Alaska will incorporate Governor Walker's priorities as they are identified and when consistent with our mission.

Engaging Adults 55+: Serve Alaska will capture the experience and energy of the 55-and-older community by partnering with organizations currently serving the demographic. We will encourage and promote the use of older volunteers for civic engagement and multigenerational activities and will include this engagement as a priority for new programs and partnerships.

State Sustainability: Serve Alaska will convey our story of "service as a solution," which is particularly relevant considering the present financial climate in the state. Ours is a good story to tell. We will continue to foster good relationship with our elected officials.