

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: June 18, 2012

CONTACT:
Greg Donovan
402-471-6249

AmeriCorps grants announced to meet state and local needs

(Lincoln, Neb.)—Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska and Munroe Meyer Institute of the University of Nebraska Medical Center will receive AmeriCorps grants from the federal Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). Lutheran Family Services will receive \$358,604 while the Munroe Meyer Institute will receive \$184,187.

AmeriCorps members in service through Lutheran Family Service will focus on education and economic opportunity for refugees, minority youth, veterans and military families throughout the state. Those in service at Munroe Meyer Institute will dedicate themselves to providing behavioral health services, health education and employment training and support for individuals with disabilities in rural, underserved communities in Nebraska. Both programs are based in Omaha, but have a presence in central and western Nebraska.

ServeNebraska, the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission, will coordinate the development and implementation of AmeriCorps programming with these organizations, which were selected in a national process that was highly competitive due to the strong and growing demand by organizations seeking AmeriCorps resources. Demand is also strong from individuals wanting to serve. CNCS received a record-breaking 582,000 AmeriCorps applications in 2011, a dramatic increase from the 360,000 in 2009.

“National service is an essential part of the solution to many of the social challenges facing our communities,” said Jamesena Moore, ServeNebraska Chair. “These AmeriCorps members will meet pressing local needs and strengthen Nebraska communities as they develop civic and leadership skills that can last a lifetime.”

Later this summer, ServeNebraska will announce additional AmeriCorps grants supported by \$1.1 million in AmeriCorps formula funding.

“AmeriCorps members are improving the lives of millions of citizens and having a positive and lasting impact on the toughest challenges facing our communities,” said Wendy Spencer, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service. “I congratulate these organizations for their strong applications in a highly competitive year. Thanks to the dedicated service of AmeriCorps members, these organizations will increase their reach and impact on meeting local needs.”

On a national level, AmeriCorps engages 80,000 Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service to meet critical needs. Members serve through more than 14,000 organizations in rural and urban communities throughout the nation. Among other accomplishments, AmeriCorps members last year mobilized 3.4 million community volunteers, and tutored, mentored or served more than 3.5 million disadvantaged youth. Since 1994, more than 775,000 Americans have provided more than 1 billion hours of service to their communities and country through AmeriCorps.

###