

12.1 NATIONAL SERVICE TERMS AND ACRONYMS

Glossary of Terms for National Service and ServeNebraska

American Association of State Service Commissions (ASC) – Nonpartisan, nonprofit organization representing and promoting state service commissions across the United States. Nebraska is a member of ASC. Membership dues are 1% of Nebraska annual Administrative funds, or about \$1,693 for 2004.

America’s Promise – The Alliance for Youth – The organization led by General Colin Powell to carry out the goals of the President’s Summit for America’s Future, convened by President Clinton and Former President Bush in April 1997.

AmeriCorps – An umbrella term that refers to programs that are designated by the Corporation as national service programs and the participants in them. AmeriCorps includes AmeriCorps*State/National, AmeriCorps*VISTA, and AmeriCorps*NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps).

AmeriCorps*NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) – A residential AmeriCorps program in which 18-24-year-old-members are housed and trained together on military bases and deployed in teams to service sties throughout the surrounding region. Nebraska is served by the Denver Campus.

AmeriCorps*State and National – Used only when referring to grants or funding. AmeriCorps*State grants are distributed through the state commissions; AmeriCorps*National grants are distributed to organizations directly from the national office of the Corporation for National Service.

AmeriCorps*VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) – Full-time, national service program for men and women ages 18 and older interested in developing lasting solutions to the problems of poverty in America. AmeriCorps*VISTA members serve nonprofit, faith-based, and community organizations and agencies to develop permanent infrastructure that aids and expands services, strengthens programs, and empowers low income individuals. AmeriCorps*VISTA is under the AmeriCorps umbrella and is administered out of the Corporation’s State Offices.

Campus Compact – A national organization of college and university presidents with numerous state affiliates committed to advancing service on their campuses.

Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) – The independent federal agency that encompasses the work and staff of two previously existing agencies, the Commission on National and Community Service and ACTION. The Corporation was created by the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993.

Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 – The Domestic Volunteer Service Act authorizes AmeriCorps*VISTA, the Foster Grandparent Program, the Senior Companion Program, and the

RSVP program. The legislation was last amended in 1993 as part of the creation of the Corporation for National Service.

Education Award – A post-service benefit of \$4,725 (full time) or a pro-rated amount (part time) earned by all AmeriCorps successfully completing a term of service. The award is paid directly to a lending or educational institution and may be used to pay off education loans or to finance college, graduate school, or approved vocational training.

Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) – One of the three National Senior Service Corps programs. Foster Grandparents devote their service to children with special or exceptional needs.

Formula Funding – The population-based annual allotment given to each state against which the state commissions solicits proposals for AmeriCorps funding.

FTE (full-time equivalent) – In AmeriCorps, a full time member is an individual who is expected to serve a minimum of 1,700 hours over a 9-12 month period.

Goal Five – The Summit goal calling for all young people to have an opportunity to give back to their communities through their own service. The Corporation for National and Community Service is the lead organization in meeting this goal. (*See Presidents' Summit for America's Future.*)

Learn and Serve America – Service-learning programs that are designed to enrich academic learning and promote growth in participants while meeting community needs. There are two categories of Learn and Serve America programs: K-12 and Higher Education. Learn and Serve America: K-12 has two main components: *school-based*, which includes formula allotment grants to State Education Agencies, and *community based*, which are distributed on a competitive basis to state commissions, grant making entities, and other qualified organizations. (*See service learning.*)

Living Allowance – AmeriCorps members receive a modest living allowance during their term of service. This is a benefit in addition to the education award available to members who successfully complete their term of service (*See stipend.*)

Members – Participants in AmeriCorps (including AmeriCorps*NCCC, AmeriCorps*VISTA, and AmeriCorps*State and National programs) are referred to as members – not volunteers.

National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 – The National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 created AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National Service. The act authorizes appropriations for AmeriCorps*State and National, AmeriCorps*NCCC, Learn and Serve America, the National Service Trust, and the Points of Light Foundation. The 1993 legislation amended the National and Community Service Act of 1990.

National Competitive Funding – An annual pool of funds against which state commissions may compete to fund additional AmeriCorps programs in their states.

National Days of Service -- days of celebration of service and volunteerism. The Commission promotes national days of service to fulfill its broader mission of promoting volunteerism in the state. National days of service are: Martin Luther King Day, National Youth Service Day,

National Volunteer Week, Join Hands Day, Make a Difference Day, and National Family Volunteer Day.

National Directs (AmeriCorps*National) – AmeriCorps programs funded directly by the Corporation through multi-state non-profit organizations.

National Senior Service Corps (NSSC) – The umbrella term that encompasses the three senior service programs. Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP).

National Service – Results-oriented service by an individual or group of individuals that helps meet the nation’s needs in the areas of education, public safety, the environment, homeland security, and other human needs.

National Service-Learning Leader School Program – Recognizes middle schools and high schools that have effectively incorporate service learning into their curriculum. The selected schools are referred to as National Service-Learning Leader Schools.

National Service Leadership Institute (NSLI) – Formerly known as the Presidio Leadership Center, the NSLI provides leadership development and training experience for national service staff and programs.

Points of Light Foundation (POLF) – Established in 1990, POLF is a non-profit organization whose mission it is to engage more people more effectively in volunteer community service that helps solve serious social problems. The foundation, funded in part by appropriations made under the authority of the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993, works with a national network of volunteer center, corporate employee volunteer programs, non-profits, youth and family organization, and the media.

President’s Volunteer Service Awards -- The President’s Volunteer Service Award was created to recognize the tens of millions of Americans who have made a sustained commitment to volunteer service. The Award is given to individuals, families and groups that have demonstrated outstanding volunteer service and civic participation over the course of a 12-month period.

Award recipients receive:

- An official President’s Volunteer Service Award pin
- A personalized certificate of achievement
- A note of congratulations from the President of the United States
- A letter from the President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation

Presidents’ Summit for America’s Future – This historic gathering in Philadelphia in April 1997 at which former Presidents Clinton, Bush, Carter, and Ford, and Secretary of State Colin Powell called for all Americans to find ways to ensure that all children have access to the fundamental resources they need:

- caring adults in their lives, as parents, mentors, tutors, and coaches;
- safe places with structured activities in which to learn and grow;
- a healthy start and healthy future;
- an effective education that equips them with marketable skills; and
- an opportunity to give back through their communities through their own service.

Program Development Assistance and Training (PDAT) – Funds provided to state commissions to enable them to provide training and technical assistance support to their own and other national service programs.

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) - One of the three National Senior Service Corps programs that was created 1972.

SEA – State Education Agency. (*See Learn and Serve America.*)

Senior Companion Program (SCP) - One of three National Senior Service Corps programs. Senior Companions help other seniors live independently in their own homes and receive a stipend.

Service-Learning – A method by which students improve academic learning and develop personal skills through structured service projects that meet community needs. Service-learning builds upon students’ service activities by providing them with opportunities to learn by preparing, leading, and reflecting upon their service experiences.
(*See Learn and Serve America.*)

State Commission – A 15-25 member, independent, bipartisan body appointed by a Governor to implement service programs. Duties of a State Commission include development of a comprehensive Unified State Plan for service and volunteering in the state; submission of the state’s application to the Corporation for AmeriCorps and community-based Learn and Serve funding; administration of the competition for AmeriCorps*State programs; oversight and monitoring of funded AmeriCorps and community-based Learn and Serve programs, and reporting accomplishments to the Corporation.

Streams of Service – A term used to refer to the many types of service programs, for example, the “K-12 service stream,” or the “full time service stream.”

Technical Assistance to State Commissions (TASC) – The TASC project is funded by the Corporation to assist state commissions achieve their goals through providing or arranging for needed technical assistance for them.

State Service Plan (SSP) – A three-year plan developed by each state commission in partnership with the Corporation State Office, the State Education Agency, and other appropriate organizations in the state. The SSP should describe the broad vision for promoting national service and volunteering and for building a solid infrastructure of high quality programs and support services in the state.

NOTE ADDITIONAL TERMS TO DEFINE