

Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act



"We need your service, right now at this moment in history. I'm not going to tell you what your role should be. That's for you to discover. But I'm asking you to stand up and play your part. I'm asking you to help change history's course, put your shoulder up against the wheel. If you do, I promise you your life will be richer, our country will be stronger, and someday years from now you may remember as the moment when your own story and the American story converged."

- President Barack Obama, April 21, 2009

Explore Serve.nebraska.gov and sign-up at Serve.gov to learn more about ways to get involved

On April 21, 2009 President Barack Obama signed into law the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, cementing a historic piece of bipartisan legislation that will enhance and grow national service in Nebraska and throughout the United States.

President Obama called the act the "boldest expansion" of service opportunities since the creation of AmeriCorps under President Bill Clinton. It authorizes spending \$5.7 billion to expand or create a variety of national service programs, including tripling the size of AmeriCorps from 75,000 positions to 250,000.

Learn more about the [Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act](#).

ServeNebraska is centrally positioned to advance implementation of the Serve America Act. Together with nonprofit organizations, community groups, public entities, and faith-based groups we stand ready. With the engagement and civic concern of Nebraskans, we will take national & community service to an even higher level in tackling Nebraska's tough problems.

Public service is a win-win situation because it enriches the volunteer and strengthens the country, President Obama said. It also is something that anyone can fulfill, no matter the age, circumstance or location.

The bipartisan support was led by co-sponsors Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and Senator Edward Kennedy (D-Massachusetts). At the request of Senator Hatch, the act is named after Senator Kennedy who is battling brain cancer.

Following the signing, Senator Hatch spoke to the central focus of the legislation, "During a tough economic time for our country, it is important that we do not rely on government aid to solve every problem. This bill is founded on the fundamental belief in the power of the American people to improve their country and communities at the local level; it will increase opportunities for Americans to serve and, thus, increase personal and community responsibility."

"That's beauty of service - anybody can do it,"

- President Barack Obama, April 21, 2009