

Throughout our nation's history, Americans have risen to the call of public service, whether by serving in the military, joining the [Peace Corps](#) or [AmeriCorps](#) programs, or donating their time, energy, and resources to organizations in their community. This rich legacy of citizen service transcends politics and has been built by Republican and Democratic presidents, governors, and mayors, as well as millions of everyday Americans.

In the wake of September 11, 2001, national service has taken on a new dimension for many Americans, and millions of Americans now participate in the [National Day of Service](#) we observe each year on the anniversary of the September 11 attacks. The Corporation for National and Community Services (CNCS) is the independent federal agency that manages our national service programs and supports our nation's most effective independent service organizations. The Corporation funds five main service programs:

[Learn and Serve America](#)

;

[AmeriCorps State and National](#)

;

[AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps](#)

;

[AmeriCorps Volunteers in Service to America \(VISTA\)](#)

; and

[SeniorCorps](#)

. Americans know best how to confront the problems they face in their communities, and our national service programs play a vital role in supporting the community organizations in every state that make up our country's safety net. I am proud that demand for opportunities to serve through these programs has never been higher. To find opportunities to volunteer in service, please visit [Serve.gov](#).

As a co-chair of the bipartisan National Service Caucus, I have worked with my colleagues to recognize the extraordinary service by Americans in communities across the country and to ensure that our national service programs at CNCS remain strong and continue to grow. In light of our current fiscal challenges, preserving these cost-effective investments has become even more critical.

As Congress continues to debate these issues, I hope you will keep in touch with your views. I also encourage you to join millions of your fellow Americans and get out and serve!

## Related Information

- More information about the National Service Caucus is available at [http://www.voicesforservice.org/legis\\_nsc.htm](http://www.voicesforservice.org/legis_nsc.htm)
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- For opportunities to volunteer in service, please visit [Serve.gov](http://Serve.gov)
- [Corporation for National and Community Service](#)
- [CRS Report: National Service Overview and 2008 Funding](#)