



Using Service as a Solution

Michigan Community Service Commission

What is the Michigan Community Service Commission?

Michigan is a generous state for service with 2.3 million adults volunteering in 2008. These volunteers' 325 million service hours have an economic value equivalent to \$6.6 billion dollars. The Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC), acting as the state's lead agency on volunteerism, strives to increase these efforts and impact by promoting service as a strategy to address Michigan's toughest challenges.

Each day, the MCSC looks to build a culture of service by providing vision and resources to strengthen communities through volunteerism. The MCSC achieves its mission by:

- Providing leadership to support, promote, and expand volunteerism
- Securing and delivering resources to expand programming and excellence in volunteering and service
- Focusing on the critical community needs identified at the local, state, and national levels

The MCSC, through the Corporation for National and Community Service, funds national service programs in Michigan, in the form of AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve. It also supports a variety of other initiatives related to service and volunteerism.

The MCSC is housed in the Michigan Department of Human Services.

MCSC National Service Initiatives

In 2009-2010, the MCSC is funding **19 AmeriCorps programs** and **1,235 members** through its **Michigan's AmeriCorps** initiative. These members serve in **372** nonprofits and schools throughout the state addressing some of Michigan's most critical challenges.

Over the next year, members will provide foreclosure prevention and financial counseling, organize literacy and tutoring programs, support health care services to those in need, and much more. They will accomplish this with the help of the more than **24,000 local volunteers** they will recruit.

As a result of their service, Michigan's AmeriCorps members will earn an estimated **\$2.5 million** in education awards to pay for college, vocational training programs, or to repay student loans.

This year, the MCSC is also funding **20 Learn and Serve programs** in Michigan K-12 school districts through its **Learn and Serve – Michigan initiative**. Service-learning is a teaching and learning approach that connects meaningful service to the community with classroom instruction that when done well enriches learning, teaches civic responsibility, and fosters personal growth.

The programs, with the help of nearly **900 teachers**, will engage at least **25,000 students** in service-learning activities this year. More than **4,000 adult volunteers** will also assist Learn and Serve – Michigan programs in completing community-revitalization projects focused on issues such as: health education, food collection/distribution, child literacy, recycling, animal welfare, and others.

Service-learning creates a commitment among young people to be part of the solution – and also increases their likelihood of a lifetime of volunteerism.

"The Michigan Community Service Commission looks forward to the opportunity to blend the influx of AmeriCorps programming, expansion of service-learning, impact of mentoring, and current statewide needs to reach vulnerable and at-risk populations in our state. By investing in service we can tackle our communities' toughest challenges and move our state past these difficult times."

James G. Vella
President, Ford Motor
Company Fund &
Community Services
Chair, Michigan
Community Service
Commission



MCSC Initiatives

The Michigan Community Service Commission desires for all youth to successfully transition to adulthood and reach their full potential through its **Mentor Michigan** initiative. Mentor Michigan supports nearly **250** mentoring programs with training, research, partnerships, and building public awareness. A 2009 survey of **161** of those programs shows **28,536** children were served by mentors. Michigan also had **19,578** active mentors.

Each year, the MCSC honors **8** volunteers, organizations, and a business for their commitment to volunteerism with **Governor's Service Awards**. These awards are given annually to the heroes of Michigan who are helping to solve community issues.

The Michigan Community Service Commission strives to engage citizens across the state in annual National Days of Service. For example, as part of the 2010 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, more than **5,200** citizens were engaged in **51** service projects that impacted more than **15,000** individuals.

Financial Impact

The Michigan Community Service Commission is granting more than **\$8.5 million** in Federal Funds to local communities for volunteer programs and activities in 2009-2010.

That includes **\$8,203,428** in Federal Funds for Michigan's AmeriCorps programs and **\$361,283** in Federal Funds for Learn and Serve – Michigan programs.

This year, those Michigan's AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve – Michigan programs will leverage more than **\$6.5 million** in Match Funds in their local communities.

"State service commissions, including the Michigan Community Service Commission, are essential to expanding service opportunities, to building capacity of organizations and communities, and to making service more effective at solving problems. The MCSC leverages millions of dollars and engages thousands of citizens each year through AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve, and other volunteer initiatives."

Patrick Corvington
CEO, Corporation for
National &
Community Service

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**COMMUNITY
SERVICE**

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