



Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE** 

National Service: *A Bridge to Employment for Individuals with Disabilities*



YOUR WORLD. YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE IT BETTER.

www.nationalservice.gov



The National Service Family

Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE** ★★ ★

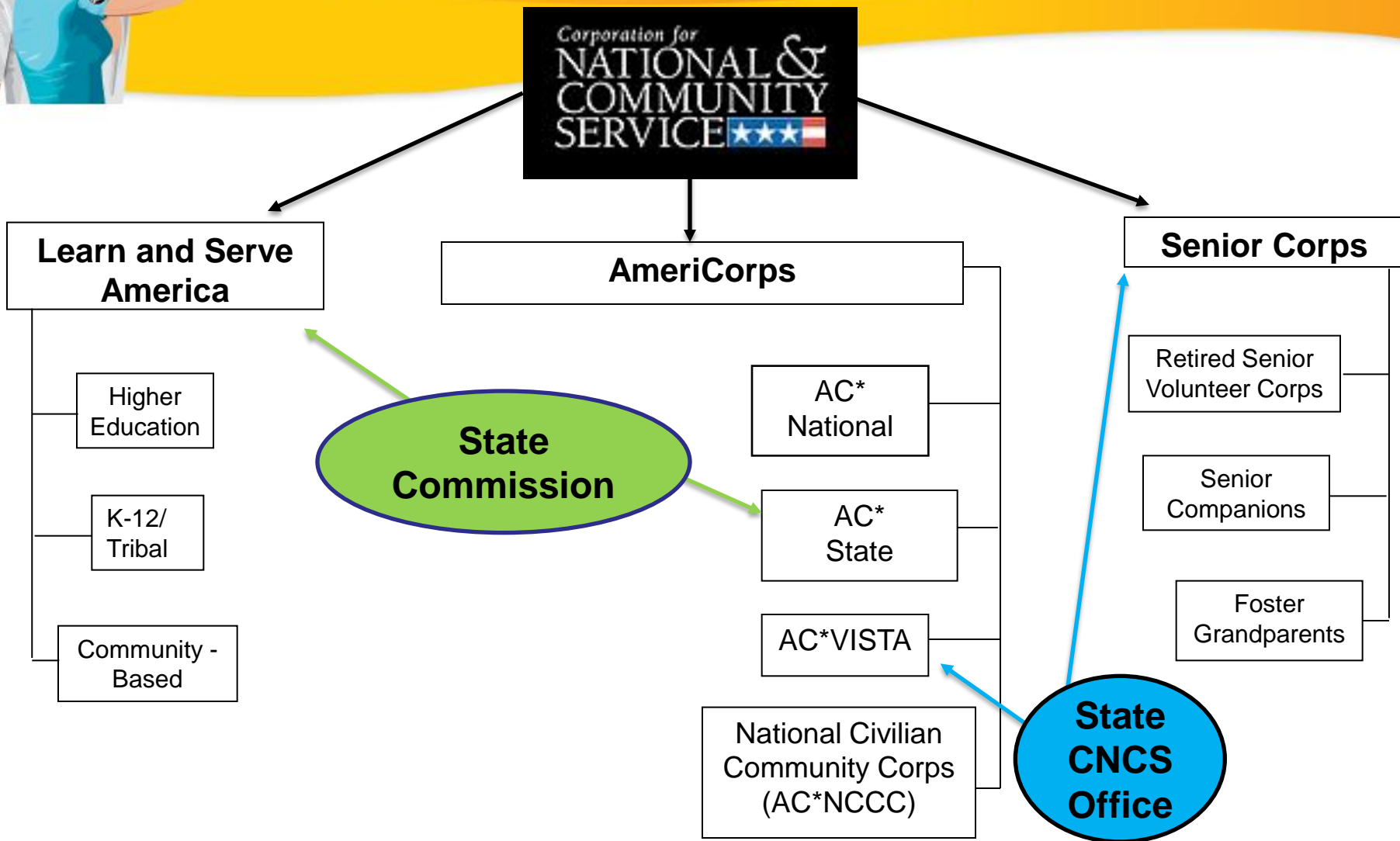
There are three programs under the Corporation for National and Community Service:

- **Senior Corps: 440,000 Americans age 55+**
- **AmeriCorps: 83,000 members**
- **Learn and Serve America: 1 million students in service-learning**





Structure of National Service





AmeriCorps



Getting Things Done for America!



AmeriCorps

Rooted in America's Tradition of Service



1933: Civilian Conservation Corps

1961: Peace Corps

1964: VISTA

1993: The Corporation for National and Community Service
& AmeriCorps

2009: Serve America Act



AmeriCorps Today

Three Programs



**AmeriCorps
State/National**

**AmeriCorps
VISTA**

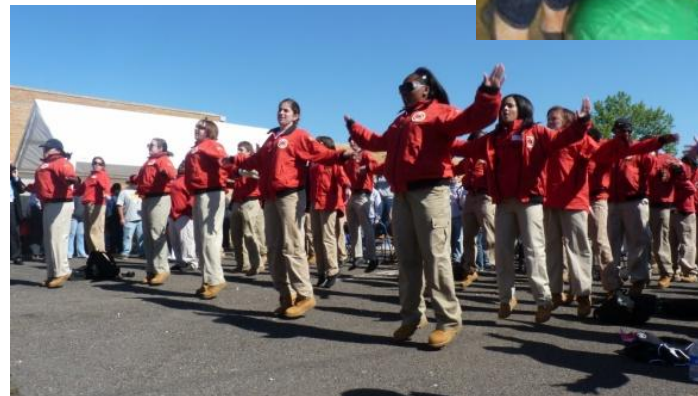
**AmeriCorps
NCCC**



AmeriCorps Today

Meeting critical needs across America

1. **Teach and Tutor**
2. **Mentor Youth**
3. **Build homes**
4. **Fight poverty**
5. **Conserve the environment**
6. **Provide health services**
7. **Respond to disasters**
8. **Mobilize volunteers**
9. **Assist veterans**
10. *Much, much more...*





AmeriCorps State and National



- Largest branch of AmeriCorps
- About 74,000 members serve each year
- Members serve with more than 13,000 organizations
- Members address needs in education, environment, health, housing, disaster response and more
- Grantees include: national and local nonprofits, schools, and universities, public agencies, and Native American tribes
- Full-time and part-time opportunities



AmeriCorps VISTA



- AmeriCorps' poverty-fighting arm
- Created in 1964 as part of War on Poverty
- 7,700 members serve each year
- VISTAs collaborate with low-income individuals and communities to fight poverty
- Focus on capacity building: raising funds, recruiting volunteers, & designing sustainable programs
- More than 1,000 project sponsors
- Full-time year-long service



AmeriCorps NCCC



- ✎ Team-based residential service
- ✎ Focus on disaster response, environment, housing, and youth
- ✎ Teams travel to projects in neighboring states
- ✎ Open to 18-24 year-olds
- ✎ 1,100 members serve each year
- ✎ Members live on one of 5 campuses: Sacramento, CA; Denver, CO; Vinton, IA; Perry Point, MD and Vicksburg, MS
- ✎ Full-time 10-month service



Who Benefits from AmeriCorps? *We All Do!*

Youth, Seniors, and Others In Need benefit from the tutoring, mentoring, health, housing, and other services members provide.

Communities benefit from having better schools, safer streets, more affordable housing, a cleaner environment, and more engaged citizens.

Organizations gain from having more reach and impact: 92% of sponsoring groups say members helped increase how many people they served to a large or moderate extent.

Members acquire leadership and career skills, earn money for college, and learn how to be active citizens.





AmeriCorps Member Benefits

Member Benefits include:

- Living allowance
- Health care
- Student loan deferment
- Training and professional development
- Segal AmeriCorps Education Award equal to the maximum amount of the Pell Grant that can be used to pay for college or pay back student loans. *For 2011, the amount is \$5,550.*
- Benefits vary by program





AmeriCorps Alumni

Continuing Your Service and Commitment

Longitudinal studies show AmeriCorps alums:

- Are more connected to their communities
- Continue to participate in community activities
- Choose public service careers at higher levels than their peers

www.americorpsalums.org





AmeriCorps *Fast Facts*

- 706,000** AmeriCorps members since 1994
- 860 Million** Hours served by AmeriCorps members
- \$2 Billion** Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards earned by AmeriCorps members
- 2.6 Million** Volunteers managed or mobilized by AmeriCorps members in 2010
- 14,000** Number of nonprofit, faith-based, and community organizations served by AmeriCorps members
- \$7.2 Billion** AmeriCorps funds invested in nonprofit, community, educational, and faith-based groups since 1994



Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act of 2009



- Signed into law April 21, 2009
- Landmark legislation to expand service
- Sets AmeriCorps on a path to 250,000 positions by 2017
- Increases the amount of the education award from \$4,725 to the amount of the Pell Grant
- Silver Scholar – 55+ may transfer education award to child, grandchild, or foster child (AC*State/National)
- Priority focus on education, health, environment, veterans, and economic opportunity



National Service for People with Disabilities

Many individuals with disabilities have participated in national service programs. This participation has had a positive impact, not only on the communities where they serve, but also on themselves and national service as a whole. For individuals with disabilities, participation in national service may help:

- Foster Independence.
- Determine what accommodations for a disability are needed to achieve success.
- Figure out how to appropriately disclose a disability to a supervisor so accommodation needs are met.
- Learn and grow!





The HEART Act

- On June 16, 2008 President Bush signed into law H.R. 6081, the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2008 (“the HEART Act”), making AmeriCorps more accessible to people with disabilities.
- Contains a provision that excludes AmeriCorps benefits from being counted as income for purposes of eligibility for Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
 - This extends the long-time AmeriCorps VISTA income disregard for SSI to all AmeriCorps positions.
- While the law does not extend to Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), it removes a significant barrier to participation for SSI recipients.



Antoinette Adkins Downriver CARES AmeriCorps Alum

“My first challenge was to pick a placement that could accommodate me. Fortunately, there were many to choose from. With the help of a great program director, I was able meet the challenge head on and find incredible placements! I have enjoyed being a part of the AmeriCorps family. Serving adults with various mental illnesses - teaching them life skills - has increased my desire to go back to school to achieve my Ph.D. I have formed friendships I never expected, helping me to grow and learn about myself too! AmeriCorps is an experience I will never forget.”



FAQ Benefits Chart

Important questions and answers to think through for individuals/clients and counselors, along with a WIPA specialist:

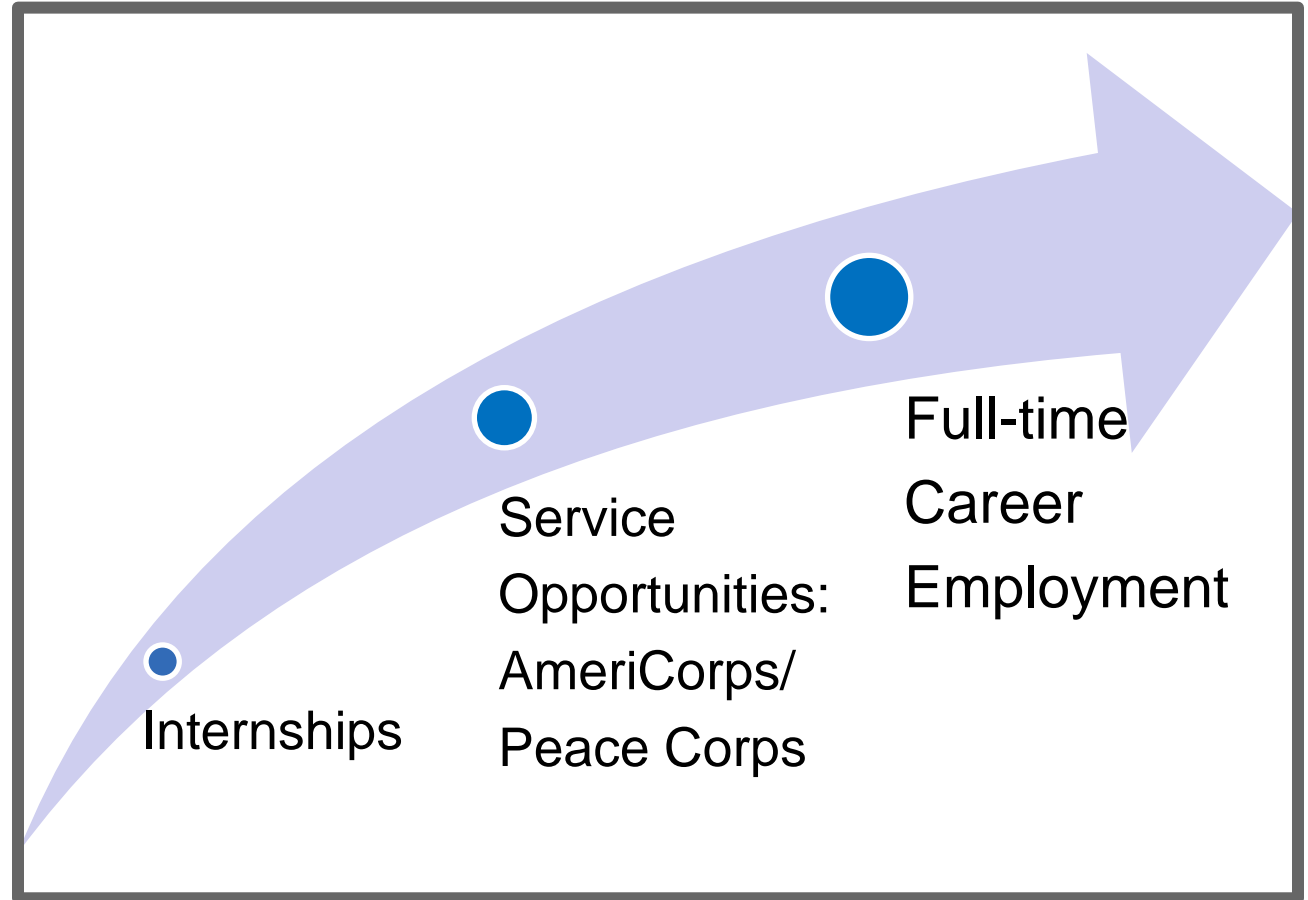
- Are there any risks to my SSI/SSDI benefits?
- Will my vocational case be closed?
- Will I lose my health insurance?

****This document can be accessed on the MCSC website at: www.michigan.gov/mcsc***





Career Path for the Times





It's a Personal Journey...

Networking
Disclosure Strategy
Resume writing
Interviewing skills

Dream Job

Full-time employment

Service opportunities – AmeriCorps

Co-ops and Internships

Paid work

DMD / Job shadow / Informational Interview

Service / volunteer opportunities

Awareness – Valuing Self – Experience



Examples of Service Leading to Successful Employment

- Between 2002 and 2010, 94 VISTA members have served through the Ann Arbor CIL AmeriCorps*VISTA Program.
- Of 94 VISTA members, 57 identify as being a person with a disability. This number is most likely higher, possibly closer to 65 or 70.
- Of 75 VISTA members who have completed service in program, at least 20 entered employment following their service.
- 18 of 20 persons hired have disabilities.



QUESTIONS



www.nationalservice.gov
www.michigan.gov/mcsc



For More Information



AmeriCorps: www.AmeriCorps.gov

Michigan's AmeriCorps: www.michigan.gov/mcsc

Corporation for National & Community Service:
www.nationalservice.gov

