



# Overview of National Service & AmeriCorps



Corporation for  
**NATIONAL &  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICE** 



# Agenda



- National Service 101
- National Service Programs
- Structure of National Service
- AmeriCorps Focus Areas
- AmeriCorps Guiding Principles
- AmeriCorps Terminology
- AmeriCorps Prohibited Activities
- AmeriCorps Resources





## What is **National Service**?

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) strengthens our country by empowering AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers to solve local problems nationwide.

In coordination with state and local entities, national service responds to the most pressing issues facing our nation. AmeriCorps members and Senior Corps volunteers prepare for tomorrow's jobs, reduce crime, connect returning veterans to jobs, fight the opioid epidemic, support seniors to live independently, make college more accessible and affordable, and help Americans rebuild their lives following disasters.

# National Service History

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



- 1933: New Deal - Civilian Conservation Corps
- 1961: Peace Corps
- 1964: War on Poverty – VISTA created
- 1992: AmeriCorps NCCC
- 1993: National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 created The Corporation for National and Community Service & AmeriCorps
- 2009: Serve America Act





# Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act of 2009



- Landmark legislation to expand service
- Increases the amount of the education award – matches the amount of the Pell Grant
- Ed Award Transfer – 55+ may transfer education award to child, step-child, grandchild, step-grandchild, or foster child (AC\*State/National only)
- Priority focus on education, health, environment, veterans, and economic opportunity

# AmeriCorps Programs



## AmeriCorps State & National

- Direct service
- Serve at nonprofits, schools or city government
- Over 75,000 members



## AmeriCorps VISTA

- Capacity building
- Poverty reduction focused
- Serve at nonprofits or city government
- 8,000 members annually
- Over 220,000 alumni



## AmeriCorps NCCC

- Direct service
- 18-24 years old
- Assigned to a campus
- 1,200 members
- Up to 1,600 FEMA Corps Members

# AmeriCorps State & National

AmeriCorps members Get Things Done for America – building safer, stronger, healthier, and more united communities across the nation. Through these extraordinary acts of citizenship by ordinary Americans, AmeriCorps is improving the lives of tens of millions in our most vulnerable communities.

## Service activities are as diverse as our members:

- Financial education and tax preparation assistance
- Environmental stewardship and conservation
- Tutoring and mentoring children
- Increasing access to healthcare
- Housing resources and services
- Disaster preparedness and response
- Public safety and crime reduction
- And so much more!





# AmeriCorps VISTA

AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) members serve in a professional setting building partnerships, writing grants, and organizing volunteers to build the capacity of an organization and enhance its ability to serve the community. Above all, VISTA members are catalysts for change, working to advance local solutions.





# National Civilian Community Corps



- Residential, team-based program for young adults age 18-24
- 10 month service term
- Teams of 8-10 members
- Complete multiple projects that address essential community needs throughout the United States
- Members receive lodging, transportation, uniform and meals
- 4 regions:
  - Aurora, CO
  - Sacramento, CA
  - Vicksburg, MS
  - Vinton, IA



# NCCC Regions





# Senior Corps Programs



## Foster Grandparents

- 55 years or older
- One-on-one tutoring and mentoring
- Serve in schools, child care centers, correctional institutions & drug treatment centers



## RSVP

- 55 years or older
- Wide variety of service activities
- Commit to a few hours or up to 40 hours per week
- No monetary incentive



## Senior Companions

- 55 years or older
- Provide support and friendship to seniors living independently
- 15-40 hours per week
- Support 2-4 clients each

# Foster Grandparents

Foster Grandparents are role models, mentors, and friends to children with exceptional needs.

Volunteers:

- Help children learn to read and provide one-on-one tutoring
- Mentor troubled teenagers and young mothers
- Care for premature infants or children with disabilities
- Help children who have been abused or neglected

Foster Grandparents serve 15-40 hours per week, receive accident/liability insurance and meals while on duty, reimbursement for transportation, and monthly training. Those who meet certain income guidelines receive a small stipend.





# Retired Senior Volunteer Program

RSVP is one of the largest volunteer networks in the nation for people 55 and over.

Service opportunities are diverse, and may include:

- Organizing neighborhood watch programs
- Tutoring and mentoring disadvantaged or disabled youth
- Renovating homes
- Teaching English to immigrants
- Assisting victims of natural disasters



# Senior Companions



Senior Companions serve 15 to 40 hours per week helping an average of two to four adult clients live independently in their own homes.

Senior Companion Volunteers receive:

- Pre-service orientation and training from the organization where they serve
- Supplemental insurance while on duty
- May qualify to earn a tax-free hourly stipend



# Volunteer Generation Fund

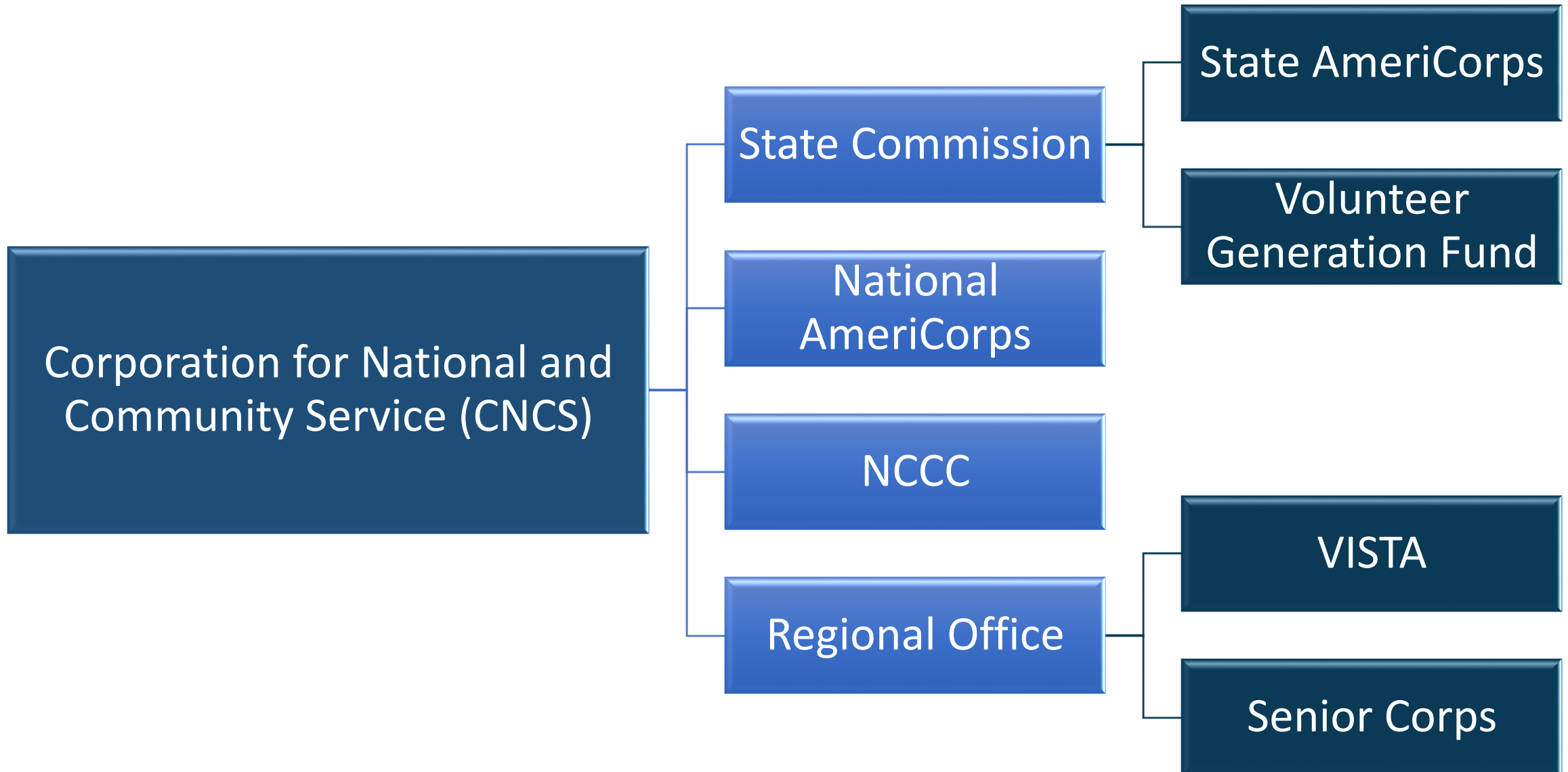
The Volunteer Generation Fund is a program authorized by the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act to support voluntary organizations and state service commissions in boosting the impact of volunteers in addressing critical community needs.



## Program Goals:

- Strengthen the nation's voluntary sector
- Increase volunteer recruitment and retention
- Investing in volunteer management practices

# National Service Structure





# AmeriCorps Focus Areas



Disaster Services



Economic Opportunity



Education



Environmental Stewardship



Healthy Futures



Veterans and Military Families



# Disaster Services

- 🔧 Increase the preparedness for disaster
- 🔧 Improve readiness to respond to disasters
- 🔧 Help individuals recover from disasters
- 🔧 Help individuals mitigate disasters





# Economic Opportunity



Help economically disadvantaged people



Enhance financial literacy



Transition into or remain in affordable housing



Improve employability

# Education

- 📖 Improve educational outcomes or school readiness for economically disadvantaged children
- 📖 Improve educational & behavioral outcomes for students in low-achieving schools
- 📖 Support economically disadvantaged students in post-secondary institutions





# Environmental Stewardship



- 🌿 Energy efficiency
- 🌿 Water consumption
- 🌿 Renewable energy use
- 🌿 Ecosystem improvements



# Healthy Futures

- 🍴 Improve access to primary & preventative health care
- 🍴 Increase seniors' ability to remain in their homes
- 🍴 Increase physical activity & improve youth nutrition





# Veterans and Military Families



- ★ Positively impacts veterans' quality of life and improves military family strength
- ★ Connecting veterans to volunteer service opportunities
- ★ Mentorship and tutoring for military children, legal assistance, affordable housing, health care, counseling, and more

# Safer Communities



Educate community about public safety and ways to reduce crime



Provide Home Safety Assessments and install home safety equipment



Perform blight elimination activities – board up abandoned buildings and clean up vacant lots



Support community watch groups and neighborhood block clubs





# AmeriCorps Guiding Principles



# AmeriCorps Pledge

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*I will get things done for America –  
to make our people safer, smarter, and healthier.*

*I will bring Americans together to strengthen our  
communities.*

*Faced with apathy, I will take action.*

*Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground.*

*Faced with adversity, I will persevere.*

*I will carry this commitment with me this year and beyond.*

*I am an AmeriCorps member, and I will get things done.*





AmeriCorps  
Terminology

AMERICORPS

NOT

AMERI-CORPSE





# AmeriCorps MEMBERS

Not Staff, Interns, Employees, Volunteers



# AmeriCorps SERVICE

AmeriCorps is NOT:

- A Job or Work
- An Internship
- A Volunteer Position



# AmeriCorps by the Numbers

1 Million+

AmeriCorps members since 1994

1.4 Billion

Hours served by AmeriCorps members

\$3.3 Billion

Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards earned by AmeriCorps members

2.3 Million

Number of community volunteers managed or mobilized by AmeriCorps members

21,000+

Number of unique sites where AmeriCorps members served





# AmeriCorps Initiatives

## National Days of Service



## AmeriCorps Week



## National Service Recognition Day





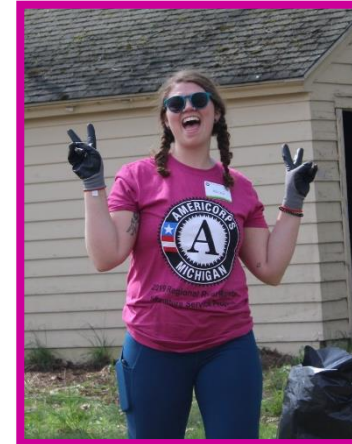
# Statewide & Regional Events



**Michigan's AmeriCorps  
Member Celebration**



**Michigan's AmeriCorps LeaderCorps**



**Regional Russ Mawby  
Signature Service Projects**





# Reasonable Accommodations



*Members have a right to reasonable accommodation for disabilities. Programs must furnish reasonable accommodations for the known physical and mental limitations of qualified AmeriCorps members.*

# AmeriCorps Prohibited Activities

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- Members are prohibited from performing certain activities when counting member hours or while representing the AmeriCorps Program.
- Members may participate in prohibited activities on their own time, at their own expense, and at their own initiative.
- Members may not wear AmeriCorps service gear in such instances.





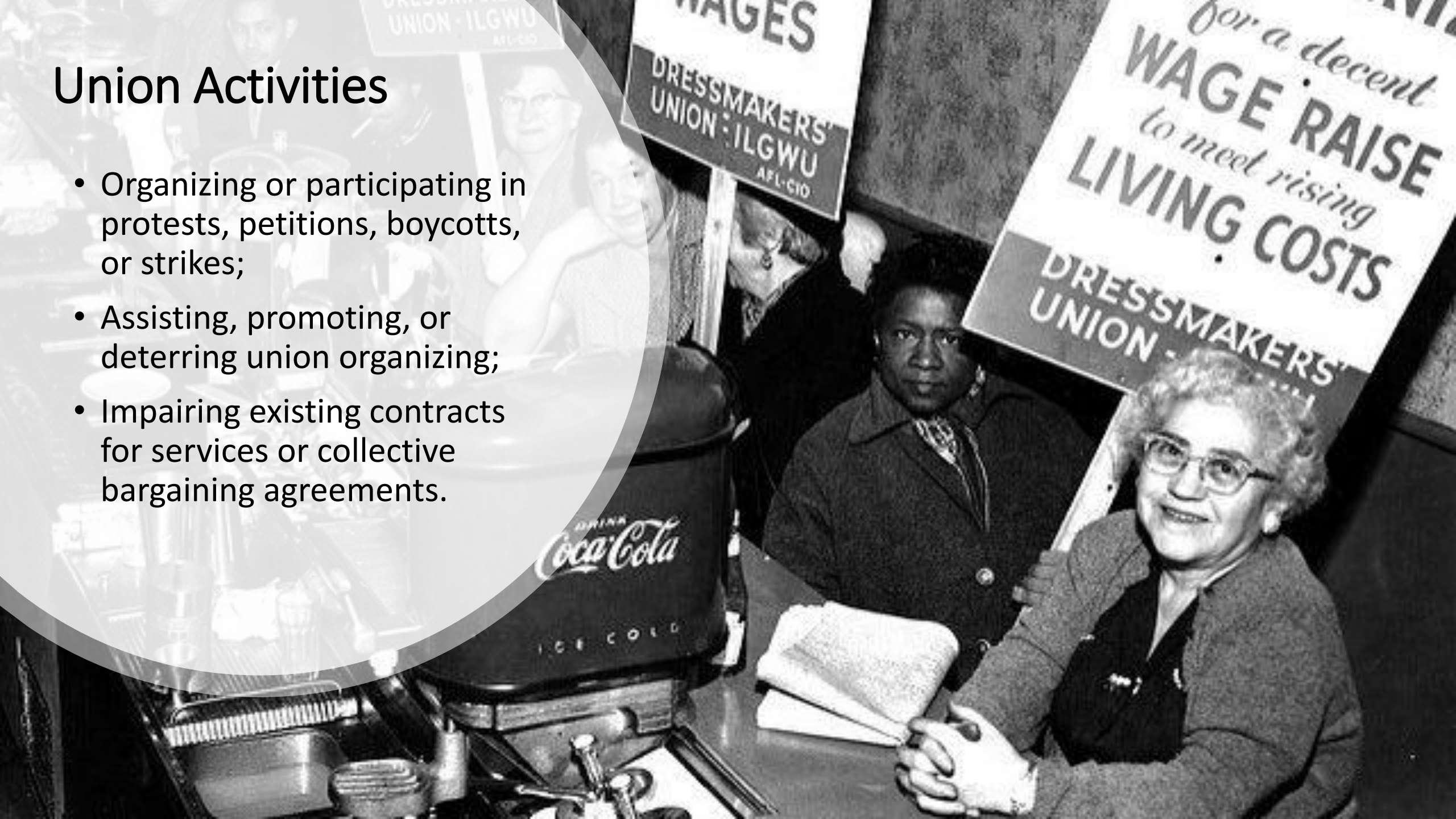
# Political Activities



- Participating in efforts to influence legislation, including lobbying for your programs;
- Organizing a letter writing campaign to Congress;
- Engaging in partisan political activities, or other activities designed to influence the outcome of an election to any public office;
- Participating in, or endorsing, events or activities that are likely to include advocacy for or against political parties, political platforms, political candidates, proposed legislation, or elected officials;
- Printing politically charged articles in a CNCS-funded newsletter or listserv;
- Taking part in political demonstration or rallies;
- Engaging in any efforts to influence legislation, including state or local ballot initiatives;
- Voter registration drives.

# Union Activities

- Organizing or participating in protests, petitions, boycotts, or strikes;
- Assisting, promoting, or deterring union organizing;
- Impairing existing contracts for services or collective bargaining agreements.





# Religious Activities

- Engaging in religious instruction;
- Conducting worship services;
- Providing instruction as part of a program that includes mandatory religious instruction or worship;
- Constructing or operating facilities devoted to religious instruction or worship;
- Maintaining facilities primarily or inherently devoted to religious instruction or worship;
- Engaging in any form of religious proselytizing.



# Other Prohibited Activities

- Other activities your program may not assign you to:
  - Assisting with abortion services or referrals or abortion services;
  - Activities that pose a significant risk to you or others;
  - Assignments that displace employees or volunteers;
- You are expected to maintain a code of conduct and professional behavior at all times. Violations could result in early termination or suspension.

**PROHIBITED**



# Fundraising



- No more than 10% of your total service hours
- CNCS policy permits fundraising by members to the extent that such activities:
  - Raise resources directly in support of the program's service activities (i.e., seeking donations of books from companies/individuals for a program in which volunteers teach children to read, writing a grant proposal to a foundation to secure resources for a service project, etc.)
- AmeriCorps members may not:
  - Raise funds for living allowances or for an organization's general (as opposed to project) operating expenses or endowment;
  - Write a grant application to CNCS or to any other Federal agency.

# AmeriCorps Resources

- Michigan's AmeriCorps Member Resources:  
[https://www.michigan.gov/leo/0,5863,7-336-94421\\_95498\\_8074\\_49723--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/leo/0,5863,7-336-94421_95498_8074_49723--,00.html)
- Service Year:  
<https://resources.serviceyear.org/>
- AmeriCorps Alums:  
<https://www.americorpsalums.org/>







Enjoy your AmeriCorps Service Year!