

SerVermont

Vermont State Service Plan

2016 – 2018

Introduction

The State Service Plan provides the framework upon which SerVermont will pursue our mission to promote, support, and recognize volunteerism and community service throughout Vermont over a three-year period. This plan outlines goals which will engage Vermonters in service, and build the volunteer management capacity of programs and organizations which are supported by national service resources.

SerVermont has identified the goals presented in this plan as a focus for the next three-year cycle. These goals will assist SerVermont's commissioners in their recommendations for funding AmeriCorps programs, and determining what additional activities SerVermont will engage in. Progress towards goals will be assessed using performance measures developed by SerVermont. This plan will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Background

Vermont's Commission on National and Community Service, SerVermont, is a citizen body appointed by the Governor to support national service and volunteerism throughout Vermont. SerVermont's mission is to promote, support, and recognize volunteerism and community service throughout the state. SerVermont was established by Executive Order 05-98 on November 30, 1993 by Governor Howard Dean.

SerVermont receives federal funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service to deliver evidence based services and solutions to community challenges through AmeriCorps programming and other service and volunteerism related efforts. SerVermont administers funding for Vermont's AmeriCorps State programs and monitors their progress, supervises Vermont's AmeriCorps VISTA Umbrella Project, and plays a role managing volunteers during disasters under Vermont's Emergency Operations Plan.

SerVermont's work is directed by the six focus areas defined in the Serve America Act: Disaster Services, Education, Environmental Stewardship, Economic Opportunity, Healthy Futures, and Veterans and Military Families. SerVermont works to engage national service members within these focus areas in efforts that contribute towards Vermont's Outcomes of Well-Being defined in Act 186. The population outcomes defined in Act 186 are conditions of well-being for whole populations that Vermont is working towards. Having established Outcomes of Well-Being for the State, and focus areas from the Serve America Act as guiding documents will allow SerVermont to direct

resources towards a set of common ends that has been accepted state-wide, and nationally.

Vermont's rural landscape, coupled with our relatively small population of approximately 625,000, allows for national service programs to exist as a tightly knit community of service programs and national service members delivering services to individuals and families across the entire state. SerVermont works to have strong AmeriCorps State programs addressing Vermont's most critical needs, and looks to expand the AmeriCorps programming we offer to allow more Vermonters to serve in national service programs. Our programs focus on a range of complimentary issues that address unique needs in Vermont communities, and each of the CNCS focus areas.

Vermont's rate of volunteerism is high, with Vermont recognized as having the 6th highest volunteer rate per capita among the states. Vermont has higher rankings among specific populations such as older adults, millennials, and college students. SerVermont supports the overall volunteer rate through our programs, but state-wide volunteerism rates are not used as an indicator of our programmatic success. Rather, statewide volunteerism rates and trends serve as a good indicator of the general health of volunteerism and service in Vermont. SerVermont's programs contribute to the overall strength of service and volunteerism in Vermont.

Goals and Strategies for the State Service Plan Cycle

Goal 1: Increase opportunities to serve in Vermont.

Strategies:

1. Develop new AmeriCorps programs designed to address critical community challenges through technical assistance and planning grants.
2. Build the capacity of Vermont's current AmeriCorps Programs to administer strong programming through training and technical assistance related to operating an AmeriCorps program efficiently and effectively, including topics which will enhance the AmeriCorps member experience.
3. Increase the funding available for national service programs in Vermont through strategic engagement of community organizations that do not host AmeriCorps Programs or members, including organizations that work in currently under-represented CNCS focus areas, including disaster services, and serving seniors.

Goal 2: Strengthen nonprofits through national service.

Strategies:

1. Build the volunteer management capacity of nonprofits receiving national service resources through training and technical assistance in order to increase their efficiency and effectiveness.

2. Provide training to national service members on topics and skills which will prepare them for success during service, and careers in Vermont's diverse social sector. Specifically, training on volunteer management, cultural competency, and performance measurement.
3. Build the performance measurement capacity of nonprofits receiving national service resources through training and technical assistance in order to increase their ability to measure the difference they make and tell the story of their work.

Goal 3: Increase awareness of service as a resource in solving community challenges.

Strategies:

1. Recognize Vermonters for their service through the Governor's Service Awards.
2. Share stories of service and the accomplishments of national service members with the community through SerVermont's website, social media, and traditional media.
3. Promote service as a solution to community challenges through Public Service Announcement campaigns.