



## **Support AmeriCorps!**

### **Stave Off Massive Funding Cuts to Local Communities Now**

State service commissions and the local communities they serve urge immediate support for AmeriCorps. Thanks to the leadership of the President, Senators Bond and Mikulski, a critical first step has been taken toward ensuring that AmeriCorps continues to serve the needs of our communities. The Strengthen AmeriCorps Act provides the clear lines of accountability for the Corporation for National and Community Service to account for funds in the Educational Award Trust.

Now, our nation's leaders must complete the work by:

- **Restoring the program funding** transferred to help defray the Educational Award Trust shortfall,
- Ensuring that **75,000 full-time equivalent members can be supported by the Educational Award Trust,**
- Removing the barriers to service by **lifting the cap on the number of AmeriCorps members who may serve.**

Last week the Corporation for National and Community Service announced that it would be cutting AmeriCorps funding and slots. It is

projected that even with the Strengthening AmeriCorps Act, states will be cut by an average of 49%! Without these programs, thousands of Americans will be without tutors, mentors, homes, and other critical services AmeriCorps members provide every day.

States and local communities are being hard hit and at the same time asked to do more to maximize resources. AmeriCorps does that and more. This is a volunteer leveraging program that engages at least ten additional volunteers for every one AmeriCorps member. AmeriCorps provides critically needed services to thousands every day. Since 1993, AmeriCorps has tapped the civic passions of more than 300,000 volunteers serving 30 million Americans.

Congress and the President must act again, immediately, before community and state programs disappear. The urgent and bipartisan spirit of cooperation demonstrated by the Strengthening AmeriCorps Act is a great first step. To fully and permanently resolve the funding shortage and enrollment constraints, continued bipartisan leadership is essential. States and local communities stand ready to work with the President and the Congress to continue AmeriCorps' legacy of civic engagement and meaningful impact.

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