



November 30, 2018

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of America's Service Commissions (ASC), the association for the nation's 52 state service commissions, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your leadership of and service to our nation and ask that you prioritize funding for the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) and its programs in your FY 2020 Congressional Budget Request.

We are grateful for the leadership of CNCS Chief Executive Officer, Barbara Stewart, and Director of AmeriCorps, Chester Spellman, who have provided robust support and innovative vision for national and community service for our country.

As you know, service remains an enduring American value that brings communities together and reminds us of the strength of our common bond. Despite the fact that you have proposed eliminating CNCS in your two previous budget requests, we respectfully ask that you reconsider. The service programs that CNCS supports provide critical services to the communities most in need, particularly those places that have been ravished by natural disasters or those crippled by the opioid epidemic. National and community service is a cost-effective investment that helps to create jobs, address local issues and sustain struggling communities.

Our nation's state and territorial service commissions work to engage Americans in service and volunteering in their communities. Reengaging Americans in civic service and providing young Americans a first experience in what will hopefully become a lifetime habit and ethic of service – these are big goals fundamental to our nation that require hard work and strong partnerships at the national, state, and local levels. Our association represents the governor-appointed state service commissions throughout our nation that are doing this work every day.

Therefore, we ask that you fully fund CNCS and all of the programs it administers, and respectfully ask you to consider ASC's funding and policy priorities for your FY2020 budget request for CNCS.

FY 2020

AmeriCorps*State and National Grants	\$547 million
State Commission Grants	\$21 million
Commission Investment Fund	\$10.5 million
Serve America Fellows	\$15 million
Volunteer Generation Fund	\$20 million
National Service Reserve Corps	\$10 million

AmeriCorps State and National: \$547 million

Support 100,000 AmeriCorps State and National members serving nationwide. AmeriCorps grants provide financial support to public and nonprofit organizations that sponsor service programs around the country to recruit, train, and place AmeriCorps members to meet critical community needs in education, health, economic opportunity, veterans'

affairs, disaster services, and the environment. State service commissions determine the needs of their state and competitively award AmeriCorps State grants to local nonprofits and agencies within each state.

State Service Commission Support Grants: \$21 million

State service commission support grants help build the capacity of state service commissions' infrastructure to ensure appropriate oversight and effective compliance and performance monitoring. State service commission support grants are matched dollar for dollar and are currently allocated according to a population-based formula.

Commission Investment Fund: \$10.5 million

Implementing high quality, impactful, and effective service programs is the goal of State Commissions and is best achieved when they have sufficient resources and tools. Small investments in development and support result in large payoffs when underserved communities are enabled to access national service programs.

Serve America Fellows: \$15 million

Provides non-competitive national service positions allocated to state commissions via Subtitle H Innovation. Serve America Fellows can be deployed by the commission to community-based organizations addressing a compelling or emerging need in a timely, efficient manner and who could be utilized in the planning and development of a national service program. This initiative would provide a strategic resource in supporting underserved, rural, remote, and high need communities.

Volunteer Generation Fund: \$20 million

The Volunteer Generation Fund (VGF) strengthens the nation's civic infrastructure by helping nonprofits recruit, manage, and support more volunteers. The VGF grants support state service commissions to identify effective approaches to increase the number of volunteers, strengthen the capacity of volunteer connector organizations to recruit and retain volunteers, and develop strategies to effectively engage volunteers to solve local problems. This request includes \$10 million for a VGF Disaster Innovation Fund that strikes matching requirement to support commissions in high-risk and/or impacted states to provide volunteer infrastructure funding to nonprofits who recruit, manage, and support volunteers deploying to disaster areas for response and recovery or who are preparing for disaster response and recovery.

National Service Reserve Corps: \$10 million

Establish and support a National Service Reserve Corps to prepare and deploy National Service Reserve Corps members to respond to disasters and emergencies in support of requesting programs and agencies. National Service Reserve Corps would be comprised of individuals who have completed a term of national service or are veterans, or may directly deploy as National Service Reserve Corps members in their states.

If you have any questions, please contact Tom Branen at tbranen@statecommissions.org or (202) 207-5389. Thank you again for your consideration of fully supporting national and community service funding in FY 2020.

Sincerely,

Kaira Esgate
Chief Executive Officer

Tom Branen
Chief Policy Officer