

Serve
Alaska

2010-2012

The State Service Plan defines the context in which Serve Alaska the State Service Commission will utilize national service as an essential element to address issues; outlines Serve Alaska's outreach to advance national and community service to nonprofits, faith-based organizations, federal, state and local governmental entities and create innovative program strategies to adapt national service initiatives to Alaska, its people and cultures.

State Service
Plan



Serve Alaska STATE SERVICE PLAN 2010-2012

Introduction

Serve Alaska, the State Service Commission, consists of no fewer than 15 and no more than 25 voting Commission members appointed by the Governor.

Serve Alaska is funded through the Corporation for National and Community Service at the federal level. Serve Alaska's primary function is to oversee grants provided to local non-profit and community agencies to run national service programs. The largest single vehicle for channeling federal resources for national and community service in Alaska is through Serve Alaska. These funds help recruit, train, and deploy AmeriCorps Members on full and part-time basis to address locally identified needs in six focus areas: Education, Veterans and Families, Disaster Services, Environmental Stewardship, Healthy Futures, and Capacity Building.

The purpose of Serve Alaska is to engage Alaskans of all ages and backgrounds in community-based service and volunteerism as a means of community and state problem-solving, and to promote participation in the National AmeriCorps Program as required for the receipt of federal financial assistance under sec. 12638 of the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 at 42 U.S.C. 12501 - 12682 (NCSTA).

Mission

To foster, support and promote the ethic of service and volunteerism to all Alaskans

Core Purpose

Strengthen Alaskan Communities through National Service and Local Volunteerism

Core Values

- Integrity-Conducting activities in accord with the highest ethical and moral standards
- Collaboration-Involving complementary entities in mutually beneficial relationships
- Excellence-Pursuing the highest standards of performance in all endeavors through a spirit of continuous improvement
- Ethic of Volunteerism & Service-
- Statewide Community Engagement –Involving individuals from all sectors of the state

Background

On September 21, 1993 President Clinton signed the [National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 \(PL 103-82\)](#). This law merged two federal agencies, ACTION and the Commission on National and Community Service, creating the new [Corporation for National and Community Service](#). The Act also established [AmeriCorps](#), a service program for Americans aged seventeen years and older.

The Alaska State Community Service Commission (ASCSC) was created in 1994 by Governor Walter J. Hickel to establish the state's eligibility to receive funds through the Corporation for National and Community Service. Serve Alaska Commissioners voted in October 2007 to request name change to

Serve Alaska. Governor Sarah Palin issued Administrative Order 245 to rename the Alaska State Community Service Commission to Serve Alaska. On August 9, 2011 Governor Sean Parnell issued Administrative Order 259 reestablishing Serve Alaska and amending the commission's membership structure and duties.

Serve Alaska is overseen by no fewer than 15 and no more than 25 voting Commission members appointed by the Governor. The composition of a state Commission is legally constrained to ensure non-partisanship and political neutrality. The National and Community Service Trust Act, and administrative regulations issued in conjunction with it, specify requirements for balance in the Commission.

Based on population and funding availability, Serve Alaska recommends applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service. Applications are selected based on their ability to address unmet community needs in education, public safety, environment or other human needs.

The Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development houses Serve Alaska and serves as its fiscal agent. The Serve Alaska Commission meets on a quarterly basis following the guidelines of the by-laws.

The Planning Process

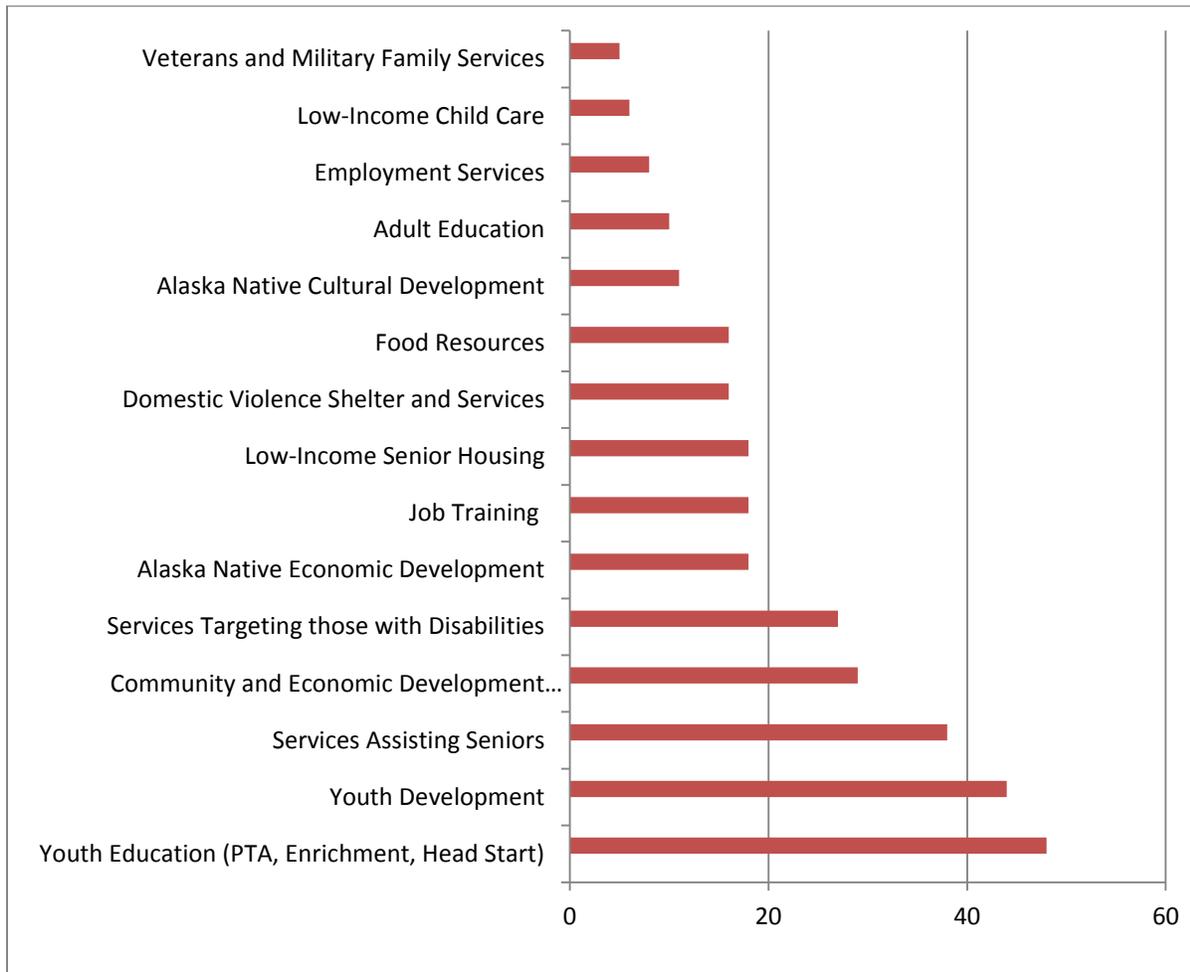
Three strategic goals were established through a collective process and approved by Serve Alaska Commissioners. To guide the development of the 2010-2012 State Service Plan, valuable community input was gathered during sponsored community cafes, surveys, phone interviews and other sources such as the Commission on Aging, Homeless Council, Mobility Coalition and National Service funded organizations. The results included:

- Define the context in which Serve Alaska will utilize national service as an essential element to address issues
- Create innovative program strategies to adapt national service initiatives to Alaska, its people and cultures

VISTA Project

In the spring of 2012 a database was compiled identifying organizations across the state of Alaska addressing poverty reduction on both local and statewide levels. A total of 455 organizations including nonprofits, tribal groups, and faith-based community organizations were identified through The Foraker Group Report on the Alaska Nonprofit Economy: 2010 Update, Alaska's *Pick Click Give* Database, Alaska 2-1-1, and word-of-mouth sources with missions focusing on increasing access to resources for those facing the socio-economic condition of poverty, as well as working to strengthen individuals, families, and communities so that they are less vulnerable to falling into poverty.

Areas of Poverty Addressed in Mission of Organization



The 455 organizations were then grouped by the Borough or Census Area where they operate, and the organizations in each of these geographic segments were identified by number for how many of them addressed the needs of various target service areas to prevent people from falling into poverty, or assist them in moving out of it.

Service Area Totals by Region

Region	Population	Total # Organizations	Youth Education (PTA, Enrichment, Head Start)	Youth Development	Services Assisting Seniors	Community and Economic Development (Including Regional Corporations)	Services Targeting those with Disabilities	Alaska Native Economic Development	Job Training	Low-Income Senior Housing	Domestic Violence Shelter and Services	Food Resources	Alaska Native Cultural Development	Adult Education	Employment Services	Low-Income Child Care	Veterans and Military Family Services
Southcentral	383,772	213	16	16	10	15	20	10	9	8	2	6	5	5	3	4	3
Interior	111,980	68	8	11	6	3	2	2	2	4	1	2	4	1			1
Gulf Coast	79,935	56	7	8	5	1	1	1	2	3	5	4			2	1	
Southeast	72,549	70	10	9	9	4	3		3	2	5	2		2	2	1	
West	25,078	11	1		1	1		1	2	1	1		2				
Northwest	17,589	8	3			2		1									
Southwest	14,650	12	1		2	2			1	1	2			1	1		
North	9,503	1												1			

When looking at geographic areas which house at least 5% or more of the state’s total population who fall under the poverty line, we find the state’s four largest populated Boroughs:

- Anchorage Borough (home to 34.2% of total Alaskans in poverty, 41.1% of AK general population)
- Matanuska-Susitna Borough (home to 13.5% of total Alaskans in poverty, 12.9% of AK general population)
- Fairbanks North Star Borough (home to 11.2% of total Alaskans in poverty, 14% of AK general population)
- Kenai Peninsula Borough (home to 7.9% of total Alaskans in poverty, 7.9% of AK general population).

Looking over the distribution of nonprofit, tribal, and faith-based community organizations across these boroughs, a few statistics stand out. First, out of the 455 organizations with missions identified to reduce poverty, only 6.6% of them (30 total) operate in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, even though the borough represents about 13.5% of the state’s impoverished population at an estimated 9,103 individuals below the poverty line. The gaps in services appear to be in the following focus areas which have no organizations with missions specifically addressing their needs: youth development, job training and employment services, adult education, community and economic development, and domestic violence resources. Next, the Kenai Peninsula Borough, 37 out of the 455 poverty mission oriented organizations, appears to have gaps in organizational coverage specializing in services for individuals with disabilities, community and economic development, adult education, and services for veterans and military families.

Two other areas of the state with a much smaller total population, with under 5% of the state’s total impoverished population. These areas are the Bethel Census Area and the Wade Hampton Census Area, each of which are areas with one of the top-five rates of local poverty, at 18.6% (2x the statewide poverty rate) and 31.4% (3.4x the statewide poverty rate) respectively. The Bethel

Census Area houses 4.8% of total Alaskans in poverty yet is matched with only 1.9% of the total 455 organizations, while in Wade Hampton with 3.6% of the Alaskans in poverty, it is home to only .4%

Of the 455 identified poverty-addressing organizations. Each of these have near across the board absence of organizations whose missions target the identified focus areas.

Also of note is the Northwest Arctic Borough, which holds 2.2% of the state's total estimated individuals in poverty, yet has a specific local poverty rate of 19.7% (2.1 x the statewide poverty rate of 9.3%). It houses only 1 of the total 455 organizations identified as addressing poverty reduction at only .2%.

Sources used:

- Statewide Population Numbers: 2010 US Census Data
- Statewide Economic Statistics: 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate
- Organizational Information: 2012 Serve Alaska VISTA Database of Alaskan Nonprofits, Tribal and Community Organizations Fighting Poverty

Outreach/New Program Development/Collaboration-working with Organizations and Communities to Use Service as a Strategy in the Serve America Act Focus Areas: Disaster Services, Economic Opportunity, Education, Environmental Stewardship, Healthy Futures, and Veterans and Military Families.

Goal: Serve Alaska is a strategic catalyst for engaging volunteerism and service in Alaska

Objective: Improve volunteerism engagements and partnerships

Potential Strategies:

- Identify organizations eligible to apply for national service funding
 - Conduct a gap analysis of the services provided within the State to determine unmet needs of communities, best practices and how national service and volunteerism could best be used to address unmet local needs (started process 1-2012)
- Disseminate information about the Corporation for National and Community Service funding opportunities
- Conduct a Request for Proposals process that identifies and select high quality applicants for AmeriCorps State Funding
- Design and implement a strategy to share volunteer programs' best practices
- Foster collaboration among public, private and nonprofit volunteer service programs to provide value added service opportunities
- Invest in community-driven solutions for rural Alaska
- Establish a statewide clearinghouse for volunteers and volunteer agencies
- Provide information through the use of social media
- Develop and share an interested parties list for information distribution
- Engage in planning and aligning with CNCS and its affiliates
- Facilitate discussion with nonprofit organizations, faith-based organizations and local and state agencies in addition to Seniors Corps sites, and CNCS AmeriCorps grantees with sites or members in Alaska on the development and implementation of the State Service Plan
- Assist programs with accommodations based needed for inclusion of individuals with disabilities as members or beneficiary of member service
- Provide volunteer and national service opportunities for individuals with disabilities

Training, Technical Assistance & Accountability-Develop Quality National Service and Volunteer Experiences and Programs

Goal: Serve Alaska is an effective, responsive, and accountable state Commission

Objective: Increase the development, operations and effectiveness of Serve Alaska

Potential Strategies:

- Provide information and technical assistance to organizations interested in engaging national service resources
- Assist with addressing identified program training needs by providing, coordinating or linking to training resources
- Engage in planning and aligning with CNCS and its affiliates for training
- Conduct on-site monitoring and desk audits
- Increase the development, operations and effectiveness of the Commission
- Facilitate training for community organizations that result in quality applications for national service resources

Promotion/Recognition-Building a Culture of Service

Goal: Serve Alaska is a sustainable, recognized National Service Grantor and Commission

Objective: Enhance Serve Alaska recognition and sustainability

Potential Strategies:

- Promote available AmeriCorps funding opportunities
- Develop and implement a statewide media strategy for the recognition of national service funded programs, days of service and events
 - AmeriCorps Week, Senior Corps, RSVP, Days of Service: MLK-Day, 9-11 A Day of Remembrance
- Design and implement a strategy to share volunteer program's best practices
- Design and implement a strategy to recognize and celebrate the achievement of Volunteers
- Support volunteer recognition events and activities
 - the First Lady Volunteer Recognition Awards
 - the Anchorage Association of Volunteer Administrators Volunteer Recognition Week
 - Support and give recognition to youth involved in community service and volunteerism

Serve Alaska Commission Roster

May 2013

www.servealaska.alaska.gov

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First Name	Last Name	Sector Representation	City
Aryne	Randall	Business	Wasilla
Kirsten	Franklin-Temple	CNCS Representative	Seattle
Barb	Nickels	Community Based	Nome
Kirsten	Vesel, Chair	Community Based	Seward
Steve	Ricci	Community Based	Juneau
Melora	Gaber	Dept of Education Designee	Juneau
Kathryn	Abbott	DVS Act of 1973	Anchorage
Lebron	McPhail	Education	Palmer
Tracey	Burke	Higher Education	Anchorage
Kate	Powers	Individuals between 16-25 years	Anchorage
Jeff	Wheaton	K-12 Education	Anchorage
Dawn	Grossmann	Local Government	Delta Junction
Joelle	Hall, Vice Chair	Local Labor Organization	Anchorage
Justin	Fantasia	National Service	Juneau
Elaine	Dahlgren	Older Adults Service & Volunteer Community	Anchorage
Denise	Morris	Tribal	Chugiak
Linda	McDevitt	Volunteer Sector	Anchorage
Marianne	Kerr	Youth Development	Anchorage