

State Service Plan Update
January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016

Goal #1: Conduct statewide outreach to increase volunteerism and encourage Montanans to be civically engaged

- Consistently used social media (Facebook and Twitter) to share compelling volunteer stories and impact of volunteerism, and to promote office activities, including Facebook for sponsored project specific advertising.
- Organized and hosted Governor's Gift of Life Ceremony April 29, 2016 with Lieutenant Governor Cooney. The annual event recognizes the families of those who gave the ultimate gift of service and promotes the Donate Life campaign. An art installation titled, Tree of Life was placed in Capitol Rotunda for display May-the end of the year to promote and feature organ donation.
- Shared opportunities and activities of OCS and partner organizations through monthly newsletters reaching over 1,000 people per issuance.

Goal #2: Expand and support National Service

- Provided technical assistance and training to AmeriCorps program staff with bimonthly conference calls and an in-person training Aug. 11, 2016 in Helena, MT.
- Provided training to AmeriCorps members at the 6th Annual ServeMontana Symposium March 9-11, 2016 in Helena, MT. The event included supported cross stream member development, featured a citywide service project, conference style sessions and concluded with attendees participating in the Whole Community Disaster Simulation. <http://serve.mt.gov/serve-symposium/>
 - The event encouraged cross stream collaboration generally and specifically during the member led Regional Networking plenary session.
- In spring 2016 the OCS Grants Manager conducted statewide outreach travel. Reaching over 24 service agencies, including Tribal representatives, who are engaged in meeting the needs identified in the Community Needs Assessment such as suicide prevention and safe affordable housing, in areas not currently served by AmeriCorps. Meetings included review of the State Service Plan, the activities of the agencies and assessment of grant management systems.

Goal #3: Increase sustainability of National Service and volunteerism

- Engaged current philanthropic partners to support the following,
 - ServeMontana Symposium: support valued over \$12,000 in contributions from local organizations
 - ServeMontana Scholarships: support valued \$100,000 from Montana Campus Compact & Reach Higher Montana to offer and administer 100 scholarships
 - ServeMontana Awards: Engaged support valued \$2,000 from Montana Credit Union Network to publically recognize community volunteers
 - Governor & First Lady Youth Leadership Council: Engaged support valued \$7,000 from First Interstate Bank Foundation and Youth Service America
- Worked in collaboration with the CNCS Montana State Office to increase participation in [Mayor, Counties and Tribal Day](#), April 5, 2016. AmeriCorps State programs were instrumental in securing support from at least one Tribal Nation.
- Conducted outreach to Commissioners, AmeriCorps State grantees, National Directs and AmeriCorps VISTA projects aimed at increasing Employers of National Service in Montana. Partners such as Montana Conservation Corps, Montana Legal Services Association and Helena College signed on in 2016. While conducting outreach to increase Employers of National Service, it was realized that Food Corps, Inc. is currently an Employer, as is one National Direct serving in Montana, Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest.
- Encouraged AmeriCorps Alums to participate in Montana Campus Compact's Segal Education Award match through media promotion, information on our website, end of service trainings and by a hosting session at the 2016 ServeMontana Symposium.

Goal #4: Develop and strengthen relationships with community partners

- Developed and strengthened relationships with the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs as they informed the American Indian Caucus of funding announcements and volunteer recognition opportunities. Also strengthened relationships in the field by engaging in dialogue with suicide prevention practitioners on and nearby Indian Nations, such as at Northern Cheyenne and Fort Peck.
- Developed and strengthened associations with the local United Way as they featured '[AmeriCorps in Montana](#)' in their *Advancing the Common Good* television series. ServeMontana conducted outreach with faith based organizations in Sidney and Kalispell, MT and maintained a positive working relationship with the CNCS Montana State Office.
- Strategized and collaborated cross stream partnerships between AmeriCorps State, National, VISTA and NCCC. July 8, 2016 Governor Bullock visited AmeriCorps State and NCCC members serving to address childhood hunger in Billings, MT. <http://www.ktvq.com/story/32405216/montana-no-kid-hungry-jump-starts-summer-nutrition-with-food-truck>

Goal #5: Increase Montana's overall preparedness for disasters

- Issued assessment of AmeriCorps State programs for capacity and feasibility of involvement in statewide and national disaster services.
- Engaged over 225 AmeriCorps members, community volunteers, and local response organizations in the Whole Community Disaster Simulation at the 2016 ServeMontana Symposium.
- Engaged support valued at \$5,000 from Target Foundation to facilitate 125 emergency supply kits being made and delivered to income eligible seniors in frontier eastern Montana.
- Throughout the year partnered with local and statewide response organizations to support fire awareness and wildfire preparedness in May, [America's PreparAthon](#) activities in September, led the [Great Montana ShakeOut](#) earthquake drill in October, and responded to requests for Winter Ready preparedness information.

Goal #6: Increase statewide commissioner engagement

- Throughout 2016 Commissioners attended events statewide, such as Montana Campus Compact orientation in Missoula, Montana State Parks AmeriCorps event in Billings, MT, Montana No Kid Hungry AmeriCorps close of service event in Helena, and Montana Conservation Corps youth crew graduation in Helena.
 - Staff attended events for Big Sky Watershed Corps, Montana Conservation Corps, Montana Legal Services Association's Justice for Montanans Project, Montana No Kid Hungry AmeriCorps, and Montana State Parks AmeriCorps.
- Commissioners engaged in officially formed Work Groups for AmeriCorps Formula and Competitive Grant Reviews, ServeMontana Awards and YouthServe Montana Scholarships. Commissioners attended community volunteer recognition events such as ServeMontana Awards, ServeMontana Symposium and Volunteer of the Game.
- In 2017, ServeMontana's goal is to conduct an analysis of Commissioner skills, inclination and availability to engage, and to continue to expand Commissioner engagement in public outreach and education of elected officials.

Goal #7: Increase opportunities for youth to serve

- In 2016, ServeMontana engaged 20 youth in grades 7-12 into service with the Governor and First Lady Youth Leadership Council. Statewide these leaders implemented 30 youth-led service projects for Global Youth Service Day/Fight Childhood Hunger Week, <http://www.fightchildhoodhunger.com/>
- Served as a Youth Service America Lead Agency for Global Youth Service Day
- Encouraged youth to enter postsecondary education institutions through the [YouthServe Montana Scholarships](#)
- Throughout the fall and winter college sports season, Serve Montana recognized a student as 'Volunteer of the Game' at each of the 6 NAIA frontier conference schools in Montana.

Goal #8: Recognize meaningful volunteers in communities throughout Montana

- Recognized community volunteers who were nominated and selected for an award at the annual ServeMontana Award ceremony February 12, 2016.
- Recognized success addressing childhood hunger, particularly Montana's school breakfast through the First Lady School Breakfast Champion awards held in conjunction with the ServeMontana Awards
- Recognized efforts of student volunteers at NAIA Student Volunteer of the Game
- In Fall 2016, shared and promoted Montana's #11 ranking in CNCS's Volunteering and Civic Life in America, <https://www.nationalservice.gov/vcla>

Additional Update- Adults age 55 and older.

In 2017, ServeMontana will enhance the Montana State Service plan by including additional goals specific to Americans age 55 and older. ServeMontana has begun setting forth concise goals to support service opportunities for Americans age 55 and older, and goals that support national service programs and members whose service benefits those age 55 and older.

Montana State Service Plan Supplement for Service by Adults age 55 or older.

Context: Age is one component of diverse background and experiences among citizens in need, citizens willing to serve a term with AmeriCorps and those willing to serve as community volunteers. According to the [US Census Bureau](#), Montana is home to just over 1 million people, with 17.2% of those age 65 or older. In 2008, [The Center for Aging and Work State Profile for Montana](#) indicated more than 25% of Montana's population is age 55 or older, and indicates that 61.1% of those individuals are still employed. While the data clearly indicates that Montana values the contributions of older workers, it also demonstrate an economic motivation for working longer in life, such as unforeseen circumstances and being underemployed.

The Commission on Community Service and the Office of Community Service's current and future National Service Programs are strongly encouraged to engage adults age 55 and older as service participants and as beneficiaries. All AmeriCorps State programs are encouraged to engage operating Senior Corps programs during National Days of Service and for other episodic opportunities. ServeMontana staff present at the Senior Corps State Directors Annual Meeting and encourage the Senior Corps program staff to reach out and engage with AmeriCorps State programs.

Service Participants age 55 and older

In 2016, Montana Legal Services Association's Justice for Montanans Project (JFMP) AmeriCorps members engaged 2 members into National Service who are age 55 and older. The National Center for Appropriate Technology's Montana Energy Corps enrolled one service member who is 55+. Montana State Parks AmeriCorps has successfully enrolled three 55+ members, one each year in three program years.

Montana State Parks AmeriCorps engages adults age 55 and older as they attend educational and interpretive talks/tours, volunteer during Service Days and other land stewardship events. Adults age 55 and older have served as community volunteers in State Parks, engage with members during community outreach efforts such as tabling at public events and participate through member led outreach to civic organizations (Kiwanis, Lion's Club, etc).

Service Beneficiaries age 55 and older

Montana Legal Services Association's Justice for Montanans Project (JFMP) AmeriCorps members served adults age 55 as follows:

- At the offices of Montana Legal Services Association, low and moderate income adults age 55+ accessed legal information, and referrals from Justice for Montanans members for help with civil legal issues including housing, family law, wills, powers of attorney, and consumer matters.
- At the Office of Consumer Protection, adults age 55+ are being educated about harmful practices by retail businesses and scam operations. JFM members investigate consumer complaints and assist with the input of information for the End-of-Life Registry.
- At the Montana State Bar, JFM members engage adults age 55+ by providing them with referrals to the modest means program for help with finding an affordable attorney, as well as assisting with legal clinics across the state that address legal issues common to the senior population including wills and advanced directives.
- At the Court Help Program, JFM members assist people with civil legal problems by giving them the information they need to help them resolve their legal problems on their own.

Since 2005, Montana Conservation Corps 'Warm Hearts Warm Homes' initiative partners with Montana's Department of Public Health and Human Service (DPHHS) to provide income eligible seniors installed winterization measures such as window kits, door sweeps and others, depending on the needs of the home.

General Engagement, age 55 and older

In 2016 the National Center for Appropriate Technology's Montana Energy Corps program partnered with Butte RSVP in a Mayor's Day Service Project. For that project, the RSVP participants volunteered with MT Tech students and national service members in the Butte area while collecting food donations at grocery stores to be given to the Butte Emergency Food Bank.

Additionally in 2016, the National Center for Appropriate Technology's Montana Energy Corps partnered with RSVP in Billings, MT for the MLK Jr. Day of Service, serving the 55+ population for the majority of the light weatherization installations in the Billings area.

Limitations, age 55 and older

- It is understood that by design, some of our programs are mindfully serving schools and beneficiaries under age 55+. ServeMontana will continue to encourage recruitment that targets individuals of all ages, into AmeriCorps service and importantly to serve as community volunteers.
- Understanding that age is a protected category and optional for a respondent to report, ServeMontana encourages all programs to track ages of beneficiaries and Service Day participants so that they can report on this demographic. Several of them have begun the work of modifying surveys and data collection tools.

Thank you for an incredible 2016 of Getting Things Done in Montana!

We look forward to a productive and healthy 2017 with you and all of our partners in service!