



STATE SERVICE PLAN

2019-2021





Introduction

The Montana Governor's Office of Community Service's 2019-2021 State Service Plan is a three-year plan that serves as a framework for National Service and community volunteerism in Montana. The State Service Plan is based in State Statute and is a requirement of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). The three-year plan is effective January 1, 2019 and determines the strategic goals and initiatives of the Montana Commission on Community Service.



Photo: Over 300 AmeriCorps State and VISTA members convene for the 2018 ServeMontana Symposium in Helena, MT. Photo Credit: Sarah Sadowski

National Service and Commission History

National Service is the result of over 100 years of citizen engagement and philosophy rooted in the notion that service and devotion are key ingredients to democracy and achieving greater good. From William James's Moral Equivalent of War in 1910, to President Franklin D. Roosevelt's creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's, National Service has progressed and remained a legacy priority of the majority of America's 20th Century presidents. In the 1960's President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps, in 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson worked with Congress to pass the Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) Act. Senior Corps was originally mandated under the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973. In 1990, President George H. W. Bush signed the National and Community Service Act into law, establishing a Commission on National and Community Service. In 1993, President Bill Clinton amended President George H. W. Bush's legislation to create the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) and ultimately expanded National Service. Senior Corps, which was originally mandated under the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973, and its three organizations—Foster Grandparents, Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), and Senior Companions—was reformed to a single agency under CNCS. The updated National and Community Service Act also required each state to create a commission to receive and administer federal funds for National Service programs. In 1994, the first cohort of AmeriCorps members began serving nationwide and in Montana. On April 21, 2009, President Barack Obama signed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act to reauthorize and further expand National Service programs.

Created in 1993 as a result of the [National and Community Service Trust Act](#) and other legislation, the Montana Governor's Office of Community Service and the Governor-appointed Montana Commission on Community Service continues to promote and expand National Service and volunteer opportunities in Montana. Under Montana Code Annotated 90-14-104, the Commission on Community Service is staffed by the Governor's Office of Community Service (OCS). While being one of several offices within the Governor's Office, OCS is administratively attached to the Montana Department of Labor and Industry. The Office is funded in part by grants from CNCS.

To view Montana's state service profile, visit nationalservice.gov

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Mission

The Governor's Office of Community Service:

- Encourages citizens of all ages and backgrounds to engage in National Service and community volunteerism
- Encourages organizations to involve youths in the life and work of communities
- Works to promote and expand volunteer opportunities for all Montanans



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Photos: Left: 100 Fold Studio Corps Members in front of their design/build project with 100 Fold Corps Summer Studio at Lakeside, MT. Photo Credit: James Martin
Right: Montana Conservation Corps All Nations Youth Crew overlooking the Four Dances Recreation Area near Billings, Montana. Photo credit: Tauzha Grantham

Commissioners

The Montana Commission on Community Service was created by the 1993 Legislature at the Request of the Governor (MCA 90-14-101ff), in an effort to support community-based volunteer programs focused on addressing critical community needs. The Commission is a fifteen-member, governor-appointed, diverse, non-partisan body representing a broad cross-section of community service interests and statewide leadership in Montana. The Commission's vision for Montana is healthy, vibrant communities where individuals are empowered to strengthen communities through National Service and community volunteerism.

Visit serve.mt.gov/Commission/commissioners to find a current list of Commissioners



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Photo: Members of the Commission on Community Service, along with Director Dan Ritter and Jackie Girard from the CNCS Montana State Office, October 2018.
Photo Credit: Alison O'Neil

State Service Plan Overview

Montana's State Service Plan was guided by members of the Governor's Commission on Community Service with the support of the Governor's Office of Community Service staff. The purpose of the State Service Plan is to assess how National Service and community volunteerism can be an inclusive strategy to meeting needs facing our state and how National Service can be strengthened across programs through training and partnerships. This Montana State Service Plan covers a three-year period and is intended to be adaptable. The State Service Plan serves as a funding prioritization tool and fulfills requirements set forth by the [Corporation for National and Community Service](#) (CNCS).

In alignment with identifying Montana's greatest needs, developing goals and objectives, and recognizing how those goals and objectives can be achieved through the mission of the Governor's Office of Community Service, National Service, and community partnerships, statewide public input was gathered from over 670 respondents for the Community Needs Assessment section. Additional national and state-based research was conducted and input was gathered from Commission members and those they represent, through State Service Plan Workgroup meetings.

Focus Areas and Special Initiatives

Guidance for the State Service Plan was derived from special initiatives and focus areas of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), Governor and First Lady Initiatives, and public input.

CNCS Focus Areas

[Disaster Services](#)

[Economic Opportunity](#)

[Education](#)

[Environmental Stewardship](#)

[Healthy Futures](#)

[Veterans and Military Families](#)

CNCS Special Initiatives, adopted by Montana

[Employers of National Service](#)

[National Days of Service](#)

[Mayors, County, and Tribal Day of Recognition for National Service](#)

[Native American Affairs](#)

[Eli Segal Education Award match](#)

Governor and First Lady Initiatives, adopted by OCS

[American Indian Affairs](#)

[Childhood Hunger](#)

[Drought Resiliency](#)

[Early Childhood Education](#)

[Forests in Focus](#)

[Mental Health](#)

[SMART Schools](#)

[Workforce Development](#)



Photo: 100 Fold Studio Corps member Laura Cragoe takes measurements for a build with the 100 Fold Corps Summer Studio. Photo Credit: James Martin

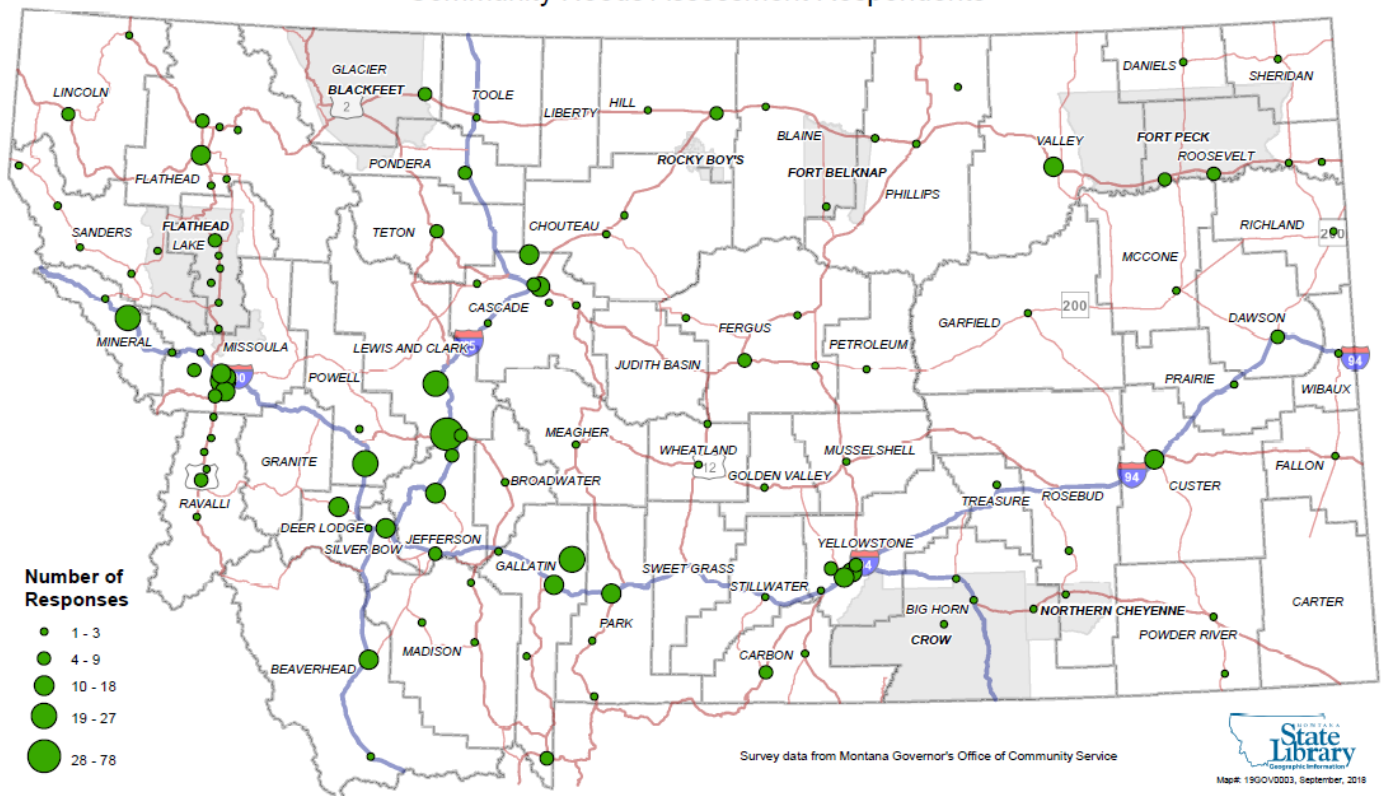
Community Needs Assessment

From August 9, 2018 through September 17, 2018, **676** Montanans responded to the OCS Community Needs Assessment. The Assessment was designed to capture what Montanans believe to be the greatest needs facing their communities among the CNCS Focus Areas.

The Community Needs Assessment captured basic demographic information. More than **65** percent of respondents identified as themselves when taking the survey, while **21** percent identified as representing nonprofits. The remainder identified as representing government, business, schools, faith-based or other. Over **87** percent of respondents identify as white and **6.5** percent identify as Native American, which broadly matches the demographics of Montana's general population. A further **6** percent preferred not to identify ethnicity. Over **half** of the respondents were between the ages of 25-54, while nearly **40** percent of respondents were between the ages of 55-74.

The map below represents where individuals responded from across the state:

Community Needs Assessment Respondents



Results from the Community Needs Assessment guide the Office of Community Service in outreach, program development and in aligning National Service resources to meet the identified needs wherever possible.

Environmental Stewardship

- Over **53** percent of respondents agree that **improvements of at-risk public lands or waterways, and construction or physical improvements related to energy and water performance** are the most important community needs in this Focus Area
- Over **49** percent of respondents agree that **direct, sustained recycling and waste treatment activities** is the most important community need in this Focus Area
- Over **47** percent of respondents agree that **workforce development** and **green job training** are high needs

Education

- Over 59 percent of respondents agree that [workforce development opportunities for young adults](#), including vocational training and apprenticeships, is the most important community need in this Focus Area
- Over 40 percent of respondents agree that [mentoring](#) and [college access & entry](#) are critical community needs
- Nearly 30 percent of respondents agree that [early childhood education](#) and [reducing student loan debt](#) are important community needs, with 20 percent respondents identifying [S.T.E.M. Education](#) as a need

Economic Opportunity

- Over 66 percent of respondents agree that [safe and affordable housing](#) is the most important community need in this Focus Area
- Over 46 percent of respondents indicated [workforce development and job training](#) is a major issue facing communities in Montana
- Nearly 30 percent of respondents indicated [financial literacy](#) and [homelessness](#) as a priority while also identifying [providing legal assistance](#) and [disability services](#) as areas of need.

Healthy Futures

- Over 63 percent of respondents agree that [mental health services](#) are the most important community need in this Focus Area
- Over 42 percent of respondents ranked [substance abuse prevention and treatment](#) as one of the most important issues facing Montana, with another 35 percent of respondents in agreement that [access to primary and preventative health care](#) is a community need facing Montana communities
- Over a quarter of respondents indicating that [Childhood hunger](#) and [physical activity \(reducing/preventing obesity\)](#) are areas to be addressed

Veterans & Military Families

- Nearly 67 percent of respondents agree that [suicide prevention](#) is a critical issue facing Veterans and Military Families in Montana
- Nearly 54 percent of respondents agree that [Post Traumatic Stress Disorder \(PTSD\)](#) is one of the most important community needs in this Focus Area
- Over 42 percent of respondents agree that [safe and affordable housing](#) is an important community need with over 30 percent identifying needs in the areas of [workforce development](#) and [disability services](#)

American Indian Affairs

- Over 57 percent of respondents agree that [substance use & abuse services](#) are the critical community needs in this Priority Area, with another 37 percent agreeing that [suicide prevention](#) and 31 percent agreeing that [health and wellness](#) are among the top issues facing Native communities in Montana
- Over 28 percent of respondents agree that [cultural preservation](#) is an important need, with a further 11 and 12 percent ranking traditional lands preservation and traditional language preservation, respectively, as important community needs
- [Job training](#), [economic development](#), and [education](#) also ranked high, with each being ranked as a significant issue by 24 percent of respondents.

Montanans Age 55+

- [Health care, including long-term care, medication and prescriptions, in-home care, and health insurance](#), was ranked highest, with over 56 percent of respondents agreeing that these are the most critical community needs facing Montanans over the age of 55
- [Independent living](#), [access to public benefits](#), and [housing](#) were also ranked highly, with over a quarter of respondents agreeing that these were each significant issues in this Focus Area
- [Transportation](#) and [isolation](#) are also major issues, with 24 percent and 22 percent of respondents ranking them as important issues for this demographic

Strategic Goals

Goal 1: Expand and Support National Service

Goal 2: Conduct Statewide Outreach to Increase Volunteer Participation and Encourage Montanans to be Civically Engaged

Goal 3: Increase Sustainability of National Service and Volunteerism

Goal 4: Develop and Strengthen Relationships with Community Partners

Goal 5: Increase Commissioner Engagement

Goal 6: Increase Opportunities for Youth to Serve

Goal 7: Recognize Meaningful Community Volunteers throughout Montana

Goal 8: Supplemental State Plan for Montanans Over Age 55



Photo: State Parks AmeriCorps members Victoria Miera and Josh Parken pull weeds in the native prairie restoration area at Traveler's Rest State Park. Photo Credit: Dale Dufour

Goal 1: Expand and Support National Service

Objectives

1. Provide technical assistance and training to AmeriCorps State programs

2. Expand National Service programs statewide

3. Encourage cross-stream service collaboration and networking

Strategies

1.1. Host an annual in-person training for AmeriCorps Program Directors and staff
1.2. Host bi-monthly conference calls with AmeriCorps Program Directors and staff
1.3. Provide training to AmeriCorps members with the annual ServeMontana Symposium and participate in other outreach opportunities throughout the year including member training, swearing-in, and close of service events

2.1. Expand the geographic and programmatic reach of National Service programs in Montana, particularly in Indian Country, and rural and frontier communities
2.2. Expand the number of AmeriCorps programs by promoting funding opportunities that align best with needs identified in the Community Needs Assessment and that can be supported through Competitive, Formula, and National CNCS funding sources
2.3. Engage current partners and Montanans to serve or partner with National Service
2.4. Build on existing relationships and conduct strategic outreach to further engage Montanans into National Service and increase awareness about the various service opportunities

3.1. Support diverse, cross-stream member development as per program needs and at the annual ServeMontana Symposium
3.2. Encourage cross-stream training and support between AmeriCorps State & National, AmeriCorps NCCC, AmeriCorps VISTA, Senior Corps
3.3. Support program staff attendance/development through attendance at National Service Regional training events and other opportunities such as National Regional Service Trainings, the Leadership Forum for National Service Executives, and the Points of Light Foundation's Conference on Service and Volunteering.
3.4. Promote the capabilities and engagement of the [AmeriCorps Disaster Response Teams](#) (A-DRT), including Montana Conservation Corps



Photo: Montana State Parks AmeriCorps member Josh Parken leads a group of students on an archeology walk at Travelers Rest State Park. Photo Credit: Dale Dufour

Goal 2: Conduct Statewide Outreach to Increase Volunteerism and Encourage Montanans to be Civically Engaged

Objectives

1. Encourage and promote civic engagement and community volunteerism
2. Encourage Montanans to be registered organ donors
3. Connect Montanans with opportunities to serve

Strategies

- 1.1. Share compelling stories and successes to promote the positive impact of community volunteerism and civic engagement
- 1.2. Use traditional media such as press releases and news articles to share impacts of community volunteerism
- 1.3. Use social media such as Facebook and Twitter to share impact of volunteerism
- 2.1. Promote the Donate Life campaign statewide, including through a partnership with LifeCenter Northwest, the annual Governor's Gift of Life Ceremony, and through the Trees of Life in the Capitol Rotunda
- 2.2. Inform Montanans of the benefits and encourage them to become organ, eye, and tissue donors
- 3.1. Conduct targeted outreach to organizations and people who are already meeting the needs identified in the Community Needs Assessment
- 3.2. Encourage participation in Days of Service and other volunteer opportunities through the OCS website and on social media
- 3.3. Share opportunities and activities of OCS and partner organizations through the monthly newsletter



Photo: Big Sky Watershed Corps members and community volunteers pose for a picture after harvesting 3,000 willows that were later planted along 7 Mile Creek near Helena, MT. Willows are transplanted to improve and restore local habitat and reduce stream bank erosion. Photo Credit: Valerie Stacey

Goal 3: Increase Sustainability of National Service and Volunteerism



Objectives

1. Engage current and new philanthropic partners

Strategies

- 1.1. Engage current and new philanthropic partners to help expand and promote initiatives of OCS and of National Service programs across Montana
- 1.2. Promote the effective solutions of National Service to partners of the high return of investment for funding National Service, and OCS initiatives and activities
- 1.3. Coordinate efforts to diversify philanthropic partners and decrease overlap in funding sources across National Service programs

2. Diversify financial support

- 2.1. Engage the philanthropic community to support and/or sponsor AmeriCorps service sites in high need areas of the state
- 2.2. Seek financial support from the Governor's Office for increased capacity
- 2.3. Garner financial support from corporations, businesses, and nonprofits to expand financial capacity

3. Advance and expand initiatives that contribute to sustainability of National Service efforts in Montana, and the country.

- 3.1. Expand the number of Montana participants in Employers of National Service, and National Service Recognition Day
- 3.2. Educate local leaders and other public or elected officials on the activities and value of service
- 3.3. Publicize and encourage AmeriCorps alums to participate in Montana Campus Compact's Segal Education Award match

Photo: New members of Montana Campus Compact AmeriCorps engage with Lieutenant Governor Mike Cooney as he speaks at their Swearing-in Ceremony
Photo Credit: Alison O'Neil

Goal 4: Develop and Strengthen Relationships with Community Partners



Objectives

1. Develop and strengthen relationships with American Indian communities and Tribal leaders

2. Develop and strengthen partnerships with other organizations

3. Strategize and plan cross-stream service partnerships

Strategies

1.1. Travel to Indian Country to further develop relationships with Tribal nations, schools, and organizations, and the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs

1.2. Expand the impact of National Service by increasing the number of AmeriCorps members serving on and nearby reservations

1.3. Demonstrate the benefits of service on and nearby reservations

2.1. Develop and strengthen associations with United Way agencies in Montana, statewide nonprofits, faith-based organizations, educational institutions, and state and federal government agencies

2.2. Maintain and strengthen relationship with the CNCS Montana State Office

3.1. Develop collaborative cross-stream partnerships between AmeriCorps State & National, AmeriCorps VISTA, AmeriCorps NCCC, Senior Corps programs, participants, alumni, and community volunteers to demonstrate benefits of service

3.2. Take the lead on the annual ServeMontana Symposium to provide cross-stream member development and training for AmeriCorps State, VISTA and NCCC members serving Montana

Photo: In partnership with Helena Food Share, AmeriCorps State, and VISTA members serve alongside Helena Young Professionals to collect food during the 2018 Doorsteps to Kid Packs citywide food drive. Photo credit: Andy Bixler

Goal 5: Increase Commissioner Engagement

Objectives

1. Engage Commissioners in National Service activities

Strategies (Commissioners)

- 1.1. Conduct analysis of Commissioner skills, inclination, and availability to engage
- 1.2. Participate in and track Commissioner engagement with National Service members and programs
- 1.3. Share experiences and provide feedback on National Service engagement opportunities with OCS

2. Engage Commissioners in OCS activities

- 2.1. Actively attend quarterly Commission meetings
- 2.2. Participate in working groups for the ServeMontana Awards, Youth Serve Montana Scholarships, and other opportunities as they arise over the three-year plan
- 2.3. Participate in activities of the office including, but not limited, to: Volunteer of the Game, Days of Service, National Service Day of Recognition, the ServeMontana Awards, and the ServeMontana Symposium
- 2.4. Participate in grant review meetings for AmeriCorps Competitive and Formula funding
- 2.5. Assist OCS with fulfilling goal strategies outlined in the State Service Plan

3. Expand Commissioner engagement in public outreach and education of elected officials

- 3.1. Expand the Employers of National Service initiative
- 3.2. Engage in public education of the different programs and streams of National Service, and promote granting opportunities
- 3.3. Represent the Commission at community events with partners, nonprofits, and National Service programs to conduct outreach to Montanans about service opportunities
- 3.4. Increase diverse resources for the Office of Community Service and AmeriCorps State programs



Photos: Left: Justice For Montanans AmeriCorps Members recite the AmeriCorps Pledge with Chief Justice of the Montana Supreme Court Mike McGrath. Photo Credit: Alison O'Neil



Right: Montana Energy Corps members teach kids about renewable energy, water conservation, and sustainable agriculture at an activities booth at an Earth Day celebration in Red Lodge. Photo Credit: Emilia Emerson

Goal 6: Increase Opportunities for Youth to Serve

Objectives

1. Increase opportunities for youth to serve

Strategies

1.1. Engage twenty 7th-12th grade youth in Governor and First Lady Bullock's Fight Childhood Hunger initiative each year
Increase leadership development and service project management opportunities through the Governor and First Lady Youth Leadership Council

1.2. Provide mini-grants to support youth-led projects on or around Fight Childhood Hunger Week

1.3. Increase awareness and understanding of availability of the Youth Serve Montana Scholarship opportunity to high school students statewide

2. Encourage a lifelong commitment to service among young adults

2.1. In partnership with Montana Campus Compact and Reach Higher Montana, encourage youth to enter postsecondary education institutions in Montana through providing Youth Serve Montana Scholarships annually

2.2. Promote the efforts of National Service programs that provide opportunities for youth to serve

3. Recognize volunteer efforts of students

3.1. In partnership with Montana Campus Compact and Reach Higher Montana, annually provide 100 high school seniors with a \$1,000 scholarship for volunteering 100 hours or more through the Youth Serve Montana Scholarships

3.2. Governor recognition of youth volunteer service accomplishments



Photo: Governor and First Lady Youth Leadership Council members engage with Governor Steve Bullock during the Council's Retreat in Helena.
Photo Credit: Marissa Perry

Goal 7: Recognize Meaningful Community Volunteers throughout Montana

Objectives

1. Recognize volunteers and community improvement efforts statewide

Strategies

1.1. Annually recognize at least five community volunteers and two organizations' meaningful contributions throughout Montana communities, urban, rural and Tribal, through an open nomination process and the annual ServeMontana Awards public ceremony

1.2. In partnership with the Governor's Office and Montana No Kid Hungry, recognize efforts to feed Montana's kids school breakfast through the First Lady School Breakfast Champion Awards, held in conjunction with the ServeMontana Awards

1.3. In partnership with Montana Campus Compact, recognize the volunteer service of students at six colleges and in communities through the NAIA Student Volunteer of the Game

2. Highlight impact of volunteers to the public

2.1. Use traditional and social media to recognize the impact of volunteers in Montana

2.2. Collaborate with partners and streams of National Service to highlight and share stories of service and volunteerism



Photo: 2017 ServeMontana Award recipients and their guests at the Governor's Residence with Governor Steve Bullock, First Lady Lisa Bullock, and Director Dan Ritter. Photo Credit: Helen Bosch

Goal 8: Supplemental State Plan for Montanans Over Age 55

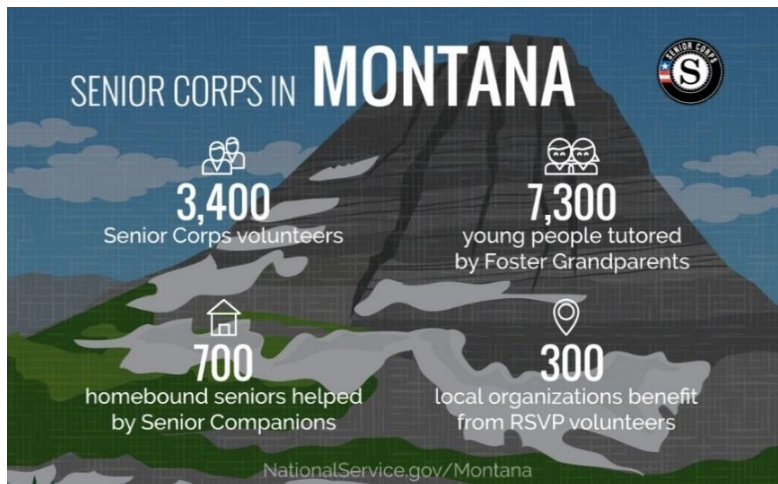
This Supplemental State Service Plan for Adults Age 55 and Older is intended to act as a guide for advancing Montanans over the age of 55 in a service capacity while meeting the CNCS funding requirement for State Service Entities. Montana is experiencing an increase in the number of individuals eligible for the services of the various programs established under the Older Americans Act of 1965. The Office of Community Service seeks to better serve that population and to increase engagement in service and community volunteerism.

Currently, Montanans **over the age of 55** make up **32%** of the population and that number will increase as the population continues to age. [Data](#) from the Montana [Census and Economic Information Center](#) predicts that by **2030**, two of Montana's 56 counties will have their **65+** populations comprise **more than 40%** of the total population. Twenty-one additional counties will have a population of 65+ **over 30%**, and a further thirty-one will be **over 20%**. These populations will need increased services as they get older as well as opportunities to serve. By achieving the goals of this plan, OCS can connect people and resources.



Montanans ages 55+ can be assessed in three categories: 1. employed, 2. unemployed, and 3. not in labor force/retired. It is important to consider the state of the economy and its impact on when, or if, older Montanans retire. According to [the 2016 American Community Survey](#), **66%** of Montanans age **55-64** are in the labor force, of which **97%** are employed and **3%** are unemployed. **Thirty-four percent** are not in the labor force, due to illness, disability, retirement, or some other reason. Of Montanans age **65-74**, **26%** are in the labor force, of which **97%** are employed and **3%** are unemployed. **Seventy-four percent** are not in the labor force. Of Montanans age **75+**, only **7%** are in the labor force.

Montanans over age 55 make meaningful contributions to the economy and to our communities, whether they are in the labor force or not. Older workers uniquely contribute in workplaces by providing institutional knowledge and



mentorship to younger workers, and the work they do adds value to Montana's economy. By volunteering, older Montanans can impart their knowledge to younger generations, while addressing local needs. For instance, children with mentors, such as a Foster Grandparent, are more likely to stay in school, graduate on time and are more likely to go to college. Research by the [AARP](#) has shown that people who volunteer live longer and have fuller, healthier lives. Senior Corps volunteers report decreased feelings of isolation and depression, as well as improved physical health thanks to a more active and engaged lifestyle.

Increased awareness of aging services will improve quality of life for seniors. Increasing the engagement of seniors in National Service allows them to use their unique skills, experiences, and social capital to address community needs. Engagement with National Service may decrease this population's need for other aging services by providing opportunities for older Montanans to engage with communities and maintain social networks, which improves mental and physical health.

Rather than making further recommendations to the [Governor's Advisory Council on Aging](#), the Office of Community Service seeks to align itself with their existing [Montana State Plan on Aging for 2015-2019](#) and support their efforts through National Service as outlined below.

Objectives

1. Increase targeted outreach to agencies that provide services to Montanans age 55+ in areas of identified needs

2. Increase outreach to Montanans age 55+ to improve awareness of National Service opportunities and how to engage in National Service and community volunteerism

Strategies

1.1. Conduct in-person and remote outreach meetings and information sessions so that agencies are aware of the ways National Service can increase their capacity to serve seniors. Agencies include, but are not limited to, the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging, state and local agencies, nonprofits and faith-based organizations. Investigate the untapped potential of other organizations and statewide events.

1.2. Explore how AmeriCorps programs can increase capacity of services to seniors through their activities and best policy practices to support Montanans age 55+

2.1. Raise awareness of National Service opportunities for Montanans age 55+, including veterans, Tribal members and other underrepresented groups. Senior Corps programs include Foster Grandparent Program, Senior Companion Program, and RSVP, through outreach and marketing, and social media campaigns.

2.2. Increase awareness of the social, economic, and health benefits of National Service and community volunteerism, such as the transferability of the Education Award.

2.3. Increase knowledge of intergenerational service programming to maximize the exchange of knowledge among older Montanans and younger AmeriCorps members.

2.4. Recognize National Service and community volunteer efforts of Montanans 55+, including Governor Recognition such as through the ServeMontana Awards, as well as Senior Corps Week, Older Americans Month in May, and National Volunteer Week.



Photo: Previous Page: Foster Grandparent Georgia Honey reads with Dane Fraser as part of the Senior Corps in Missoula. Photo Credit: Missoula Aging Services
Bottom: Delma Redneck with a member of Montana Energy Corps after Energy Corps weatherized her home. Photo Credit: Kaleena Miller

Acknowledgement

OCS acknowledges our many partners and appreciates the diverse support that leads to greater impacts for our citizens. Partnership engagement is vital to the success of service efforts aimed at benefitting all Montanans. As we move forward with implementing this State Service Plan, we recognize that it takes the collective efforts of each of us to make our communities healthy and prosperous. We thank the individuals, organizations, and philanthropic partners who support our valuable work. If you or your organization wants to learn more about how to further the mission of OCS or support our AmeriCorps family, or if you just want to share ideas and learn more about what we do, please contact us!

External Factors

The Montana Governor's Commission and Office of Community Service recognizes that there are many factors that may change over the three-year period of this State Service Plan. Change factors beyond control include the economy, citizen demographics, peer influences, natural disasters, political leadership, competition for volunteer time and attention, funding, changing social media, and priorities identified by the Governor and/or the Montana Legislature. Further, it is recognized and commonly understood that as the 4th largest state in the U.S. and being highly rural, that Montana is philanthropically underserved.



Photo: Left: Big Sky Watershed Corps member Michelle Pond, serving with the Gallatin County Local Water Quality District, educates community members on how macroinvertebrates are an essential indicator in overall water quality at a Kids River Resource Day event. Photo Credit: Angela Davis

Right: Communities in Action Corps member Ellyse Boughey fits a child for a bike helmet during a "Bikes for Tykes" event. The event provided new, used and repaired bikes for children in Richland County. An injury prevention team also provided education on bike safety. Photo Credit: Ashley VandeBosche

Next Steps

This State Service Plan will be used as a resource to continue the mission of the Montana Commission on Community Service and staff, as well as encourage a vibrant ethic of service and volunteerism in communities throughout Montana. The State Service Plan will be reviewed quarterly by staff and updated annually by the full Commission to evaluate progress and work towards successfully fulfilling goals. Public comments regarding the 2019-2021 State Service Plan can be submitted at any time over the three year period to serve@mt.gov, upon which a staff member will review and share at the Commission meeting each Fall when the plan is updated.

To request the State Service Plan in an alternative format, or to request supporting documents or additional information, please call 406-444-9077 or email serve@mt.gov.

NATIONAL SERVICE ENDORSEMENT

The Commission maintains a seat for the CNCS State Office Staff to serve as a non-voting, ex-officio member and continue to facilitate well-rounded discussion and collaboration. The Montana Commission on Community Service and the Montana State CNCS Office worked closely to develop the State Service Plan and continue to grow a strong working relationship in matters of National Service and volunteerism in Montana.

GOVERNOR APPROVAL

The 2019-2021 State Service Plan was approved by Governor Steve Bullock on December 7, 2018 pursuant to the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act (Public Law 111-13).



Steve Bullock
Governor of Montana

Conclusion



From Montana’s largest cities and towns to our rural and Native communities, National Service and community volunteerism is a proven strategy toward meeting critical needs and developing citizens who contribute. Service can truly serve as a tool in addressing some of the most significant community needs outlined throughout the State Service Plan. The Montana Governor’s Office of Community Service and Commission on Community Service, CNCS Montana State office, National Service programs, nonprofit and government organizations, businesses and corporations, educational institutions, and other stakeholders will continue to work together to make a difference in the lives of Montana’s people. Together we will advance and recognize National Service and community volunteerism as a strategy to make Montana safer, smarter, and healthier for generations to come. The rest of the story is up to all of us!



Photo: Governor Bullock engages with Montana Conservation Corps members on Helena’s South Hills Trail System, 2016. Photo Credit: Betsy Miller

