MONTANA COMMISSION ON community service

Commission Meeting Agenda
June 11, 2026, 1p – 230p
State Capitol Room 335

Agenda (Note: All times are tentative)

I. 1p Chair Turnbough Welcome, Call to Order

a. Roll Call, Nick Bennett:
   i. Commissioners Present: Chair Morgan Turnbough, Vice Chair Rob Lawler, Commissioners Autumn Bahr, Dawn English, Jim Larson, Thomas Risberg*, Clifford Kipp*, Zach Hawkins, Vicki Turner*, Dylan Davids*, AmeriCorps the agency. Excused Absence: Commissioner Nelson.
   ii. GOCS Staff Present: Director Sarah Sadowski; Keena Irby, Fiscal Officer; Kristina Jordan, Program Officer; Anastasia Matheison, Program Specialist; Nick Bennett, Administrative Specialist.
   iii. Guests: Duane Schlabach, Fish, Wildlife & Parks; Jono Mckinney*, Montana Conservation Corps; Josh Vanek*, Daniele Vickers*, Dan Corradini*, Lizzy Daly*, Isabella Culver*, Montana Campus Network for Civic Engagement; Angela Davis*, Community Health Corps Montana; Amanda Coyle*, AgCorps; Emily Isaacson*, Montana Legal Services Association; Ann Drazkowski*, AmeriCorps.
   *Indicates attendance on zoom.
b. Opening Activity, Commissioner Kipp- Describe an experience of impactful service.
c. Approval of March 11, 2026 Minutes – Chair Turnbough calls for motion to approve the March meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Larson motioned, Commissioner Lawler seconded. Minutes approved by acclamation.
d. Group Photo
e. Commissioner Reports & Updates: recent engagements with GOCS, local volunteerism, etc.
   i. Vice Chair Lawler presented the Youth Serve Montana (YSM) scholarship at Superior High School.
   ii. Commissioner Hawkins shared volunteer opportunities with youth recreational sports, coaching the Helena Cyclones mountain biking team, and mentioned the need for more coaches. He also talked about the importance of blood donation and encouraged everyone to engage in these opportunities.
   iii. Commissioner Bahr shared volunteer opportunities with the Governor's Cup in Helena.
   iv. Commissioner Kipp presented the YSM scholarships to Columbia Falls High School and shared his volunteering activities coaching youth sports.

II. 125p AC Mountain Region Office Update – Dylan Davids

a. Upcoming Competition Results: Application deadlines for all grant competitions have closed. Please stay tuned for formal notifications. Specifically, over the next few weeks AmeriCorps make announcements for FY2026: RSVP Competition, AmeriCorps State and National, Volunteer Generation Fund, MLK Day of Service, Native Nations Planning and Programs, and new VISTA projects.

b. AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) is currently accepting applications for NCCC Volunteer positions for the Fall 2026 Traditional NCCC Class. Applicants selected will deploy across the country to serve communities on projects related to natural & other disasters, infrastructure improvement, environmental stewardship and conservation, energy conservation, and urban & rural development. AmeriCorps asks that all state commissions amplify these service opportunities by sharing with community stakeholders, on social media channels, in newsletters, etc. Information is below: Traditional NCCC Volunteer (ages 18–24), Apply by June 30. Serve: August 2026 – July 2027 NCCC Volunteer Application [my.americorps.gov]

c. Looking to FY27: AmeriCorps FFY27 budget remains an open question, however the agency plans to launch new NOFOs for the years head. In the meantime, AmeriCorps wants to flag two things:

   i. OMB is *seeking comments on revisions to 2 CFR, Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance.* The proposed rule has been published in the Federal Register and is open for public comment through July 13, 2026. After the public comment period closes, a final rule will be developed. OMB has identified October 1, 2026, as the target effective date for the final rule. There are some notable changes proposed for all federal grantees, including implications for Prime grants and how they manage their subgrantees. These are not AmeriCorps specific regulations but will apply to all federal grants.

   Link: Federal Register: Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance

   ii. VISTA Partner Outreach: AmeriCorps the agency is compiling a list of organizations who have newly expressed interest in VISTA resources. As the FY26 funding opportunity has closed, this list will be used to contact organizations about FY27 funding opportunities.

d. Story collection continues. Standing invitation from the CEO's office to share stories of impact for consideration in internal and external communications, such as social media, blogs, the website, speeches, email, and other outreach. Please email the region mailbox or me directly and we'll get them submitted!

III. 135p Governor's Office of Community Service Updates

a. Director's Update, Director Sadowski

   i. Commissioner terms- Commissioner terms end on July 1st. Vice Chair Lawler and Commissioner Kipp are willing to be reappointed. Commissioners English, Hawkins, and Turner are completing service and we are grateful to them for their distinguished service. Commissioner Hawkins has made recommendations for potential commissioners, and one application is in the queue. Director Sadowski shared that an individual can represent more than one seat if minimum numbers are met.

   ii. Staffing Update- GOCS continues to be understaffed – once DLI corrects the budget, two positions will be posted: Training Specialist and Program Officer. Program Officer Jordan has begun a part-time schedule and is prepared to train a successor.

   iii. Bylaws, Commission election year- This October will be the bi-annual election for chair and vice chair.

iv. Threshold of Life Memorial, Montana 250, TwoLightsMT - Director Sadowski reported ongoing progress fundraising for the Threshold of Life Memorial. In partnership with Commissioner Larson, and two organ and eye recipients participated in Voices of Montana, https://voicesofmontana.com/podcast/montanas-organ-donors-giving-the-gift-of-life-sight-breath-health/ . Also in April, GOCS staff and program partners attended National Service Training in Dallas and virtually. April 23 in partnership with MCNCE, GOCS hosted Student Volunteer Awards. April 24 in partnership with Life Center Northwest, GOCS and the Lieutenant Governor hosted the annual Gift of Life Ceremony. In April, Xtant Medical made a significant corporate contribution toward the Threshold of Life Memorial. Fundraising remains a top priority. Director Sadowski concluded by thanking the commissioners for their continued support and those who have donated. Director Sadowski further noted a partnership with Montana 250 to promote a Learn, Engage, and Serve initiative. This initiative was announced May 4, 2026 by the Governor, https://news.mt.gov/Governors-Office/Gov-Gianforte-Launches-Two-Lights-Montana-Initiative-for-America-250 June 27, there is a Montana 250 event in Helena, featuring live music on the Capitol lawn., https://www.america250mt.org/

b. ServeMontana, Anastasia Matheison, Program Specialist
   i. Governor's Gift of Life Ceremony – In 2025, 73 individuals gave 211 organs for transplant and saved 186 patients. They were recognized during the ceremony.
   ii. ServeMontana Awards, June 12- Five individuals and three groups will be recognized at the Capitol and on MPAN via streaming at www.youtube.com/watch?v=QfYHglieGbc.

c. Financial, Keena Irby, Fiscal Officer
   i. Financial Status Report Review – GOCS is on track to fully expend the Commission Support Grant and meet match. DLI is not expending appropriated general fund for GOCS and other divisions. GOCS continues to provide solutions to balance all appropriation with personal services and operating actual costs. DLI Central Services has yet to complete the necessary Budget Change Documents which is impacting the months long delay in posting approved permanent positions. AmeriCorps Fiscal 2026 has been awarded and we will begin spending July 1, 2026.
   ii. As Commissioner Davids stated, OMB announced a significant change to requirements and guidance. Keena is currently attending meetings and monitoring changes. One hundred forty-eight specialty license plates have been purchased since Jan 1.

d. AmeriCorps, Kristina Jordan, Program Officer
   i. Accommodation Assessment Summary - GOCS is considering ways to collect data that will maximize its utility and clarity, including collecting data as part of progress report. Will discuss at August Program Director's Convening.
   ii. Competitive, Formula, and Other Grants

1. GOCS submitted two competitive continuation applications earlier this year, Montana Conservation Corps' Big Sky Watershed Corps and Montana Legal Services Association's Justice for Montanans. Pending Competitive funding determination from AmeriCorps this month, which is necessary to finalize the Formula application package.
2. The grant review workgroup met on May 19 for consensus scoring and development of the funding recommendation. Thank you to Commissioners Turner and Bahr, and community volunteer Kaleena Miller participating in the grant review workgroup and thank you to applicants for a day of reviewing applications & discussing funding recommendation and contingency plans. Funding recommendation was provided to the Commission with descriptions of contingencies (later in agenda); actual contingencies not provided as they would need to be reworked in the event one or both Competitive applicants are not funded by AmeriCorps. Without Competitive determinations and Formula guidance, cannot finalize and submit Formula applications.
3. GOCS submitted an application for Volunteer Generation Funding (VGF) to AmeriCorps. In FY26, only State Service Commissions are eligible to apply. GOCS and Montana Legal Services Association have proposed a strategic partnership through which MLSA would bolster its pro-bono efforts.

iii. There are many opportunities to engage with AmeriCorps programs, and their members are this summer. GOCS will send an email with details, please go to at least one event if you can.

IV. 2p New Business, Chair Turnbough

a. AmeriCorps Formula Grant Recommendation, Commissioner Bahr – Action Item: Commissioner Bahr motions that the Commission motions to approve the FY26 AmeriCorps Montana Formula Funding Recommendation. Commissioner Hawkins seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
b. Threshold of Life Memorial (TOLM) Workgroup refresh: Director Sadowski informed the commission that the TOLM one year workgroup has reached it first year. She highlighted the workgroup's ongoing promotional efforts via PSAs, radio time, and more, then called for commissioners to join the group to continue. Chair Turnbough emphasized that the meetings are not time-consuming, urged the project forward, and requested volunteers to share resources and ideas. Vice Chair Lawler volunteered to join the workgroup and praised the recent GOL event as somber, moving, and joyful, urging fellow commissioners to attend next year. Director Sadowski echoed his sentiments, describing the project as bittersweet and hopeful.
c. Outgoing Commissioner Acknowledgements: Chair Turnbough recognized outgoing Commissioner Turner and thanks her for her hard work and dedication. Chair Turnbough calls for a round of applause for commissioners Hawkins and English, gifts them with cards, and thanks them for their service. Commissioner Hawkins states that it has been an honor to serve, and he recognizes the impacts made. He praises Director Sadowski, thanks her for her hard work, and cites her as a statewide inspiration. Commissioner English thanks the commission and staff, mentioning that it has been an honor to serve. Commissioner Turner also acknowledges that it has been an honor to serve, and she recognizes the GOCS staff and Director Sadowski. She

stated that the staff's hard work "makes us look good". She encourages the commission to assist with the Threshold of Life Memorial and Two Lights initiatives. She tells us that these are opportunities to get involved and that the commission's expertise is necessary for this important work. Chair Turnbough thanks everyone for answering the call to serve.

V. 220p Public Comment

a. Jono McKinney, MCC thanks departing commissioners and the grant review workgroup. He notes MCC will submit comments on the proposed changes to the Uniform Grant Guidance (2 CFR 200) and asks if the Commission will do the same. Director Sadowski noted that the proposed changes are significant. She notes that some calling for more oversight by proposing removal of fixed amount grant awards may not realize match requirements often exceed federal awards. Commissioner Davids states that fixed-amount awards are authorized under the National and Community Service Trust Act, which means fixed amount awards may not be eliminated due to a stipulation in the proposed changes.
b. Emily Isaacson, MLSA extends invitation to the JFM close of service at Montana Wild, July 16-17th. Final agenda forthcoming.
c. Josh Vanek, MCNCE, thanks the grant review team. Josh presented a couple of YSM scholarship awards and found it to be a significant experience. He emphasizes that this is a strong scholarship, the students are excited and grateful to receive them, and the impact is significant.
d. Angela Davis, CHCM, notes that Community Health Corps Montana is nearing the end of its first cohort and she invites everyone to attend their close of service event, August 20-21st. She then thanks the outgoing commissioners for their service.
e. Duane Schlabach, FWP, offers his thanks to commissioners Hawkins, English, and Turner. He extends an invitation to FWP's upcoming All Member Gathering at Rosebud Battlefield, June 16th and 17th.

VI. 230p Adjourn- meeting was adjourned by Chair Turnbough at 2:38 pm

Next regularly scheduled Commission meetings Thurs October 8, 2026 & December 10, 2026

Governor's Office of Community Service
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