

## COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

**Meeting Date:** 01/07/2020

**Meeting Location:** Vern Riffe Center for Government & the Arts, 77 South High Street, Columbus, OH 43215, 31<sup>st</sup> Floor, West B & C.

**In Attendance:** Donald Bean, Gary Cates, Jane Federer, Mary Jeter, Meghan Kaskoun, Amista Lipot, Susan Rogers, Matthew Rubin, Pandora Shaw-Dupras, Pamela Steurer, Kristen Schweitzer, Chris Shaffer, Morna Smith. **Ex Officio:** Michele Reynolds. **Staff:** Mary Cannon, Ava Carvour, William Hall, Carrie Niino-Koontz, Meredith Pugh, Jennifer Sanders, Lisa Tope, Rebecca Verhoff-Kiss, **Counsel:** Eythan Gregory.

**Absent:** Rev. Dr. Tokunbo Adelekan, Charlotte Jones-Ward, Hannah Sublett. **Ex Officio:** Sarah Brady.

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### New Business

- Meeting was called to order by Chair Shaffer at 10:09 AM (Attachment 1)
- New Commission Appointments and New Attorney General Representative
- It was moved by Federer, seconded by Bean, to approve the minutes of the prior meeting, which were distributed in advance. Motion carried.

### Executive Director's Report

- Hall updated Commissioners on current topics as summarized in his written presentation (Attachment 2)
  - Federal Budget Update
  - AmeriCorps PSA
  - National Day of Service Project Grants (Attachment 3)
  - Skills-Based Volunteer Initiative (Rebecca Verhoff-Kiss)
  - ServeOhio Awards
  - ServeOhio Commission Performance Dashboard (Attachment 4)
  - 2019 Digital Metrics

### AmeriCorps Competitive Funding Discussion (Mary Cannon) (Attachment 5 & 6)

- Cleveland Police Foundation Ohio - Moved by Federer, seconded by Shaw-Dupras, to accept the recommendation NOT to fund the request of \$154,790. Motion carried on voice vote, no abstentions
- College Now Greater Cleveland - Moved by Rubin, seconded by Federer, to accept the recommendation for funding in the amount of \$1,083,287. Motion carried on voice vote, no abstentions
- Ohio Domestic Violence Network - Moved by Shaw-Dupras, seconded by Kaskoun, to accept the recommendation for funding in the amount of \$309,580. Motion carried on voice vote, no abstentions

- University Settlement - Moved by Rubin, seconded by Shaw-Dupras, to accept the recommendation for funding in the amount of \$157,293. Motion carried on voice vote, no abstentions
- Wickliffe City School District - Moved by Steurer, seconded by Kaskoun, to accept the recommendation NOT to fund the request of \$118,701. Motion carried on voice vote, no abstentions

State Service Plan Strategy (Cole McMahon, McMahon Consulting Group) (Attachment 7)

- How Ohioans Make a Difference
- What Matters to Ohioans
- What Matters to ServeOhio

Announcements/Other Business

- Commission Meeting Visitor Log and Comments (Attachment 8)
- Next Commission Meeting 3/12/2020 at 10:00 AM – Vern Riffe Center for Government the Arts, 77 South High Street, Columbus, OH 43215, 31<sup>st</sup> Floor, West B & C.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:17 PM on a motion by Shaw-Dupras, seconded by Rubin, approved by acclamation.

Executive Committee Meeting

Committee convened at 9:04 a.m. with Gregory, Hall, McMahon, Niino-Koontz, Shaffer and Steurer in attendance.

- Commissioner Composition and Reappointment/Appointment Status
- 2020 Commission Meetings/Content & Format
- ServeOhio Staffing Update/Retirement
- State Service Plan

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:55 AM.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:

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Carrie Niino-Koontz  
Director of Finance & Operations

Certified by:

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Chair

Approval Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**Index to Attachments**



**Attachment 1: Agenda**

**Attachment 2: Executive Director’s Presentation**

**Attachment 3: 2020 MLK Day Grantees**

**Attachment 4: ServeOhio Commission Performance Dashboard**

**Attachment 5: 2020 Ohio AmeriCorps Competitive Recommendations**

**Attachment 6: 2020 Ohio AmeriCorps Competitive Submission Summary**

**Attachment 7: State Service Plan Strategy – Cole McMahon, McMahon Consulting Group**

**Attachment 8: Commission Meeting Visitor Log and Comment Request**

**ServeOhio Commission Meeting – 1/7/20**  
Vern Riffe Center for Government & the Arts  
77 South High Street, Columbus, OH 43215  
31<sup>st</sup> Floor, West B & C

AGENDA	
9AM	Executive Committee
10AM	<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>
	<b>New Business</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Commission Appointments/New AG Representative</li> <li>• Approval of 11/14/19 Commission Meeting Minutes</li> <li>• Executive Director Report</li> <li>• Public Comment (5-minute limit)</li> </ul>
	<b>AmeriCorps Competitive Grant – Review and Approval</b> <u><i>New Applicants (Action Required)</i></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cleveland Police Foundation</li> <li>• Ohio Domestic Violence Network</li> <li>• University Settlement</li> <li>• Wickliffe City School District</li> </ul> <u><i>Recompeting Applicants (Action Required)</i></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• College Now Greater Cleveland/Ohio College Guides</li> </ul> <u><i>Continuation Applicants (No Action Required)</i></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City Year Cleveland</li> <li>• City Year Columbus</li> <li>• Education Service Center of Central Ohio/Ohio Reading &amp; Math Corps</li> <li>• Ohio University/COMCorps</li> </ul>
	<b>State Service Plan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of Citizen Survey Data</li> <li>• Utilizing the Data to Inform our Work</li> <li>• Identifying Gaps – Programmatic and Geographic</li> <li>• Discussion and Development of Program Intervention Strategies</li> <li>• Identifying Goals and Priorities</li> <li>• Next Steps</li> </ul>
1PM	<b>ADJOURN</b>

**Next ServeOhio Commission Meeting – 3/12/20**



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Ohio's Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism



## CALL TO ORDER

- Welcome and Introductions
- Approval of 11/14/19 ServeOhio Commission Meeting Minutes
- Executive Director Report
- Public Comment (5-Minute Limit)

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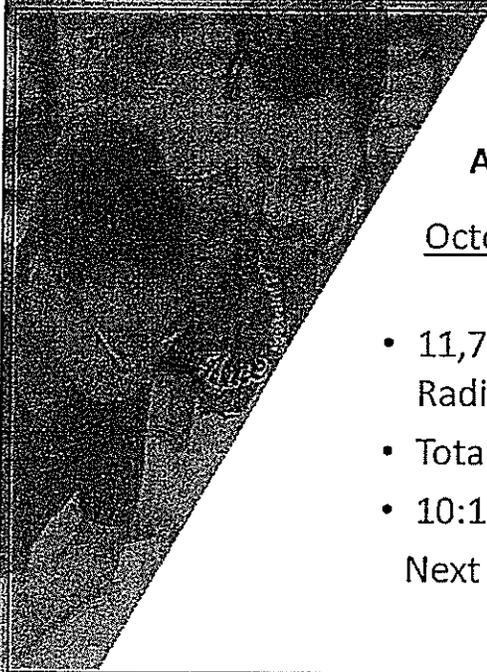
## Federal Budget

President Trump signed two appropriations bills on 12/20/19 to fund the federal government for FY 2020. The Corporation for National and Community Service will receive \$1.104 billion, nearly a \$21 million increase over FY 2019. The breakdown for CNCS is as follows:

- \$428.5 million for AmeriCorps State/National – \$3.5 million increase
- \$17.538 million for State Commissions (Commission Support Grant)
- \$6.4 million for the Volunteer Generation Fund – \$1 million increase
- \$208.3 million for the National Service Trust Fund – \$1.5 million increase
- \$32.5 million for NCCC – \$500,000 increase
- \$93.3 million for VISTA – \$1 million increase
- \$118.8 million for Foster Grandparents – \$7.9 million increase
- \$50.8 million for Senior Companions – \$4 million increase
- \$51.35 million for RSVP – \$1 million increase
- \$83.737 million for CNCS Salaries and Expenses
- \$5.75 million for Inspector General

Also included is an authorization of \$8.5 million for the Commission Investment Fund, which represents flat funding of this resource for commission program development and training/technical assistance activities.

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### AMERICORPS PSA

#### October 2019 Campaign Summary

- 11,754 Airplays on 172 Radio & 40 TV Stations
- Total Value: \$241,039
- 10:1 ROI

Next Campaign: May 2020

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## National Days of Service Project Grants

- MLK Day – 1/20
  - 34 Applications Received; 10 Grants Awarded
  - \$15,063 Awarded; 2,286 Volunteers Supported
- Global Youth Service Day – 4/17–19
- ServeOhio Day – TBD
- Make A Difference Day – 10/24

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## Skills-Based Volunteer Initiative

*ServeOhio seeks to increase the capacity of Ohio nonprofits to recruit, engage, and retain skills-based volunteers. To achieve this goal, ServeOhio developed the Skills-Based Volunteerism Training Academy. In partnership with Common Impact, ServeOhio provides organizations state-of-the-art training, technical support, and ongoing coaching to increase the use and effectiveness of skilled volunteers across Ohio.*

- First cohort ends in April 2020.
- Application deadline for second cohort is 1/14/20.
- SBV Bootcamp: 3/26/20 & 3/27/20
- Second cohort ends February 2021.

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## 2020 ServeOhio Awards

*ServeOhio honors outstanding people, groups, and initiatives who make great contributions to their local communities and the state through service and volunteerism. The ServeOhio Awards recognize volunteers, service groups, corporate groups, and volunteer initiatives in each of the 5 regions – Central, Northwest, Northeast, Southwest, Southeast – of the state.*

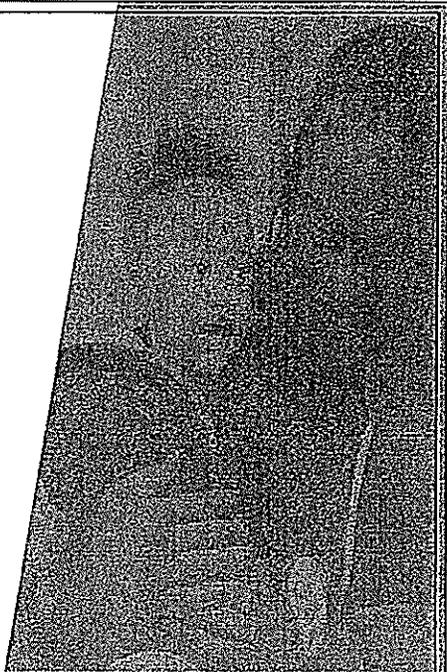
- Nomination Deadline: 1/31/20
- Judging of Nominations: 2/4/20 – 2/21/20 (Volunteers Needed)
- Winners Notification: 3/2/20
- Awards presented in each region during National Volunteer Week: 4/19/20 – 4/25/20

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# DASHBOARD REVIEW



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## 2019 Digital Metrics

*Moderate increase of Facebook followers; significant increase in tweet impressions.*

**Facebook** – 1,128 followers; last month the highest performing post reached 2,447 with 309 reactions and 221 post clicks.

**Twitter** – 1,088 followers; 101,200 total impressions; last month the highest performing tweet had 619 impressions.

**Website** – average 1,271 visits per month with highest traffic in September and October; visitors view an average of 1.56 pages and spend an average of 2:03 minutes on the site.

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## Purpose of AmeriCorps Funding

- AmeriCorps grants are awarded to eligible organizations engaged in evidence-based or evidence-informed (e.g. performance data, research, theory of change) interventions that use AmeriCorps members to strengthen communities.
- An AmeriCorps member is an individual who engages in community service through an approved national service position. Members may receive a living allowance and other benefits while serving. Upon successful completion of their service, members receive a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award from the National Service Trust.

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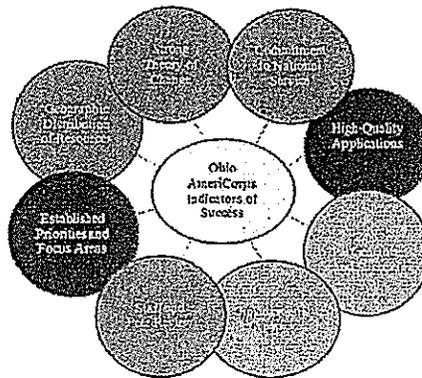


## AmeriCorps State Funding

- Competitive (winter NOFO)
  - ServeOhio makes/approves recommendations for funding to CNCS in January
  - Vetted by CNCS at a national level
  - Allows ServeOhio to secure additional resources
  - Notified in Spring
- Formula (spring NOFO)
  - Annual allocation that allows ServeOhio to address state-specific needs
  - ServeOhio selects/votes for programs to receive funding in June
  - Notified after June commission meeting



## Funding Considerations and Indicators of Success





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## Conflicts of Interest

*CNCS Regulations (45 CFR 2550.110)*  
*ServeOhio Bylaws Section 3.02, 3.03, 3.04*

- A commissioner is considered to have a conflict of interest if the member is currently or within one year of the submission of a grant application to the Commission, an officer, director, trustee, fulltime volunteer or employee of an organization submitting an AmeriCorps grant application.
- Restrictions are as follows:
  - They may not participate in the development of an application for AmeriCorps funding that will be considered, reviewed, or administered by the Commission.
  - They must recuse themselves from all discussions and decisions regarding all AmeriCorps funding passed through the Commission under the same subtitle.
    - They may not serve as peer reviewers during the application process; and
    - They must declare the conflict and leave the room at the start of any discussion/deliberation on AmeriCorps funding decisions during a Commission meeting.

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## Conflicts of Interest

- They may not participate in the oversight, evaluation, continuation, suspension or termination of the grant award. Specifically:
  - They may not participate in the management or operation of any AmeriCorps project funded by the Commission; and
  - They may not be a member of any Commission standing or ad hoc committee charged with developing or reviewing agency policies and procedures relative to AmeriCorps grant administration or evaluation.
- Prior to the start of any discussion or deliberation on AmeriCorps funding during a Commission meeting the Chair will provide opportunity for Commission members to declare conflicts and recuse themselves. Declare conflicts of interest will be recorded in the official minutes of the meeting.
- Commissioners who do not have a conflict of interest as defined above but who wish to avoid any possibility of perceived conflicts may participate in discussion but abstain from voting on funding for specific projects, at their discretion. Such abstentions will be recorded in the office minutes of the meeting.

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## AmeriCorps Competitive Grants

### NEW APPLICATIONS

#### *Cleveland Police Foundation*

Request: \$154,790 to support 10 AmeriCorps Members in Cleveland

#### *Ohio Domestic Violence Network*

Request: \$309,580 to support 20 AmeriCorps Members in Ohio

#### *University Settlement*

Request: \$157,293 to support 15 AmeriCorps Members in Cleveland

#### *Wickliffe City School District*

Request: \$118,701 to support 13 AmeriCorps Members in Lake County

### RECOMPETING APPLICATIONS

#### *College Now Greater Cleveland/Ohio College Guides*

Request: \$1,083,287 to support 70 AmeriCorps Members in Ohio

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## AmeriCorps Formula Timeline

- Notice of Funding Opportunity Release: 1/13/20
- Technical Assistance: Webinars, Grant Workshop, Individual Consultations
- Application Deadline: 4/8/20
- Commission Meeting Approvals: 5/14/20
- Programs Begin: Fall 2020

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*Commissioner Engagement Opportunities*

Skills-based Volunteering Training Academy  
Application Deadline 1/14/20

ServeOhio Awards  
Application Deadline 1/31/20

Amman Corp. Allocation of Funds Availability  
NDIA Release 1/11/20; Applications Due 1/8/20

## 2020 MLK Day Grantees

**10 Grants**

**2,286 Volunteers**

**9 Cities**

**\$15,063 in Funding**

- ❖ **Canton City School District, *Canton*** – 30 student volunteers will improve the physical condition of the Monroe Neighborhood Community Center by providing a deep-clean of the interior and painting a mural inside the center.
- ❖ **College Now Greater Cleveland, *Cleveland*** – 300 volunteers and AmeriCorps members will collect, package, and distribute care packages that will be delivered to college students in greater Cleveland who are at high-risk of poverty/hunger.
- ❖ **Hamilton Urban Garden Systems (HUGS), *Hamilton*** – 40 volunteers will winterize the HUGS community garden by cleaning out raised box beds, preparing berry beds for winter, trimming and removing tree and shrub growth along the perimeter, and removing larger gardening materials and waste not needed for the 2020 growing season.
- ❖ **I Know I Can, *Columbus*** – 40 volunteers and AmeriCorps members will participate in an intergenerational service project in which students at Easthaven Elementary School and seniors at the Martin Janis Community Senior Center will exchange letters of encouragement and assemble care packages to be delivered to fourth and fifth grade students at Easthaven.
- ❖ **Ohio Hi Point Career Center/Bunsold Middle School Career Connections, *Bellefontaine*** – 34 students at Bunsold Middle School will create and launch “The Monarch Food Locker”, a inconspicuous food pantry for students who are at high risk of hunger.
- ❖ **Ohio University, *Athens*** – 37 volunteers and AmeriCorps members will host a community market in the Trimble area of Athens County. The market will provide free clothing, hygiene products, food, and books for any community member in the area of the Trimble Local School District.
- ❖ **Otterbein University, *Westerville*** – 250 students will participate in a stop-and-serve event to build community while educating students on strategic efforts to address social issues. Students will package trail mix packets for food-insecure elementary school children, create stuffed animal dogs to give to children at a local shelter, and make plarn mats for the homeless in Franklin County.
- ❖ **Shaker Schools Foundation, *Shaker Heights*** – 1,500 students in the Shaker Heights School District will participate in the Shaker Schools MLK Day of Service. K - 4<sup>th</sup> graders will make fleece blankets to give to the homeless. 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders will assemble personal care and cleaning kits to donate to Bellfaire JCB, Family Promise, and Fostering Hope. High school students will coordinate a volunteer fair where students and community members can sign up to volunteer at a nonprofit, and several high school clubs will have a bake sale that generates funds to donate to one of the District’s nonprofit partners.
- ❖ **The RIDGE Project, *McClure*** – 30 volunteers from the student leadership group Ohio Youth Congress will support and encourage students at Holgate Local Schools by embellishing 51 bathroom stall doors with positive quotes and/or phrases.
- ❖ **YMCA of Central Ohio, *Columbus*** – 25 volunteers and AmeriCorps members will prepare and serve a pancake breakfast for the male residents in the Downtown YMCA transitional housing shelter. Additionally, volunteers will design and paint a mural symbolizing MLK’s commitment to serving others with YMCA residents contributing their handprints to symbolize our continuing connection to the legacy of MLK’s work and spirit. Finally, volunteers will engage residents in a service project assembling Blessing Bags to be distributed as part of the YMCA health worker outreach.

**SEVEOHIO COMMISSION PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD/INTERNAL METRICS/JANUARY 2020** (GREEN: 100% or more of target; : 99% - 75% of target; RED: 74% or less of target; BLUE: TBD)

OBJECTIVE	GOALS	MEASURES	SOURCE	TARGET	PY 16-17	PY 17-18	PY 18-19	PY 19-20	TREND
Maximize AmeriCorps resources to address state and local needs.	Cultivate diverse and qualified applicants to match state, regional and local objectives.	Number of Counties with Service Locations	Service Site Data	2/3 or 58	57	47	59	50	↓
		Percent of Planning Grants that are Awarded Operational Funds	Post Awards	50%	NA	50%	100%	100%	—
Manage AmeriCorps programs to achieve objectives.	Develop programs national competitive submission.	Maximize use of available funds.	Post Awards	95%	68%	93%	93%	91%	↓
		Percent of Allocated Funds vs. Awarded Funds	Annual Closeouts	90%	91%	89%	91%		↑
			Percent of Awarded Funds vs. Expended Funds	Annual Closeouts	90%	91%	89%	91%	
		Percent of Competitive of Whole Allocation	Post Awards	50%	57%	48%	52%	51%	↓
Foster excellent AmeriCorps member experience.	Maintain all programs within established federal and state compliance standards.	Number of Program Noncompliance Findings with Disallowable Costs	Post Monitoring	2 or less	3	8	2		↑
		Percent of Program Noncompliance Findings with Disallowable Costs	Post Monitoring	10%	25%	28%	8%		↑
		Percent of Program Performance Outcomes Completed	Final Progress Reports	80%	53%	48%	54%		↑
		Member Enrollment	Final Progress Reports	95%	98%	84%	87%		↑
Equip and encourage effective organization of volunteers.	Resource and catalyze local volunteerism.	Member Retention	Final Progress Reports	85%	81%	78%	77%		↓
		Net Promoter Score	Member Survey	Year-over-Year Increase	N/A	30.7	31.7		↑
		Percent of AmeriCorps Members reporting Post Service Plans (School/Employment/Service)	Member Survey	85%	84%	85%	84%		↓
		Volunteers Hours reported by Service Project Grants (MLK/GYSD/SO/MADD)	Grantee Reports	5,000	5,338	12,092	7,704		↓
Connect and equip volunteer administrators.	Annual Conference Attendance	Post Event Report	Post Event Report	275	275	283	255		↑
		Leverage AmeriCorps resources to increase volunteerism	Final Progress Reports	75,000	83,007	66,622	49,970		↓

2020 Ohio AmeriCorps  
Competitive Recommendations

APPLICANT	PROJECT NAME	FUNDING REQUEST	MSY	FOCUS AREA/PRIORITY	COMPETITIVE STATUS	RECOMMENDED
NEW AND RENEWAL						
Cleveland Police Foundation	Cleveland Police Foundation	\$154,790	10	Education and Economic Opportunity	New	NO
College Now Greater Cleveland	Ohio College Guides	\$1,083,287	70	Education	Renewal	YES
Ohio Domestic Violence Network	Financial Freedom Corps	\$309,580	20	Economic Opportunity	New	YES
University Settlement	NEO Skill Corps	\$157,293	11	Economic Opportunity	New	YES
Wickliffe City School District	Wickliffe City School District	\$118,701	8.1	Education and Economic Opportunity	New	NO
CONTINUATION						
City Year	Cleveland	\$1,134,832	76	Education	Continuation	N/A
City Year	Columbus	\$881,947	62	Education	Continuation	N/A
Educational Service Center of Central Ohio	Ohio Reading Corps	\$900,000	60	Education	Continuation	N/A
Ohio University	COMCorps	\$294,101	19	Healthy Futures	Continuation	N/A
<b>TOTAL RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>		<b>\$4,761,040</b>	<b>318</b>			



Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism

30 E. Broad Street, Suite 2487 | Columbus, Ohio 43215

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## 2020 Ohio AmeriCorps Competitive Submission Summary

The mission of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic participation through service and volunteering. CNCS—through its AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs—has helped to engage millions of citizens in meeting community and national challenges through service and volunteer action. ServeOhio received nine competitive applications including four Continuations, one Renewal and four New. With the Continuations, recommendations include the Renewal request and two New applications totaling \$4,761,040 to support 318 Member Service Years (MSY).

In order to maximize the impact of the public investment in national service, CNCS will provide grants to programs that demonstrate they will engage AmeriCorps members in an evidence-based or informed approach to provide a service intervention that will lead to the outcomes identified in their theory of change. Applicants shall provide supporting evidence that the proposed intervention is effective for the proposed population and community challenge. Per the Serve America Act, grant making is prioritized in six focus areas: Disaster Services, Economic Opportunity, Education, Environmental Stewardship, Healthy Futures, and Veterans and Military Families.

The General Assembly established the Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism (ServeOhio) in 1994. ServeOhio operates under authority pursuant to Section 121.40 of the Ohio Revised Code and is purposed specifically to administer grants in Ohio under the federal National & Community Service Trust Act of 1993. The primary duty of the commission is the administration of AmeriCorps programs.

ServeOhio is committed to supporting innovative AmeriCorps programs that focus on measurable outcomes within organizations that demonstrate the capacity and commitment for effective implementation. The policies and procedures established by ServeOhio are designed to guide the work of the commission and our grantees to ensure programmatic and fiscal compliance; effective utilization of resources; and the establishment of impactful AmeriCorps programs.

ServeOhio considers the following indicators of program success in making funding recommendations:

- Established ServeOhio and CNCS priorities and focus areas
- Solid theory of change implemented through a strong program design focused on a compelling community need
- High-quality applications that are complete, well-written and follow the guidelines
- Geographic distribution of resources across Ohio
- Past performance and success with a focus on impact and evaluation
- Organizational capacity including fiscal, administrative and leadership
- Staff and peer review feedback
- Commitment to National Service as a solution

**CONTINUATION REQUESTS (4)****A. City Year - Cleveland**

Executive Summary: City Year Cleveland proposes to have 76 AmeriCorps members who will provide full-day academic and engagement services to students in 9 public schools in Cleveland, Ohio. At the end of the program year, the AmeriCorps members will be responsible for providing whole class support for English and math classrooms serving over 1,200 students and their teachers; individualized services and student progress monitoring to 650 students of which 184 students will improve English, 145 will improve math, and 72 will improve attendance; implementing extended day activities; and improving school climate. In addition, the AmeriCorps members will leverage 116 volunteers who will be engaged as member mentors and service projects that improve our schools.

- Project Name: City Year Cleveland
- Focus Area and/or Funding Priority: Education
- Service Area: Cuyahoga County
- Current 2019 Competitive Funding: 76 MSY; 76 Full-Time Members; \$1,134,832
- 2020 Request: 76 MSY; 76 Full-Time Members; \$1,134,832

**B. City Year - Columbus**

Executive Summary: City Year Columbus proposes to have 62 AmeriCorps members who will provide full-day academic and school engagement services to students in 7 public schools in Columbus, Ohio. At the end of the program year, the AmeriCorps members will be responsible for providing whole class support for English and math classrooms serving over 1,000 students and their teachers; individualized services and student progress monitoring to 385 students of which 146 students will improve English, 129 will improve math, and 168 will report increased school engagement; implementing extended day activities; and improving school climate. In addition, the AmeriCorps members will leverage 140 volunteers who will be engaged as member mentors and service projects that improve our school communities.

- Project Name: City Year Columbus
- Focus Area and/or Funding Priority: Education
- Service Area: Franklin County
- Current 2019 Competitive Funding: 62 MSY; 62 Full-Time Members; \$881,947
- 2020 Request: 62 MSY; 62 Full-Time Members; \$881,947

**C. Educational Service Center of Central Ohio**

Executive Summary: The Educational Service Center of Central Ohio proposes to have 120 AmeriCorps members who will provide ongoing individualized math and reading intervention for students in kindergarten through grade five who have not met grade level proficiency in elementary schools in Central, Northeast and Southwest Ohio. At the end of the program year, the AmeriCorps members will be responsible for providing intervention to a minimum 2,000 students and helping them achieve grade-level reading or math proficiency and/or demonstrate one year of growth in reading or math achievement. In addition, the AmeriCorps Members will leverage 500 youth volunteers who will be engaged in Global Youth Service Day activities.

- Project Name: Ohio Reading Corps
- Focus Area and/or Funding Priority: Education – Third Grade Reading Guarantee

## 2020 Ohio AmeriCorps Competitive Submission Summary

- Service Area: Butler, Cuyahoga, Delaware, Franklin, Hamilton, Lorain, Mahoning, Montgomery, Ross and Union Counties.
- Current 2019 Competitive Funding: 60 MSY; 120 Half-Time Members; \$900,000
- 2020 Request: 60 MSY; 120 Half-Time Members; \$900,000

### D. Ohio University

Executive Summary: Ohio University proposes to have 19 AmeriCorps members who will create and support social and physical environments that promote good health for all and enhance quality of life in Athens County, in Southeast Appalachian Ohio. At the end of the program year, all AmeriCorps members will be responsible for teaching a yearlong nutrition education program to 400 students each week, increasing knowledge of and taste preferences for healthy foods. Members, through service at their sites, will serve 2,800 individuals through initiatives that will result in positive health knowledge and outcomes. In addition, AmeriCorps members will leverage 500 volunteers who will be engaged in helping in classrooms, connecting to community members, assisting in gardens, distributing food, and overall supporting initiatives that enhance quality of life.

- Project Name: COMCorps
- Focus Area and/or Funding Priority: Rural Intermediary and Healthy Futures
- Service Area: Athens County
- Current 2019 Competitive Funding: 17 MSY; 17 Full-Time Members; \$258,264
- 2020 Request: 19 MSY; 19 Full-Time Members; \$294,101; Fixed-Amount Grant

## RECOMMENDED RENEWAL REQUEST (1)

### A. College Now Greater Cleveland

Executive Summary: College Now Greater Cleveland proposes to have 70 AmeriCorps members who will deliver programs and counseling on college and career exploration and financial education to 6th through 10th graders; provide support to 11th and 12th graders on strategic and tactile postsecondary access and financial planning; and facilitate successful postsecondary transitions, persistence and ongoing financial education with high school graduates in middle schools, high schools and community resource centers in 8 Ohio communities. The AmeriCorps members will be responsible for ensuring that 10,500 of the 6th-10th graders they serve complete a college or career planning tool; 3,850 of the 11th-12th graders they serve complete at least one advising session and one milestone on their path to a postsecondary education; and 3,500 high school graduates will complete at least one transition service. In addition, the AmeriCorps members will leverage 280 volunteers who will be engaged in the five national service days that members will lead and implement.

- Project: Ohio College Guides
- Focus Area and/or Funding Priority: Education
- Service Area: Statewide
- Current 2019 Competitive Funding: 75 MSY; 75 Full-Time Members; \$959,011
- 2020 Request: 70 MSY; 70 Full-Time Members; \$1,083,287
- Scores: 86% Peer; 89% Staff; 88% Average

## RECOMMENDED NEW REQUESTS (2)

### A. Ohio Domestic Violence Network

Executive Summary: The Ohio Domestic Violence Network proposes to have 20 AmeriCorps members who will provide economic opportunity services to domestic violence survivors who receive services at 20 domestic violence programs across Ohio. At the end of the first program year, the AmeriCorps members will be responsible for providing 500 survivors with financial education/economic empowerment services and 100 survivors with housing counseling. In addition, the AmeriCorps members will leverage 100 volunteers who will be engaged in assisting members with financial education courses or helping participants access community resources.

- Project Name: Financial Freedom Corps
- Focus Area and/or Funding Priority: Economic Opportunity
- Service Area: Statewide
- 2020 Request: 20 MSY; 20 Full-Time Members; \$309,580
- Scores: 82% Peer; 67% Staff; 75% Average

### B. University Settlement

Executive Summary: The NEO Skill Corps proposes to have 15 AmeriCorps members who will provide financial literacy, adult basic education and basic skill development in Cleveland, OH. At the end of the first program year, the AmeriCorps members will be responsible for enhancing client knowledge of financial concepts and increasing client preparation and connection to employment and post-secondary education. In addition, the AmeriCorps members will leverage 100 volunteers, who will be engaged in financial coaching, tutoring, access to technology and mock interviews.

- Project Name: NEO Skill Corps
- Focus Area and/or Funding Priority: Economic Opportunity
- Service Area: Cuyahoga County
- Current 2019 Formula Funding: 11 MSY; 15 Member Slots; \$167,112
- 2020 Request: 11 MSY; 15 Full and Half-Time Members; \$157,293
- Scores: 82% Peer; 57% Staff; 70% Average

## ADDITIONAL REQUESTS (2)

### A. Cleveland Police Foundation

The Cleveland Police Foundation proposes to have 10 AmeriCorps members who will work in partnership with the Cleveland Division of Police to achieve the following outcomes: (1) Youth will take personal responsibility for their actions and to positively impact their learning & development; (2) Youth will increase their knowledge and skills related to seeking, obtaining and successfully retaining a job; (3) Youth will increase their knowledge/understanding of financial literacy topics such as credit management, budgeting, etc.; (4) Youth will improve communications and relationships with police officers; (5) Youth will develop a passion to be a change agent in their community; and (6) Youth will pursue career opportunities in public safety. At the end of the first program year, the AmeriCorps members will be responsible for (a) exposing at least 100 youth to careers in public safety; (b) organizing at least 10 significant events to help build relationships between the police and the youth; and (c) developing opportunities for at least 100 youth ages 13-19 to

2020 Ohio AmeriCorps Competitive Submission Summary

achieve success. In addition, the AmeriCorps members will leverage at least 50 volunteers who will be engaged in instrumental in engaging in key activities to help the AmeriCorps members achieve their outcomes.

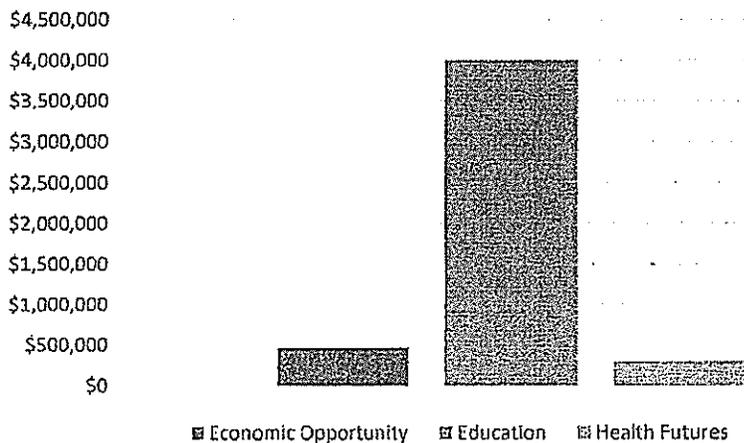
- Project: Cleveland Police Foundation
- Focus Area and/or Funding Priority: Education and Economic Opportunity
- Service Area: Cuyahoga County
- 2020 Request: 10 MSY; 10 Full-Time Members; \$154,790
- Scores: 72% Peer; 23% Staff; 48% Average

**B. Wickliffe City School District**

Executive Summary: The Wickliffe City School District proposes to have 13 AmeriCorps members who will mentor and tutor youth, lead service-learning activities, and assist healthcare and social service professionals in Northeast Ohio. At the end of the first program year, the AmeriCorps members will be responsible for supporting 1,000+ students in gaining professional skills training, employment readiness training, and community service activities. In addition, the AmeriCorps members will leverage 100+ volunteers, who will be engaged in providing community service to the park service, senior citizens, and low-income families by providing dry goods and toiletries, doing light construction and renovation work, and tutoring young children.

- Project: Wickliffe City School District
- Focus Area and/or Funding Priority: Education and Economic Opportunity
- Service Area: Lake, Geauga, Cuyahoga, and Lorain Counties
- 2020 Request: 8.1 MSY; 13 Full and Part-Time Members; \$118,701
- Scores: 63% Peers; 23% Staff; 43% Average

2020 Ohio AmeriCorps  
Recommended Competitive Application Focus Areas

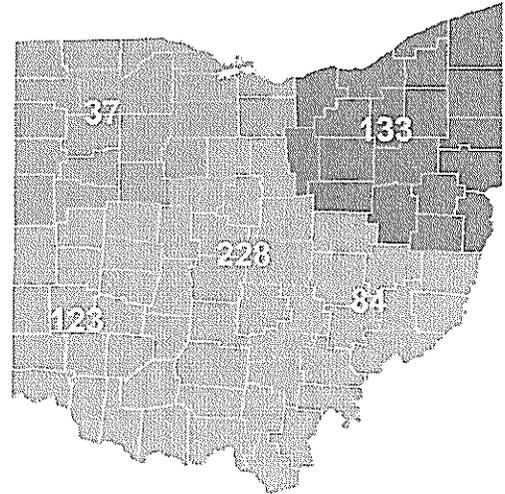


TOTALS: 318 MSY \$4,761,040

**SERVE OHIO** Citizen Survey  
Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism Findings

**ServeOhio** empowers local communities to mobilize AmeriCorps and community volunteer resources to meet their most challenging needs.

ServeOhio is crafting a state service plan for 2020-2022. A State Service Plan depends on insights and contributions from citizens from all walks of life.



With extensive outreach, ServeOhio conducted a survey of Ohioans. We received 605 responses, representing citizens from every region in the state (above). To our knowledge, this matches the highest level of response for any state survey on volunteer habits and priorities. The results reflect the strength of Ohio's communities and the many ways Ohioans contribute:

- Ohioans volunteer in large numbers. When asked, "What do you do to make a difference, volunteer, serve others or contribute to your community", **72%** of respondents offered detailed examples. In fact, only *five percent* of Ohioans checked the option, "I don't volunteer."
- Citizens support ServeOhio's mission. **95%** of Ohioans agree with this statement: "I support the work of ServeOhio to engage AmeriCorps members and volunteers to solve local, state and national problems."
- Ohioans want to do more. A majority of surveyed Ohioans volunteer in more than one way for more than one organization. The data and opinions shared show that Ohioans seek even greater involvement in local problem solving. "More civic engagement! We can solve any problem," one person reported.
- Volunteer rates are consistent across regions, and community size.

Contact:  
Cole McMahon  
McMahonConsultingGroup@verizon.net



# Section 1: How Ohioans Make a Difference.

## Ohioans Volunteer at high rates.

According to the 2017 *Volunteering in America* research conducted by the Corporation for National and Community Service, Ohio ranks 23<sup>rd</sup> in volunteering, with 33.2% of the population “volunteering through an organization.” Anyone who lives in the Buckeye State may find this surprising— Ohio is defined by a culture of neighbors helping neighbors. “The benefits of volunteering are to impact my family, friends, associates, church, community and profession,” one suburban Ohioan reported. “Volunteering allows me to connect with my community to make this world a better place to live-- and improve people’s quality-of-life and care.” Volunteerism is not just something Ohioans *do*; it is who we *are*.

Most research on volunteering regards a person’s contributions as a “yes” or “no” question. (Do you volunteer? If so, where and how often?) By asking about volunteer preferences and habits, researchers determined that every Ohioan is an engine of civic engagement, serving in many ways across many settings.

The national research does not capture all of the ways Ohioans serve. When asked, “What do you do to make a difference, volunteer, serve others or contribute to your community”, 72% of respondents offered detailed examples. In fact, only *five percent* of Ohioans checked the option, “I don’t volunteer.”

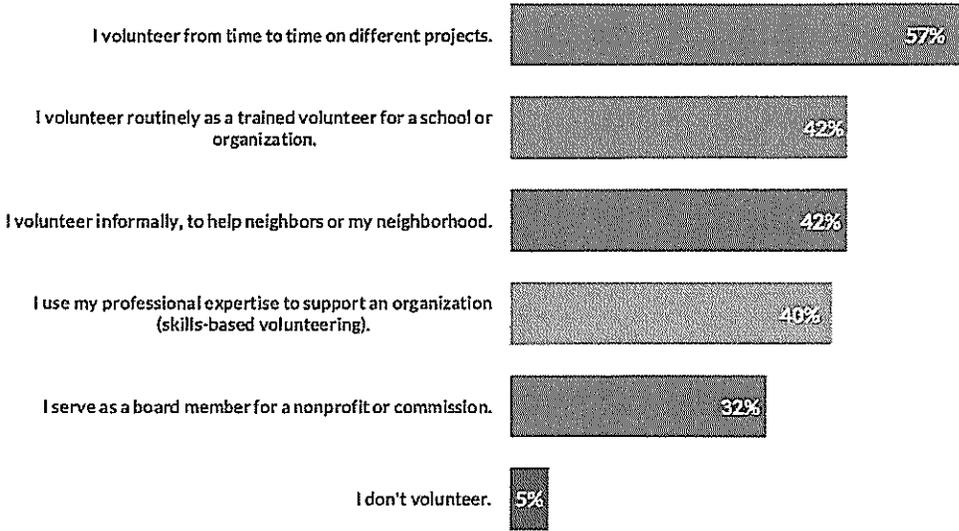
## Ohioans volunteer in many settings.

There are many ways to volunteer, from a day of service to a weekly (even daily) engagement. A majority of Ohioans participate in project-based, episodic volunteering, followed by the traditional, formal volunteering on a regular basis for an organization. This survey found that while 42% of Ohioans volunteer through organizations, the same number (252 of 599 respondents) report that they volunteer *informally*.

A similar number (40%) participate in skills-based volunteering, which is an emerging strategy of ServeOhio. Skills-based volunteering leverages the specialized skills and talents of professionals to strengthen the infrastructure of nonprofits, helping them build and sustain their capacity to successfully achieve their missions.

Ohioans volunteer in many ways. One person reports, “I volunteer with the local library to

read with school-aged kids to practice their reading skills. I also volunteer in my church to bring communion to homebound church members and to co-lead our high school youth Sunday school class. I also volunteer several times a year to help with events at my workplace.”

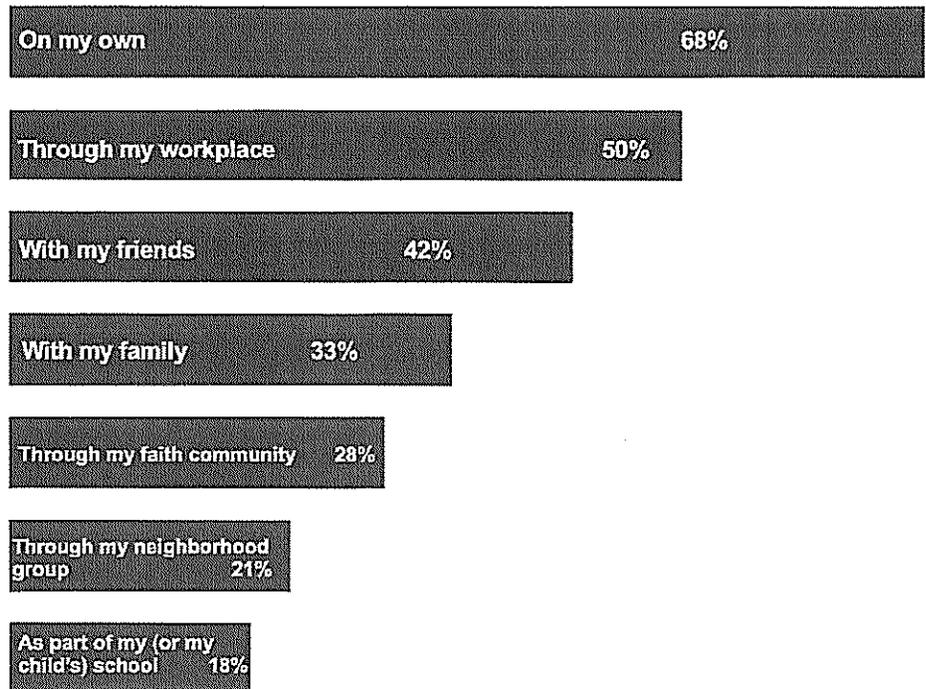


**Ohioans volunteer for many reasons.**

Ninety-five percent of surveyed Ohioans responded that they volunteer in some way. The 580 respondents listed an average of 2.4 preferences for their volunteer work:

Volunteer service is a highly personal choice, and most people participate in their volunteer experiences “on their own” as a reflection of their values put into action. There is also a significant role that being part of group plays in volunteering. Ohio has a strong culture of workplace volunteering, with half of respondents reporting work as a venue for their volunteer work. Friends, family and faith make up a strong proportion of Ohioans’ motives for volunteering. These findings are consistent, no matter what community size or region of the state Ohioans reside.

**How (and with whom) do you volunteer?**



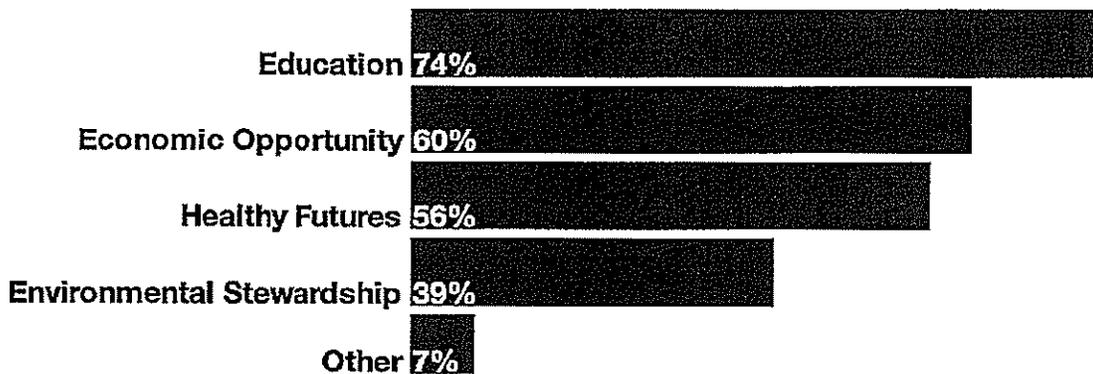
## Section 2: What Matters to Ohioans.

Ohioans understand that they have a voice in solving problems and they are the boots on the ground. People aren't waiting for organizations to tell them what they need. "We need more organizations to work together for people to know the best way to help the community," one reports.

Survey participants shared their priorities for the strategic deployment of volunteer resources. Investigators asked three levels of questions:

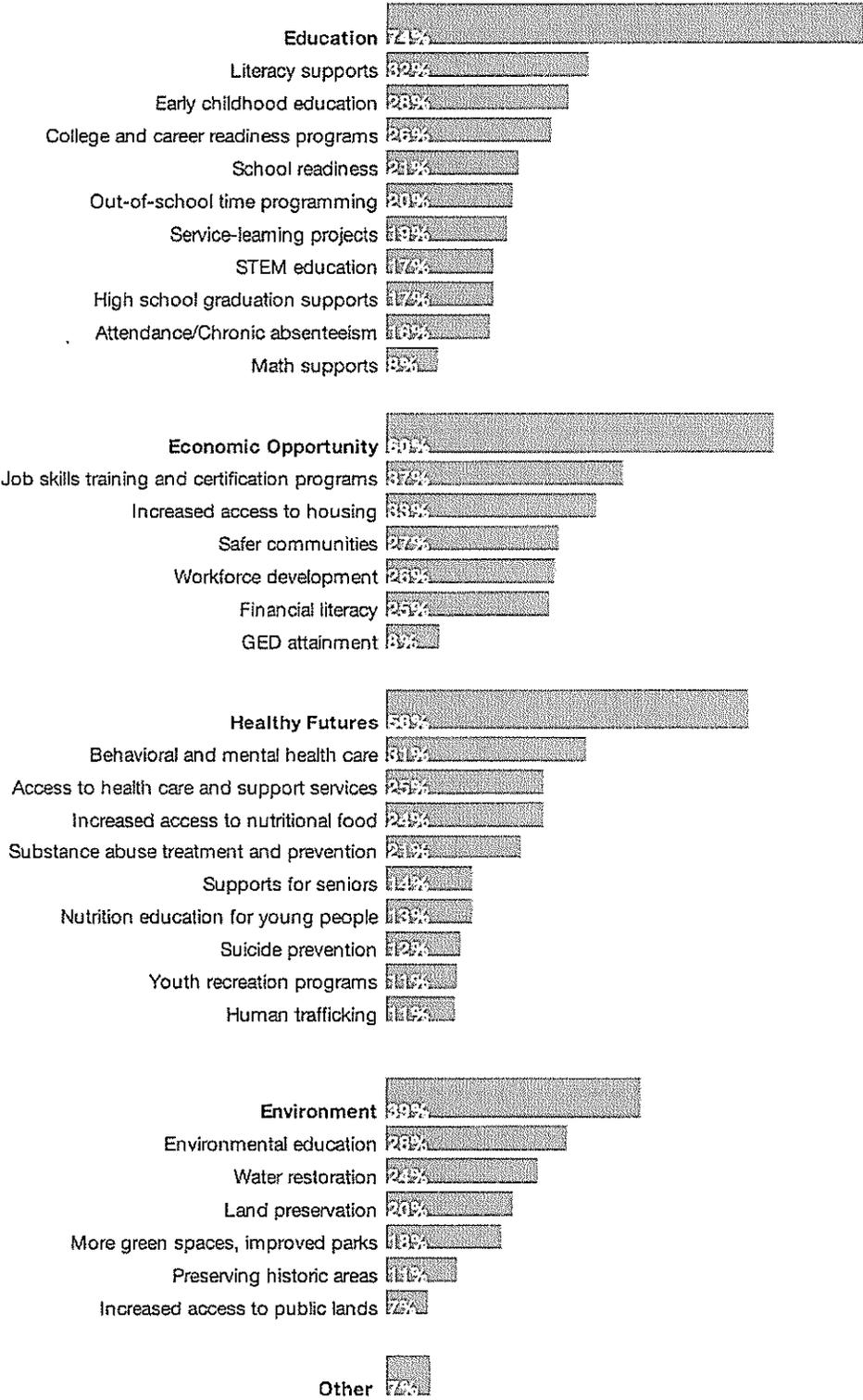
- If you could solve one problem in your community, what would it be? *481 responses*
- Of ServeOhio's focus areas, which are most important to you? *555 responses*
- Choose up to three issues (under the focus areas). *1,275 responses*

Statewide, the priorities Ohioans report are in line with ServeOhio's portfolio of funded AmeriCorps programs.

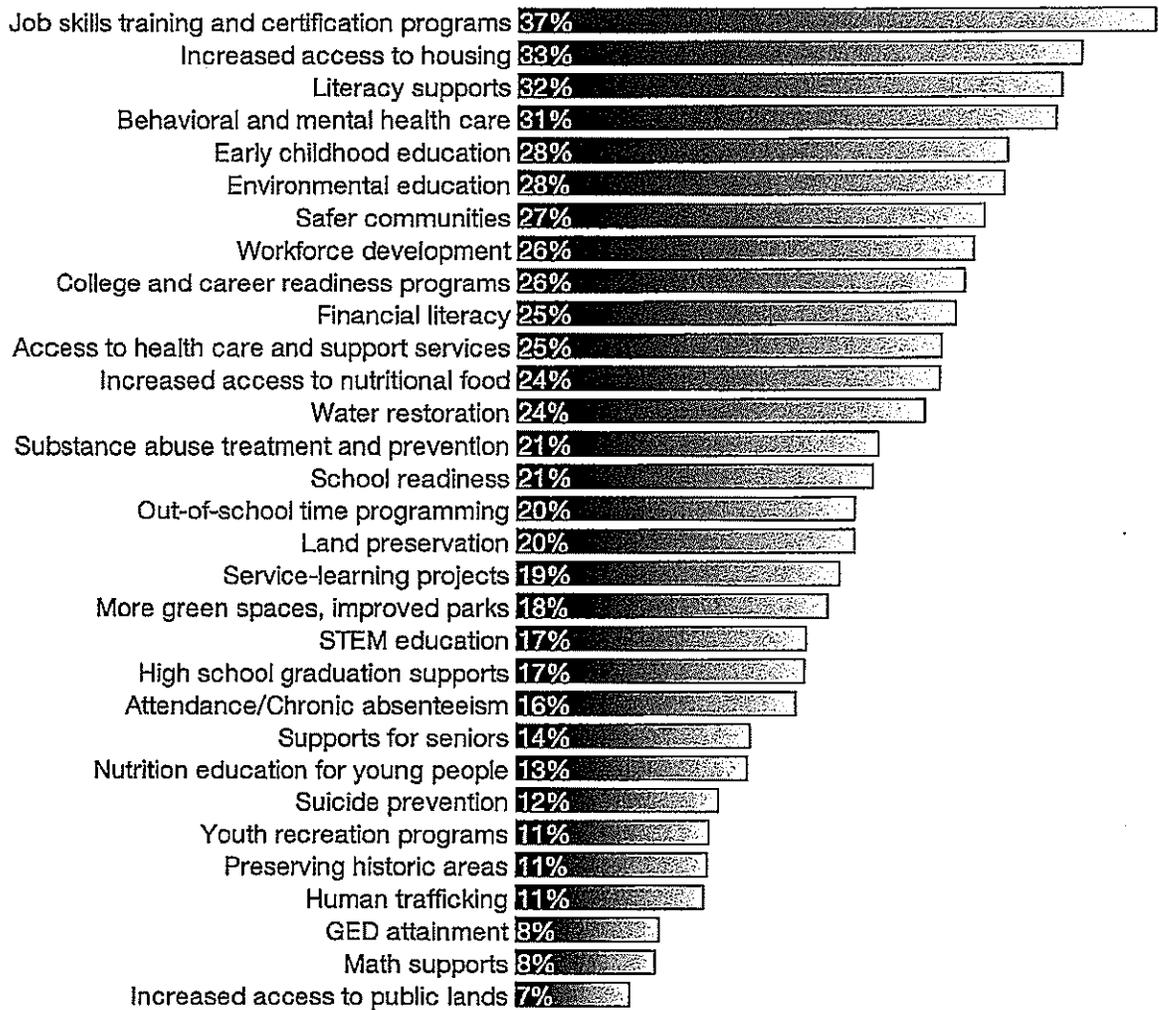


The survey provided 29 issue-area choices for greater specificity. Respondents provided, on average, or 2.3 issue area priorities each. The first chart shows the issues organized by ServeOhio's focus area, and the second chart presents them in overall order of concern.

**Ohioans' concerns (grouped by focus area):**

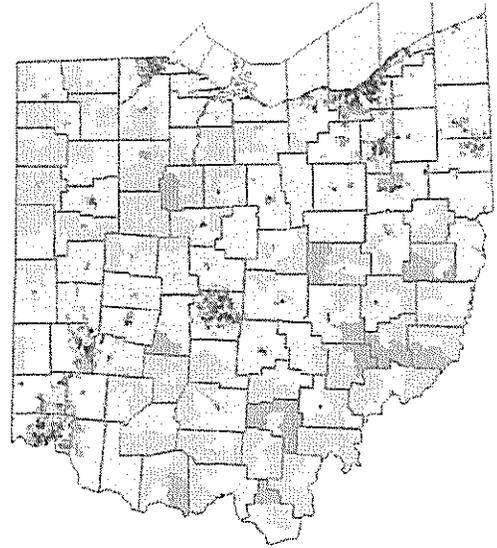


**Ohioans' concerns (listed by frequency):**



## Community Size

ServeOhio designed the survey to provide details about volunteer habits and priorities across a number of categories. Ohioans identify as being a Buckeye, but also as a member of a local community. Further, Ohioans care deeply about the kind of community they live in. Respondents were offered four choices to describe where they live:



<b>Urban Ohio</b>	31% of respondents (n=181)
<b>Suburban Ohio</b>	31% of respondents (n=183)
<b>Small towns in Ohio</b>	21% of respondents (n=119)
<b>Rural Ohio</b>	18% of respondents (n=106)

These choices of community type reflect the population density of the State. While the *rates* of volunteering are consistent across the state, volunteer *engagement* varies depending on the size and location of your community.

### Highlights:

- Data and comments reflect that rural Ohioans are more concerned about drug abuse and food insecurity than elsewhere.
- Ohioans who live in small towns are 11 points more concerned about environmental stewardship than other population areas.
- Suburban Ohioans are significantly more interested in job skills training and financial literacy.
- Ohioans who live in urban areas are more concerned about education and economic opportunity than their counterparts in the rest of the state.
- Across types of communities, Ohioans see that their volunteer efforts should and can be devoted to addressing a sense of disconnection by forging new links. "I volunteer to connect those who have time and resources with the people and causes who need them."

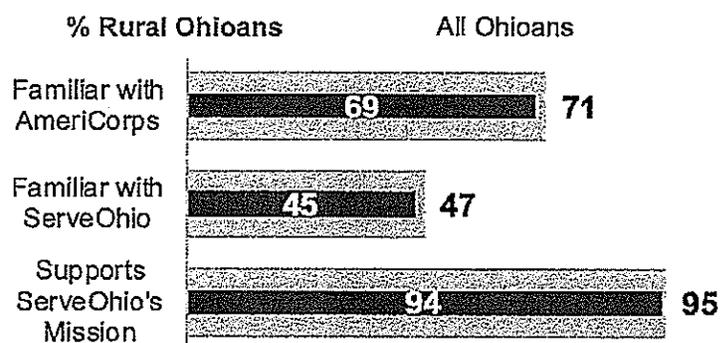
## Rural Ohioans

Residents of Ohio's rural communities volunteer at similar rates to the rest of the state, and in the same ways. They are less dependent on organized volunteering, and report volunteering in many ways across different platforms.

While all groups offered examples of do-it-all personalities, rural Ohioans expressed a strong desire to belong to organizations with broad missions that cross boundaries. Others just belong to many groups. And still more just do their own thing:

"I serve as president of my local Lions Club, and work fundraisers for that organization so we can make donations to others in need in our community. We have donated to the local school for special school trips, the local fire departments, our village, the local Salvation Army, food pantry, and assisted numerous Community residents to obtain glasses and eye surgeries."

Ohioans who live in rural areas are familiar with AmeriCorps and with ServeOhio at a similar rate to the statewide averages.



Data and comments reflect that rural Ohioans are more concerned about drug abuse and food insecurity than others in the State:

"If we could get rid of the drug problem in this community many other problems would also be solved."

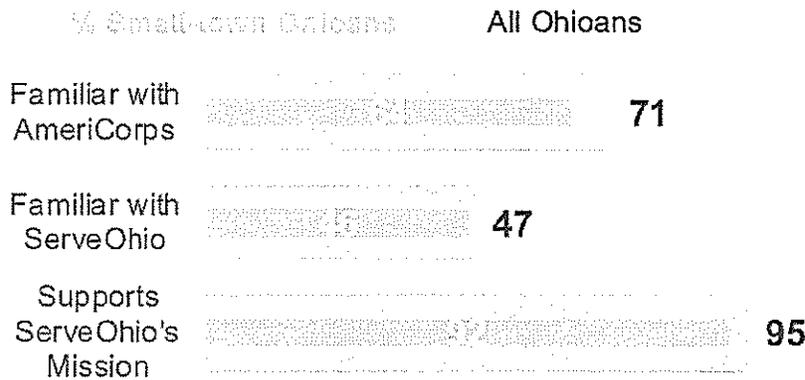
"The lack of young adults getting involved for the betterment of our community! We need to connect with underprivileged youth so that they can become involved in various youth activities, clubs, and organizations."

## Ohioans who live in small towns

Residents of Ohio’s small towns volunteer at similar rates to the rest of the state, and in the same ways. They are particularly interested in local solutions and committed to working together to overcome the things that divide us as a nation and as a community. Ohioans in small towns are also force multipliers for many organizations to accomplish many different things.

“I try to make my community more unified. Silly partisan conflicts divide my community, which prevent those in need from getting the resources and support they need.”

“I volunteer for a variety of projects, whether canvassing for volunteers, packing boxes for the food bank, serving as a Boy Scout leader... and I give blood every 12 to 15 weeks.”



Familiarity with AmeriCorps is slightly lower than in the rest of the State.

Ohioans who live in small towns are also concerned about the opioid epidemic, as well as access to mental health services. Job training and literacy issues are also ranked highly.

“We need to wipe out opioid addiction. A tall order!”

“I would like to be able to expand upon the reading program that is served by an Ohio Reading Corps member to include other students in the fourth and fifth grades-- the students are desperately in need of further help.”

## Ohioans who live in suburbs

Residents of Ohio's suburbs volunteer at similar rates to the rest of the state. They are more likely to volunteer through their workplace, and less likely to volunteer informally.

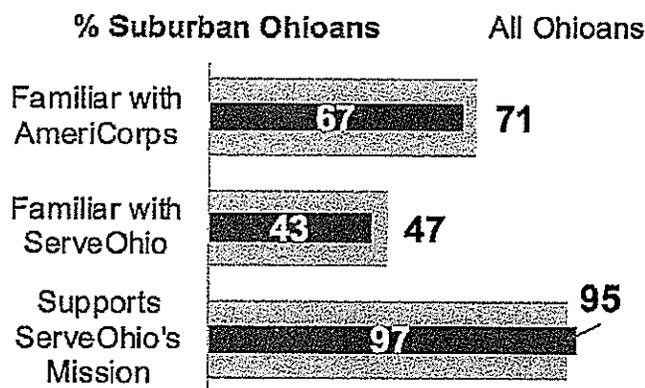
"I help others by providing translation services to advance the immigrant population. I serve by working with other nonprofits to align efforts to overlap goals. I randomly engage in mission-based work depending on what's going on in my community."

"I volunteer at a local food bank assisting clients with selecting grocery items, sorting and packing food items, cleaning the facility, organizing and restocking the shelves, etc. I also serve as a board member for an organization that connects young professionals to service opportunities in their community."

The volunteer activities and priority issues for suburban Ohioans reflect the full range of issues their communities face.

"My volunteerism revolves around military veterans. I'm also the chair for the preparedness task force of the Ohio Pharmacist Association."

"I volunteer for the county park district and for the Salvation Army. I've offered to volunteer my professional skills to the small city I live in. I chip in when a neighbor needs help with something."



Ohioans in suburbs are slightly less familiar with AmeriCorps and ServeOhio than others in the State. Job skills, financial literacy, and literacy in general are described as the three largest concerns for suburban Ohioans. Several reported a desire to create a sense of connection for young people and the community at-large.

"I wish I could solve the problem of despair in every form. It just seems that there's a level of sadness, discontent and unease in society that is at the root of far too many problems."

"Every kid deserves a safe home where they can feel secure and have their material social and emotional needs met child neglect and abuse!"

## Urban Ohioans

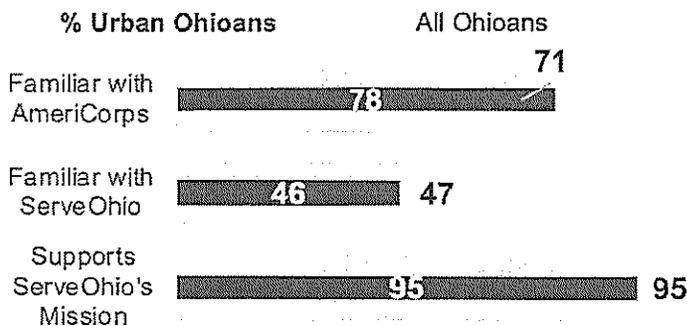
Residents of Ohio's cities volunteer at similar rates to the rest of the state, and in the same ways. In their volunteer habits, urban Ohioans are most similar to those living in rural areas, particularly in working across organizations and multiple issue areas.

"I volunteer for museum events, help neighbors shovel snow and move furniture, and volunteer for programs at my son's school."

"I volunteer regularly with my church, my service organization and with a women's organization. I use my professional skills to help on a state and international level."

"I intern at City Council, volunteer at shelters, run an Amnesty International chapter, volunteer with young girls to help them become more confident, and more... "

"I'm on the board of my neighborhood CDC and I'm also the newsletter editor for my community. I am also on citizens on patrol."

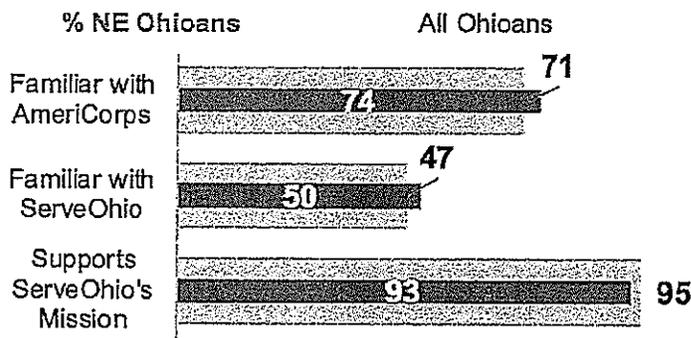
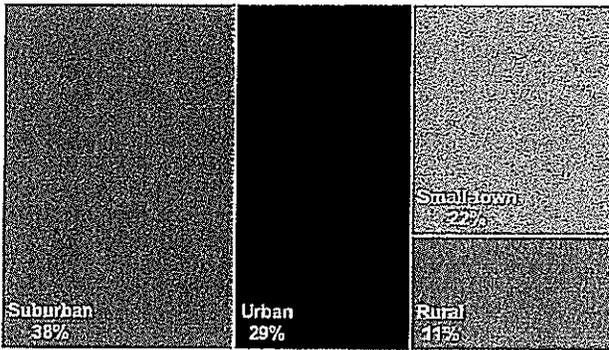


Urban Ohioans are more aware of AmeriCorps than others across the State. They are more likely to raise concerns about housing and poverty. Respondents described the issues facing Ohio's cities as linked.

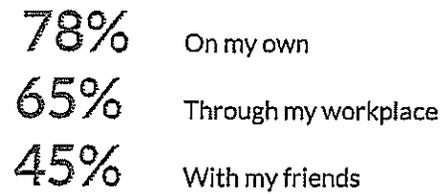
"If I could solve one issue in my community it would be the poverty and the lack of health education and education in general. That and the severe food deserts!"

"I would like to solve issues surrounding children in my community not getting adequate support, nutrition, education and love. I believe that all of this leads to increased violence in criminal activity, the potential for joining gangs, and lots of future trauma. "

# Northeast Ohio



## Volunteer Settings

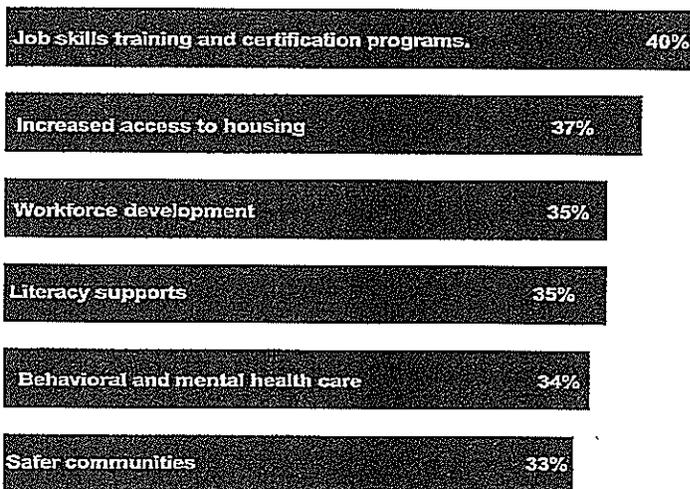


## Volunteer Voices:

"I volunteer with the Cuyahoga Valley National Park on certain special event days planting trees, with the local pet shelter socializing animals, and as a VISTA at the United Way of Summit County."

"I try to care for the caretakers."

## Priorities

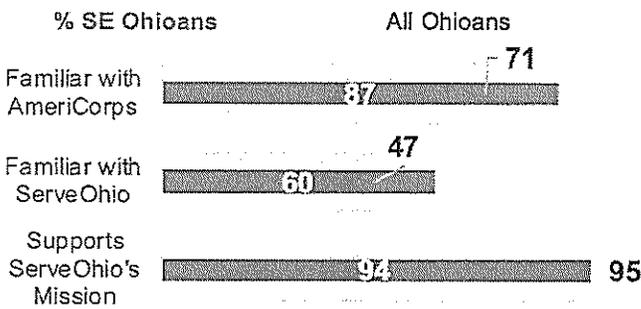
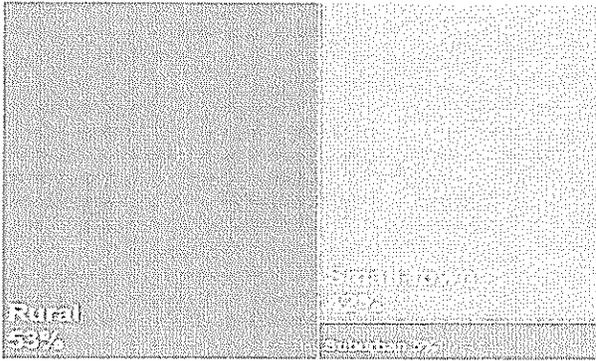


If I could solve one problem in my community...

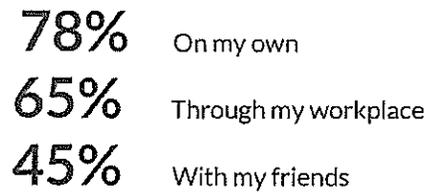
"Big picture - discourage apathy and the feeling that our community doesn't matter. Small picture - connect our communities via trails to provide access to outdoors, exercise opportunities, and economic opportunity for local businesses."

"I would want to solve the problem related to the misalignment of availability/time commitment of those wishing to volunteer with the actual needs and needed time commitment of the organizations in my community. Society wants more "one and done"/"done in a day" engagement but organizations in the community need more regular commitment."

# Southeast Ohio



## Volunteer Settings

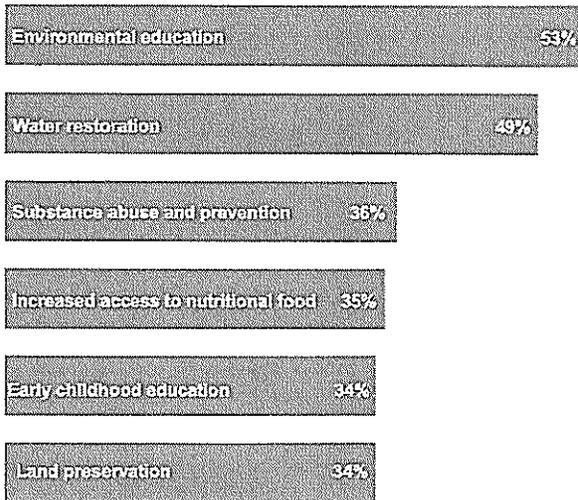


## Volunteer Voices

"I work with the Get Healthy Meigs Coalition, Creating Healthy Communities Coalition, and the Meigs County Community Prevention Coalition, as well as doing various projects with the schools."

"I collect used medicine bottles to send to Third World countries, eyeglasses for the Lions International and pull tabs for Ronald McDonald House. I also volunteer through my sorority, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the American Association of University Women, The Retirement Set and AmeriCorps."

## Priorities



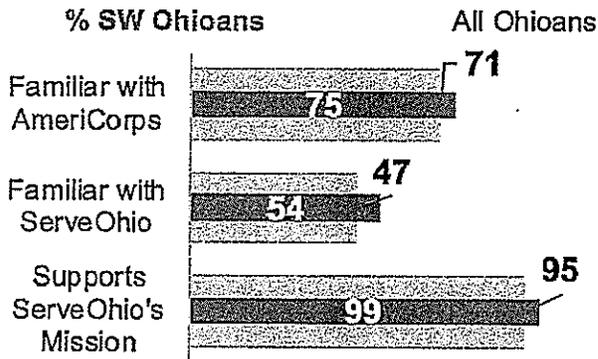
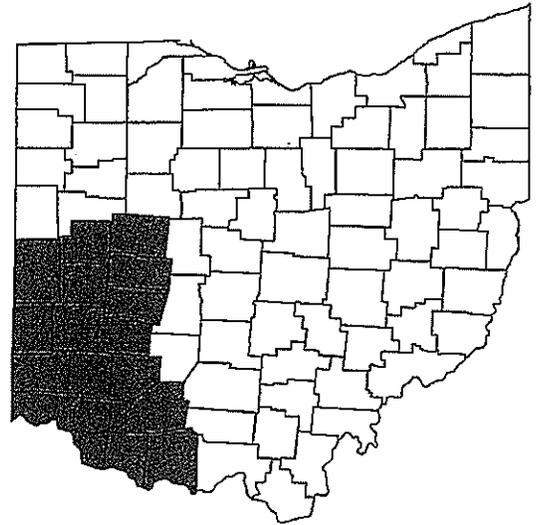
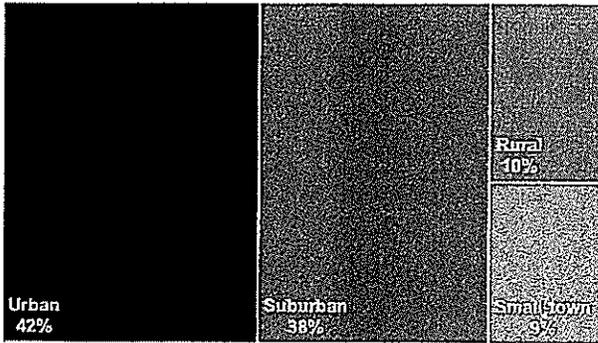
If I could solve one problem in my community...

"I would love to solve drug problems in my community. So many kids are going without food and parents that they are getting taken away from their parents. These poor kids need to learn what a real life is."

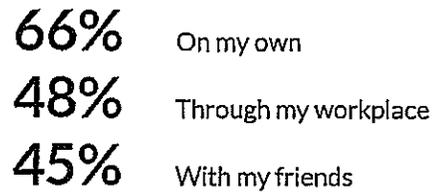
"Economic opportunities. The people are so poor that they don't have enough capital to launch market-ready businesses. There needs to be more standing capital available for these entrepreneurs to connect with that doesn't penalize their circumstances."

"Treating Appalachian Ohio as a "sacrifice zone" manifested in poor performance on economic, infrastructure, and environment indicators."

# Southwest Ohio



## Volunteer Settings



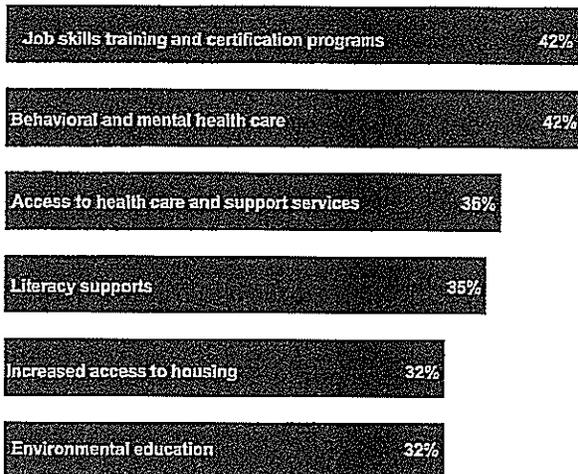
## Volunteer Voices

"I'm on the Kettering Police Foundation Board, raising money for police activities with children, citizen education, scholarships and police protective gear."

"I am a Long-Term Care Ombudsman. We advocate for excellence for those living in Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Facilities, & Group Homes. I also volunteer at two different food banks, soup kitchens and through my church."

"I am the 4-H Educator for the county; with that, I volunteer my time to related organizations such as the county drug coalition."

## Priorities



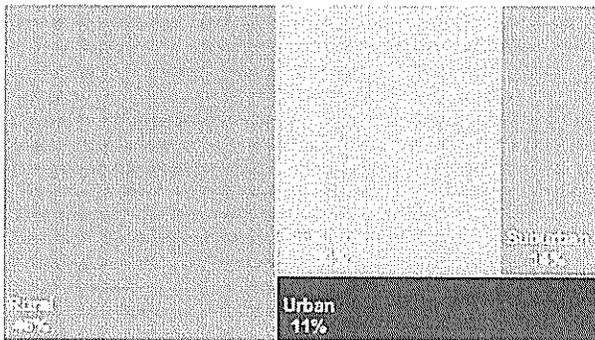
if I could solve one problem in my community...

"Get more people involved with each other locally. Good neighbors = good neighborhoods and it starts with a baseline relationship."

"Drug awareness and educating kids from a young age of the dangers of drugs, especially pharmaceutical drugs."

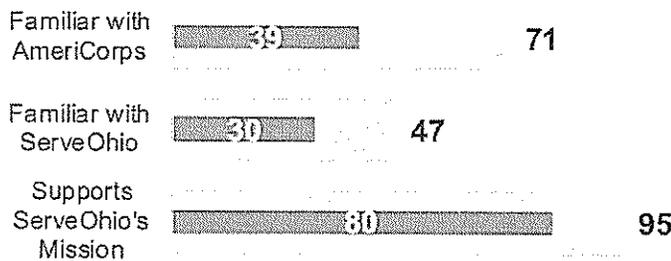
"Mobilize people to serve one another - that would create a ripple effect and solve other problems in the community."

# Northwest Ohio

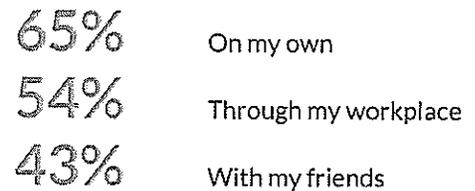


% NW Ohioans

All Ohioans



## Volunteer Settings



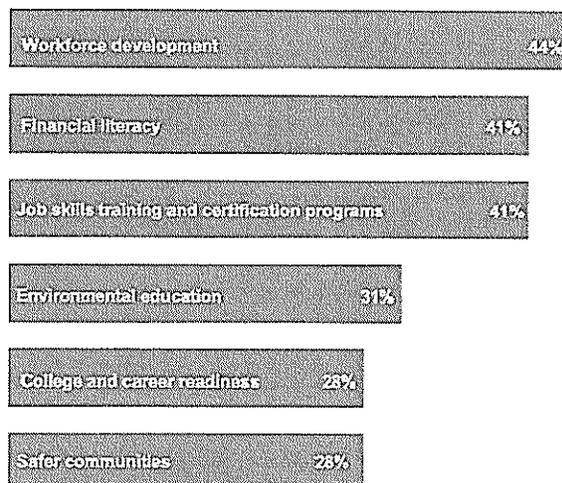
## Volunteer Voices

"I am on organic farmer that provides affordable healthy food to my local community. I also volunteer with the school and am on the board of a local land trust."

"I take pride in the volunteer work my family and I do in and for our community. I am a volunteer firefighter, Little League Baseball coach, as well as active with my church and community based small group."

"I volunteer and am on the board of the Miracle League of Northwest Ohio - we help all ages play baseball on a barrier-free field in Northwood. I also serve my church in Graytown - on the board, help at our food pantry & host 4 scrapbook events annually that raise money for various missions."

## Priorities

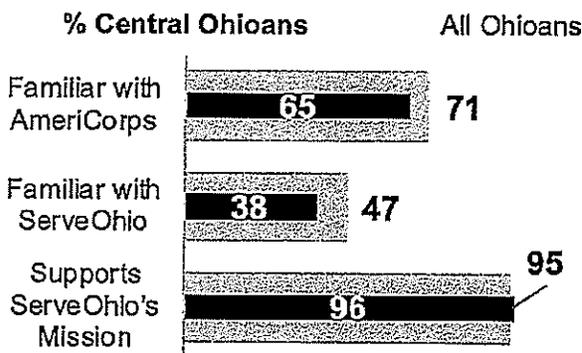
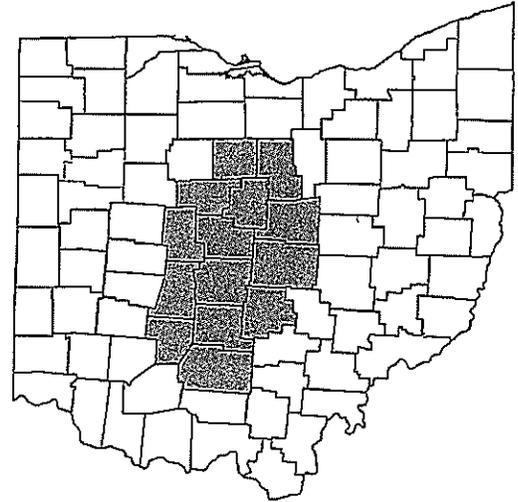
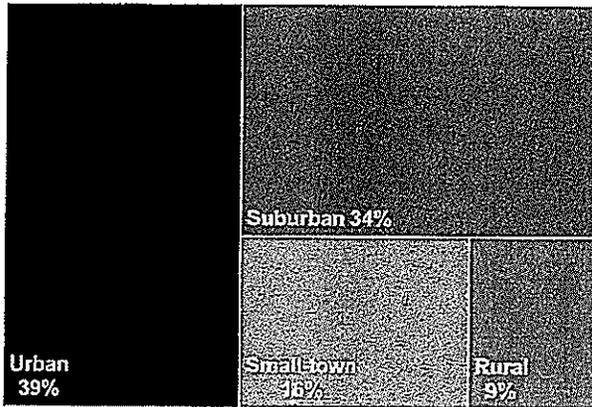


If I could solve one problem in my community...

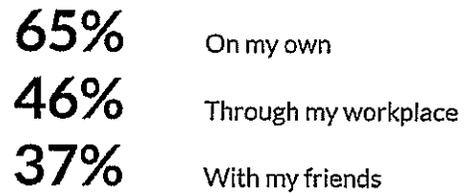
"I would like more people to see the impact that could be made by getting out and volunteering. The small number of volunteers in our community in comparison to the number of residents we have is disheartening."

"To erase the stigma associated with mental health."

# Central Ohio



## Volunteer Settings



## Volunteer Voices

"I volunteer as a Franklin Co. Master Gardener primarily at the Friends of the Homeless Garden. We grow food that anyone in the neighborhood can take and create a clean safe space for the homeless to sit and spend time."

"I lend my graphic design skills to the organizations where I volunteer to help promote the programs of those organizations."

"I continue serving my community by reaching out to local pantries and after school programs. I served 4 years with the Ohio Reading Corps and strive to continue the mission of getting things done."

## Priorities



## If I could solve one problem in my community...

"Illiteracy. I would and try to work with anyone that wants to improve their literacy skills. I would also like to improve ways of putting books in every hand that wants them."

"I think a burgeoning issue is the lack of participation in philanthropy. Volunteerism is great but stewardship also needs to be a part of the formula."

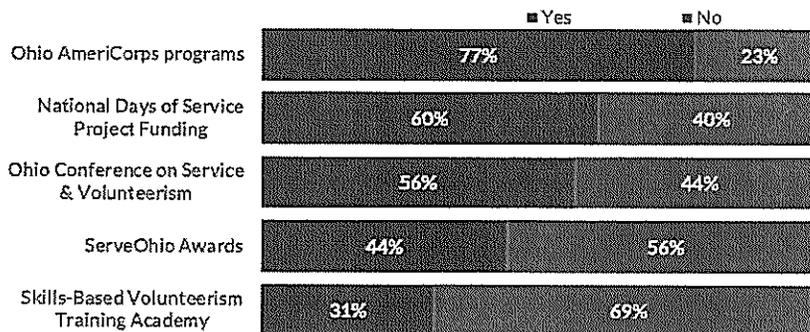
"More shared spaces for community involvement/engagement, but that also make sense for the area in which they are placed."

## Section 3: What Matters to ServeOhio.

### Familiarity with AmeriCorps is higher than with ServeOhio.

It is unknown whether CNCS tracks these data points nationally, but anecdotes from other state service commissions suggest that the survey's rates of awareness of AmeriCorps (71%) and ServeOhio (47%) commission are unusually high. This could result from high survey responses from AmeriCorps members. The gap suggests there is work to be done to make ServeOhio and AmeriCorps household names.

### Awareness of ServeOhio's programs varies.



Awareness of AmeriCorps and the Commission are higher than average in the southern regions of Ohio, and much lower than average in Northwest Ohio, which confirms that people understand national service in proportion to the local presence of programs.

### 94.65% of Ohioans surveyed support the mission of ServeOhio.

Support for ServeOhio's mission is above 90% in all regions and in every type of community.

### In Ohio, volunteer management works.

Ohio is a state of helpers. Survey responses reflect that one person does not just have one role. As reported above, Ohioans are engaged in their communities in a number of different ways. This research brings to light the many community connections Ohioans bring to bear to solve problems.

Ohioans are consistently positive about the quality of volunteer management in the organizations they serve. Note the similarity in responses to this question, asked from two perspectives:

**"For your primary role, how would you rate the organization's volunteer management?"**

97% responded, average rating 4.1 out of 5.

**"How would you rate your organization's volunteer management practices?"**

83% responded, average rating 4.05 out of 5.

### Interest in AmeriCorps is high.

Not only did 55% report that they are "very familiar" with AmeriCorps, 23% requested more information and signed up for ServeOhio's communications.

