



JOINT WAYS & MEANS SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT PRESENTATION

Presented By:

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OregonServes Commissioner & AmeriCorps VISTA Alum

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STATE SERVICE COMMISSION

- ★ Created by the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 and the Oregon Volunteer and Community Service Act
 - ★ State Service Commissions are federally-required
 - ★ A nonpartisan state entity, approved by AmeriCorps the agency, consisting of 15–25 members (*appointed by the Governor, confirmed by the Senate*)
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- A decorative graphic consisting of two overlapping, curved yellow swooshes that sweep across the bottom left corner of the slide.

ABOUT US

VISION

Engaged individuals, empowered communities, an equitable Oregon.

MISSION

We advance volunteerism, service and civic engagement to enrich lives and strengthen Oregon communities.

VALUES

- ★ *Impactful*: Engage individuals in purpose-driven service.
- ★ *Innovative*: Commit to continuous learning and creative solutions.
- ★ *Collaborative*: Build relationships that strengthen communities.
- ★ *Inclusive*: Elevate equity, diversity, and belonging.



STATUTORY ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- ★ Create Service Opportunities
- ★ Develop a State Service Plan
- ★ Administer AmeriCorps Grants
- ★ Build Community Capacity
- ★ Build Community Resiliency
- ★ Legislation & Education
- ★ Act as State Representative for Service



BIENNIUM

COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS

Funding to Communities

- ★ \$6M in grants to AmeriCorps programs
- ★ 400+ Members at 220 sites in local communities
- ★ \$1.9M in Education Awards earned

Focus Areas

- ★ Disaster Services
- ★ Economic Opportunity
- ★ Environmental Stewardship
- ★ Education
- ★ Healthy Futures
- ★ Veterans and Military Families





BIENNIUM

MEMBER IMPACTS

Community Capacity-Building

465,462 AmeriCorps Member Hours Served

- ★ 4,515 Volunteers Recruited
- ★ 31,033 Volunteer Hours Served
- ★ 200+ Organizations received capacity-building services
- ★ 350+ people received job training/placement
- ★ Over 11,000+ youth and young adults served





BIENNIUM MEMBER IMPACTS

Environmental Stewardship

- ★ **2,100+** public lands treated
- ★ 200+ parks and tribal lands treated or improved
- ★ **3000+** youth received environmental stewardship education, including those from underserved communities
- ★ **11,200+** adults received environmental stewardship education, including those from underserved communities
- ★ **445 acres** treated for fuels reduction (wildfire mitigation)





BIENNIUM MEMBER IMPACTS

Student Success

- ★ 2,150 K-12 students supported
- ★ 1,750 college students supported
- ★ 650 helped to obtain post-secondary degree or certificate





BIENNIUM MEMBER IMPACTS

Community Resiliency

- ★ 675 people impacted by disaster served
- ★ 300 assisted in preparing for disaster
- ★ Programs pivoted member activities during COVID to:
 - ★ Connect students to local relief efforts
 - ★ Distribute Chrome Books to bridge the digital divide for students
 - ★ Assisted teachers to implement virtual teaching
 - ★ Established online mentoring/coaching groups
 - ★ Assisted high-demand on food banks and other social services
 - ★ Performed wellness checks for Seniors and others



WHAT MAKES AMERICORPS UNIQUE?

- ★ **Mutually beneficial program**
- ★ **Develops the next generation of public servants and civic leaders**
- ★ **Creates pathways for education and career advancement**
- ★ **Develops a strong ethos for public engagement**
- ★ **People across the lifespan benefit**
 - ★ AmeriCorps and national service can be for new high school graduates exploring career options, new college grads looking to expand their network and experience, mid-career professionals looking to change sectors, or older folks looking to give back in retirement

BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS

- ★ **Living Allowance**
- ★ **Health Insurance**
- ★ **Childcare Assistance**
- ★ **Loan Forbearance**
- ★ **Professional Development**
- ★ **Education Award**
- ★ **Networking**
- ★ **Career Assistance/Training**

NATIONAL DATA ON MEMBER BENEFITS

- ★ 9 out of 10 alumni reported that their experience improved their ability to solve problems.
- ★ **80% of alumni feel confident they can create a plan to address a community issue and get others to care about it.**
- ★ 94% said that national service broadened their understanding of society and different communities.
- ★ 8 out of 10 alumni say AmeriCorps benefited their career path.
- ★ **42% of alumni employed within six months of service found a job through a connection made in AmeriCorps.**
- ★ **7 out of 10 alumni say that AmeriCorps helped them achieve their educational goals, in part thanks to the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award received after service.**
- ★ 1/3 of alumni were furthering their education six months after service.
- ★ More than 1/2 said the Education Award gave them the ability to pay for career-benefiting training and education that they otherwise would not have had.

EDUCATION AWARD IMPACTS

Portland State	\$6,375,328
Portland Community College	\$4,553,772
University of Oregon	\$3,090,046
Oregon State University	\$2,755,396
Lewis & Clark College	\$1,689,825
Lane Community College	\$1,114,106
University of Portland	\$1,052,897
Central Oregon Community College	\$915,044
Southern Oregon University	\$795,963

Since 1994

- ★ 21,000+ Oregon Residents served
- ★ 29M Hours in Oregon communities
- ★ Earning \$71.2 million in Education Awards
- ★ **Higher Ed institutions in Oregon have received more than \$43.9M in ed award payments**
- ★ Per biennium: Members earn approx. \$2M in ed awards
- ★ **Ed Award now state tax-free in Oregon**





“My journey with College Possible has been a long and unforgettable one. Although I knew college was for me, **I never imagined that I would actually have a Bachelor’s degree.** I never imagined that I would actually walk at commencement. **I never imagined that I would lead the path for my younger siblings in higher education.** I never imagined that this would be and is my reality. I can’t help but be thankful and appreciate this program for helping make all this possible.”

Yulissa, A College Possible student who then went on to become an AmeriCorps coach with the program



“Just being present in the community as a dedicated servant of the public has **a big impact in this small rural area**. I have been surprised over and over again that my ‘reputation precedes me’ simply due to the fact that I have chosen to be here and bring my passion and background to the Illinois Valley.”

Erica, RARE AmeriCorps Member serving with the Illinois Valley Soil and Water Conservation District



“If you change one person’s life by helping them get their GED or their college degree, it changes the lives of their kids, then changes the lives of their kids and then their kids, and maybe makes the world a better place.”

Lisa, a member of PSU’s Project Rebound, an innovative program to assist recently incarcerated persons in obtaining a college degree. Members are co-enrolled as AmeriCorps members in partnership with Campus Compact of Oregon.

Photo source: Oregonian Article, “[Portland State helps former inmates transition from prison to college.](#)” [LINK](#)

OREGONSERVES OPERATIONS

★ Federal Funding

- ★ Commission Support Grant (\$295,000)
- ★ Commission Investment Fund (\$215,000)
- ★ Other Funds
- ★ One-time ARPA (\$265,000)

★ State Funding

- ★ General Fund to meet required match for Federal CSG Grant
- ★ Staffing for OregonServes: Commission operations and management, grant administration, training and technical assistance, outreach, recruitment, disaster and volunteer services, and more.



<p>Goal 1: Strengthen Impacts of Service</p>	<p>Goal 2: Engage Oregonians in Making a Difference</p>	<p>Goal 3: Foster Ready & Resilient Communities</p>	<p>Goal 4: Position Commission as a Leader in Service</p>	<p>Goal 5: Increase Service Involvement of Older Adults</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broaden awareness of national and community service opportunities • Prioritize funding to high-quality and evidence-based programs • Increase the benefits of service • Reduce barriers to national service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote accessible and equitable pathways to service • Invest in resources and professional development activities to increase capacity of service organizations • Recognize the achievements of volunteers and national service members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage volunteers to prepare, respond and recover from disasters • Strengthen partnerships with local, state, nonprofit, tribal and national service partners active in disaster • Coordinate the national service response to disaster 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure resources to increase state service commission visibility, capacity and sustainability • Introduce innovative programming • Establish a model framework for diversity, equity and inclusion to guide Commission operations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the benefits of volunteering for volunteers over 55+ • Increase partnerships with organizations engaging older adults • Promote the benefits and development of intergenerational program models

THANK YOU!

