

# 2008-09 AmeriCorps Project Director Training



NEW YORK STATE COMMISSION ON  
NATIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE



# New York State Updates

- National Snapshot & NYS Commission Updates
- [www.NewYorkersVolunteer.org](http://www.NewYorkersVolunteer.org)
- Updates from the Corporation ED Conference
- Grants Review Process/Application Subcommittee
- NYS Contracts – Financial Reports due 10/20/08
- Statewide Evaluation
- CNCS Resource Center
- 2008 AmeriCorps Kickoff

# National Service Snapshot

- Presidential Service address on White House South Lawn
- Presidential nominees pledge support for national service
- A Billion + Change, exceeds \$400 million
- Senators Kennedy and Hatch - Serve America legislation
- ServiceNation Summit
- NY State Commission launches *New Yorkers Volunteer*
- 1 million President's Volunteer Service Awards
- New York elevates State Commission to Cabinet-level
- AmeriCorps members respond to Gustav and Ike

# NYS Commission Updates

- New Honorary Chair and Chair Elected
- Volunteering and Service a Governor's Priority
- Statewide Infrastructure & Partnering
  - National Service and Community Volunteering
- Points of Light Institute & Hands on Action Centers

# New Yorkers Volunteer Website



[www.NewYorkersVolunteer.org](http://www.NewYorkersVolunteer.org)

# CNCS Resources

- [www.americorps.org](http://www.americorps.org)/Manage Current Grants
- All will soon be indexed to each other (tags)
- Documents are in order of importance:
  - AmeriCorps Regulations – CFR45
  - AmeriCorps Grant Provisions
  - Application Instructions
  - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

# WBRS Retirement

- All members should currently be enrolled and exited through WBRS
- WBRS retirement – January 2009
- Will be available in Read-Only format
- 2007-08 Financial/Program Reporting will continue via WBRS

# Rulemaking

- New Rule Released on 11/19/07
- Becomes effective on 11/17/08
- Topics include: member evaluations, performance measures, living allowance
- See handout and AmeriCorps website for details
- This Rule will be incorporated in the Regulations by end of October

# Legislation - CCRAA

- College Cost Reduction and Access Act
- AmeriCorps service is considered an eligible public service position
- Offers Income-based Repayment and Public Service Loan Forgiveness
- FAQs available on Communication Center and Resource Center
- Members need to talk with lenders to decide if it works for them

# Legislation – HEART Act

- Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2008
- Excludes AmeriCorps benefits from being counted as income to determine eligibility for SSI.
- All AmeriCorps now aligns with VISTA
- Does not extend to SSDI.

# Grants Review Process

The AmeriCorps Request for Proposal (RFP) is projected to be made public in early October 2008. Announcements are made through:

- New York State Register

<http://www.dos.state.ny.us/info/register.htm>

The Register is available online or through a paper subscription.

- NYS Office for Children and Family Services (OCFS) Online Bidders List, <https://ocfsws.ocfs.state.ny.us/obl/>. Register online to receive notifications of bidding opportunities and access to the 2009-2010 Request for Proposal (RFP) with application documents and instructions, published online.

# Grants Review Process

- Informational Sessions/Bidders Conferences will be held in New York City, Long Island, The Capital District Area (Albany/Rensselaer), and Rochester, NY. Site information and conference dates will be published with the release of the RFP.
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) gathered at the Informational Sessions will be published through the Online Bidders List.
- Proposals are submitted through eGrants then peer reviewed and scored with funding recommendations forwarded to the Corporation for National and Community Service.

# 2008-09 NYS Contracting Process/CMS

- CMS Training will be on Friday Morning.
- All Contracts will be developed in CMS
- Make sure your ConUser and ConSig from your agencies have access to CMS
- CMS Help Desk – 518-473-8042 or 518-474-8156
- Make sure you complete all the Interactive documents in CMS

# Mobilizing More Volunteers Evaluation

New York State  
Office of National and Community Service  
&  
The Center for Human Services Research

# Important Date!

- PLEASE have all data entered by:  
11/15/2008
- We will begin cleaning and analyzing data in the MIS at this time. Data entered after 11/15 will NOT be included in the evaluation.
- Thank you all for the time and energy you have put into data entry!

# Data Entry Totals (so far)

<b>Form Type</b>	<b>Total Entered</b> (10/01/2007 -09/24/2008)
Aggregate Project Record	242
Detailed Project Record	147
Episodic Project Evaluation	957
Continuous Volunteer Profile	1,001
Continuous Volunteer Activity Chart	8,887

\* Totals are based on entries from 42 AmeriCorps State programs

# But...Meaningful Gaps Exist

- Data entry has been inconsistent across programs
  - More than 1/3 of programs have no continuous volunteer in the system
  - Three programs are responsible for over 3/4 of activities have been entered
- Most projects have no evaluations entered
- Many volunteers have no activity entered

# How Do We Fill Those Gaps?

- Make sure that every program has a voice in this evaluation
- To do just that we've designed a Process Evaluation to fill gaps in the data base
- A brief telephone interview where we will
  - Discuss your 2007-2008 program year
  - Describe volunteerism at your program
  - Discuss other program activities in general
- Results will add to information in current MIS

# Benefits

- Little additional time is required for lots of gain
- Results will more accurately reflect your program and the work that you do
- Evaluation will include programs that focus on volunteerism and those that do not
- Reports and other products will be practical and useful to help you improve your program
- All programs will be able to use Statewide Evaluation data to meet the national evaluation requirement when they reapply for funding

# Next Steps

- Lara Kaye, a researcher at CHSR, is the contact person for the process evaluation
  - Phone: 518/591-8615
  - Email: lkaye@uamail.albany.edu
- We will be contacting you in early December to schedule
- Interviews will take place between January and March 2009

**Thank You Again**

# Resource Center

- Primary source of training resources for programs.
- CNCS is focusing more on training through distance learning technology.
- Includes best practices on many topics.
- Includes a variety of sample forms.
- Found at: [www.americorps.org](http://www.americorps.org)

# 2008 AmeriCorps Kickoff

Empire State Plaza

November 19, 2008

All Members Invited!!

# 2009 Save the Date!

AmeriCorps Week  
May 9-16, 2009

National Conference on Volunteering & Service  
June 22-24, 2009  
San Francisco, California