SESSION GOALS

To develop a basic understanding of:

• National Service and AmeriCorps
• Roles & Responsibilities of Key Entities
• Federal and State Regulations
• AmeriCorps Program Start-Up Tasks

Note: This session is focused on the programmatic aspects of the AmeriCorps grant. Financial management topics will be covered in Program Directors Training, Phase II (Financial Management Training) to be held in July.
NATIONAL SERVICE TIMELINE

History of National Service

- **1960s**
  - Retired Senior Volunteer Program
  - Foster Grandparent Program
  - Senior Companion Program
  - Demonstration projects launched for these three programs to show the effectiveness of the service model and to engage older Americans in a range of service activities.

- **1964**
  - VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America)
  - Created by President Lyndon B. Johnson as a part of the “War On Poverty.”

- **1970s**
  - Senior Service Programs + Peace Corps + VISTA form the ACTION Agency

- **1973**
  - RSIP, Foster Grandparent Program, and Senior Companion Program are authorized through this act
  - Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973

- **1989**
  - Points of Light Foundation
  - President George H.W. Bush creates the Office of National Service in the White House and the Points of Light Foundation to foster volunteering
  - Signed by President Bush, this legislation authorizes grants to schools to support service-learning through Serve America and demonstration grants. Learn and Serve America is created.

- **1990**
  - National and Community Service Act of 1990

- **1992**
  - AmeriCorps NCCC created
  - National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC)
NATIONAL SERVICE TIMELINE

1993
Corporation for National and Community Service created
AmeriCorps created; Senior Corps incorporates the three senior-focused programs: RSVP, Foster Grandparents, and Senior Companions.

1994
King Holiday and Service Act of 1994
Congress establishes MLK Day as a day of service.

2002
2002 State of the Union Address
After 9/11, President George W. Bush asks all Americans to devote two years or 4,000 hours to volunteer service during their lifetimes.

2006
President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll
Launched by CNCS to honor the nation’s top colleges and universities for their commitment to community service, civic engagement, and service-learning.

2007
First AmeriCorps Week
Officially launched in May 2007
NATIONAL SERVICE TIMELINE

2009
April 21, 2009: President Obama signs bipartisan law to expand and strengthen national service programs.

Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act signed

First September 11th Day of Service and Remembrance held

Ensures that high-impact nonprofits are able to attract the resources they need to grow and improve the economic, education and health prospects of low-income communities.

2010
Social Innovation Fund launched

2011
5-Year Strategic Plan

An innovative new partnership designed to strengthen the nation's ability to respond to and recover from disasters while expanding career opportunities for young people.

2012
FEMA Corps launched
STRUCTURE OF CNCS PROGRAMS

AmeriCorps
- State & National
- VISTA
- NCCC & FEMA Corps

Senior Corps
- Foster Grandparents
- Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)
- Senior Companions

Social Innovation Fund (SIF)

Volunteer Generation Fund (VGF)
• AmeriCorps is referred to as “the domestic version of the Peace Corps”.

• AmeriCorps engages more than 75,000 Americans in intensive service each year at nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups across the country.

• Since its founding in 1994, almost 1 million AmeriCorps Members have contributed more than 1.2 billion hours in service across America while tackling pressing problems and mobilizing millions of volunteers for the organizations they serve.
AMERICORPS MISSION

Direct Service:
Getting things done for America

Capacity Building:
Strengthening nonprofits and the volunteer sector.

Member Development:
Expanding educational opportunity and building future leaders.

Community Building:
Leveraging a powerful return on investment.
STRUCTURE OF AMERICORPS STATE

- CNCS
- AmeriCorps State
- State Commissions
- Sub-grantee
WHAT IS AN AMERICORPS MEMBER?

• An individual enrolled for a specific term of service with an approved AmeriCorps program.
  • AmeriCorps Members are not volunteers or employees. They have a unique role in the community or organization.
• AmeriCorps Members may be eligible to receive in-service and post-service benefits including:
  • Living allowance
  • Health care coverage
  • Child care assistance
  • Segal AmeriCorps Education Award
MISSOURI COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMISSION (MCSC)

Vision: To strengthen Missouri communities through volunteerism and service.

Mission Statement:
- The Missouri Community Service Commission (MCSC) connects Missourians of all ages and backgrounds in an effort to improve unmet community needs through direct and tangible service. The MCSC serves as the administrator for AmeriCorps State funding in Missouri by awarding monetary grants and providing oversight, monitoring, technical assistance and support to its sub-grantees.

Facts:
- We are housed within the Missouri Department of Economic Development, Division of Business & Community Services.
- In addition to MCSC staff, we have Governor-appointed, Senate-confirmed Commissioners.
MCSC RESPONSIBILITIES

• As the prime grantee and “pass-through” entity (as defined by general grant terms and conditions), the MCSC must, at a minimum:
  □ Monitor sub-recipient’s activities and compliance;
  □ Evaluate the sub-recipient’s risk of non-compliance in order to determine appropriate sub-recipient monitoring;
  □ Take enforcement action against non-compliant sub-recipients;
  □ Ensure sub-recipients have single or program-specific audits when required.
MCSC RESPONSIBILITIES

• MCSC provides ongoing support to assist AC programs with achieving their performance measures and ensuring a high quality Member experience by providing:
  1) Member Development and Support
  2) Staff Development and Support
  3) Program Assessment and Monitoring
     - Initial Site Visits for New Programs
     - Subsequent Site Visits
     - Desk Monitoring (fiscal oversight, reviewing status of performance measures being met or unmet, policy issues, best practices)
     - Risk Assessments

Note: MCSC does not and will not make programmatic and internal staffing decisions; unless there are regulation violations.
AMERICORPS PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES

• Responsibilities (at a minimum) include:

  1) Employing strong fiscal and program management systems
  2) Monitoring financial management, program performance, and Member activities at operating sites and service locations
  3) Tracking progress toward achieving approved performance measures
  4) Acting as a liaison between MCSC and the components of the program (ex., service site locations, site supervisors, AmeriCorps Members, etc.)
  5) Member management- recruitment, orientation, training, and supervision
AMERICORPS PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES

- It is strongly encouraged for AmeriCorps Program to provide ongoing support to assist Members with successfully fulfilling their service hours and accomplishing the tasks outlined in their Member Contract. Also, a high quality Member experience should be fostered by implementing a plan of member development and support:
  1) Member Development and Support
  2) Esprit de Corps
  3) Ongoing Meetings/Technical Assistance with Members and Site Supervisors (connecting multiple sites)
  4) Teambuilding and Effective Communication Practices with Members and Site Supervisors