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## **AMERICORPS WEEK IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR NEW YORKERS ACTIVE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE**

*Encourages New Yorkers to Embrace Volunteerism to Strengthen Communities*

The New York State Commission on National and Community Service and New York State Office for the Aging are reminding New Yorkers that May 14-21 will be observed as AmeriCorps Week. The week will highlight the vital work done every day in communities across the state and nation by the program's members. The national service program began 17 years ago.

AmeriCorps members help to improve the lives of New York State's residents by meeting the needs of local communities and they also strengthen our educational system, protect our environment, support our veterans and military families, and help mitigate and respond to disasters. It is through this kind of service that we see the true meaning of civic duty – how the selflessness of volunteerism can profoundly change lives. During this week of recognition, all New Yorkers are asked to join in thanking these volunteers who help make New York a better place to live and to embrace volunteerism throughout the State.

AmeriCorps is a federally-funded program with annual grants made to community and faith-based organizations, educational institutions, and local municipalities which place members in service to help achieve their mission. The Governor's Commission on National and Community Service administers the AmeriCorps program in addition to building and reinforcing a culture of service, citizenship and responsibility.

Susan Stern, Chairperson of the New York State Commission on National and Community Service notes, "Volunteerism and community service are important pillars that help to make communities and neighborhoods across our state better places to live for persons of all ages, and we are indeed fortunate that so many caring New Yorkers give their time and effort to helping others."

Greg Olsen, Acting Director of the New York State Office for the Aging notes, "The network of programs and services that are so vital to helping older New Yorkers remain in their homes and communities of choice are supported by the many, many hours of volunteer service provided by caring individuals that work to improve the daily lives of others in their communities."

In New York State this year, AmeriCorps will give nearly 5,200 individuals the opportunity to provide intensive, results-driven service mentoring at-risk youth, providing health services, building homes for low-income families, and helping nonprofits recruit volunteers and achieve their mission. After successful completion of service, AmeriCorps members can earn an education award of up to \$5,250, which can be used to pay for college or to pay back qualified student loans. Since 1994, more than 60,000 New York residents have served more than 93 million hours and have qualified for Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards totaling more than \$202,200,000.

*Promoting independence and quality of life  
for older New Yorkers*



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In 2010, New York State received \$98,110,129 in national service funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service. These funds supported 263 AmeriCorps, Learn & Serve America and Senior Corps programs which engaged more than 78,000 New Yorkers of all ages and backgrounds to meet local needs, strengthen communities, and increase civic engagement. In addition, 3 million community volunteers served more than 381 million hours. This human capital leveraged resources and services valued at more than \$7.9 billion to local and state government.

For more information about the AmeriCorps program or AmeriCorps Week events, please visit [www.NewYorkersVolunteer.ny.gov](http://www.NewYorkersVolunteer.ny.gov) or [www.AmeriCorps.gov](http://www.AmeriCorps.gov).

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