

Service Year Alliance

#LET US SERVE

Service Year Alliance is working to make a year of paid, full-time service – a service year – a common expectation and opportunity for all young Americans.

What is a service year?

A service year before, during, or after college – or as a way to find your path – gives young people the chance to develop their skills, make an impact on the lives of others, and become the active citizens and leaders our nation needs.

Expanding service years has the power to revitalize cities, uplift and educate children at risk, and empower communities struggling with poverty. It can unite the most diverse nation in history, binding people of different backgrounds through common cause.

Service year corps members help address the most pressing challenges facing our local communities:



Tens-of-millions of students have received tutoring and educational support from service year corps members from a wide array of programs.



AmeriCorps members have connected over **20,500 at-risk students** in low-performing schools to STEM opportunities.



After Hurricane Katrina, **over 15,000 homes** were built or refurbished by AmeriCorps NCCC members.



Service year programs such as HealthCorps are working to encourage physical and mental wellbeing in **44 schools across 10 states and D.C.**



Thousands of veterans are improving their own communities by doing service years after their military service through programs such as The Mission Continues, which is taking on youth hunger.

Service Year Alliance, along with our partner Voices for National Service and other members of the Service Year Policy Council, encourages policymakers to help realize the potential of young Americans and unleash a powerful force for good. Specifically, we ask you to:

- **Make national service a national priority** by putting America on the path to making a service year a common opportunity and cultural expectation, starting by dramatically increasing the number of full-time service positions through the three successful federal civilian national service programs—AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, and YouthBuild—and asking every federal agency to support service year corps to tackle important challenges cost-effectively.
- **Establish service year opportunities as a pathway to higher education and careers** by increasing education awards and loan forgiveness for those who serve, making those education awards tax-free, creating incentives for higher education institutions to recognize and reward service years, and recruiting service year alumni into federal jobs.
- **Encourage states, communities, and nonprofit organizations to create service year positions** to solve locally identified problems by partnering with the Service Year Exchange, a new private sector technology platform designed to connect individuals who want to serve with certified publicly and privately funded service year positions.

Recent studies and polls have documented significant support for national service and the idea of young people doing a service year.

Support from Voters

83%

of voters would like to **maintain or increase** the federal investment in national service



90%
Democrats



84%
Independents



78%
Republicans

Data provided by TargetPoint Consulting and Voices for National Service

Voters believe in the unique benefits of national service:

- Helps prepare young people for the workforce (**80%**).
- Helps build stronger neighborhoods and communities (**79%**).
- Helps restore important values of patriotism and civic duty to young people (**78%**).

Support from Millennials

In a separate survey focused on Millennials, findings show support for their **willingness to participate in a service year**.

80%

of Millennials are somewhat or very **interested in a service year**

93%

of Millennials are likely to recommend **a service year to a friend**

Our polling shows Millennials want to “**feel good about the work**” that they do, “**gain experience in the real world**” and use service as a way to position themselves for great “**job opportunities**” in the future.

Data provided by Roll Global

Service years are a cost-effective way to address these pressing challenges:

For every **\$1** invested in national service, there is a nearly **\$4** return on investment for taxpayers.

Source: *The Economic Value of National Service*, Clive Belfield. Center for Benefit-Cost Studies in Education Teachers College, Columbia University, September 2013.