



EXPANDING SERVICE YEAR OPPORTUNITIES

ideas for cities & communities

Overview

There is tremendous opportunity to engage national service in local ways. National service is currently primarily organized by the federal government and focuses on creating opportunities that address national priorities. Cities have the power to help realize the full potential of national service by developing and implementing plans to expand service year opportunities in their communities to address local priorities.

Ideas

Convene Local Leaders. Explore how expanding service years could address local priorities while strengthening the citizenship of the young people participating in your area.

Write a Plan of Action. Articulate a vision of the impact increased service year opportunities can have in your city would make and together with a diverse group of leaders design the path to get there.

Adopt Formal Policies. Support the expansion of service years in your city through mayoral executive action, city council resolution or by introducing legislation.

Expand Through Agencies. Explore how city agencies might be able to develop service year opportunities within their agencies to more effectively and efficiently achieve their missions.

Identify Sustainable Funding. Create a fund (endowed or annual) for service years in your city funded by local government and/or private sources.

Recruit National Organizations. Browse the list of service year organizations that operate nationally to see if there are any you would be interested in bringing to your city.

Build Pipelines. Increase the demand for service years by working with local schools and youth organizations to increase awareness about the opportunities to do a service year and working with local employers to hire service year alumni.

Convening Local Leaders

In partnership with North Carolina Campus Compact, university presidents across the state were brought together for the North Carolina Campus Compact President's Forum at Elon University. They shared perspectives on service year programs at their institutions and service year alumni from institutions such as UNC-Chapel Hill, UNC-Pembroke, and Campbell University shared their experiences. Attendees were then given an opportunity to create working groups and create lists of actions and commitments.

Adopting Formal Policies...

Iowa's Governor Terry Branstad signed Executive Order #84, which created the Governor's Council on National Service. Led by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, the Council is made up of leaders from state agencies, higher education, and the private sector. The Council's goals include identifying existing and new policies that support national service, developing new public-private partnerships to support expansion, and facilitating interagency partnerships between the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service and other subdivisions of the state.

Identifying Sustainable Funding...

In order to double the number of opportunities in the city from 5,000 to 10,000 in the next few years, the City of New York's Office of Volunteerism, [NYC Service](#), created a local financial model (1/3 city agency funds, 1/3 host site funds, 1/3 private donor funds, plus possible education award) and the necessary infrastructure that allows funding from multiple sources to be combined to increase service years in the city. They secured funding from foundations like the Tisch Illumination Fund and Citi Foundation and were awarded an Operation AmeriCorps grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service that will provide up to \$5.8 million to support 300 new AmeriCorps service year members over the next two years.

Expanding Through Agencies...

The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, in partnership with the Iowa Department of Education, created [the Iowa Reading Corps](#). The Reading Corps use's data-based, problem-solving model of literacy instruction to tutor students from prekindergarten to third grade who are not proficient in reading or who are at risk of becoming non-proficient in reading. The partnership with the Department of Education allows the program to leverage funding from the state.

Building Pipelines

The Franklin Project's Youth and National Service Convening brought together major youth service organizations, like Youth Service America, United Way Worldwide, Citizen Schools, and the National 4-H Council to discuss how to create a pipeline from youth service to national service. The meeting allowed participants to think through and discuss barriers to the national service pipeline and ways to overcome them.