

1.1 HISTORY OF NEBRASKA STATE COMMISSION

1993 – The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) was established by Congress requiring all states to have a State Commission for National and Community Service.

July 26, 1994 – The Nebraska Commission for National and Community Service was established through Executive Order # 94-5 signed by Governor E. Benjamin Nelson.

December 6, 1996 – The Commission created the Volunteer and Community Service Foundation of Nebraska which was incorporated as an independent not-for-profit charitable Nebraska foundation. AmeriCorps is the primary program.

1999 – The Commission changed its name to the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission.

April 2000 – The Commission's founding Executive Director, Tom Miller, resigned.

January 2001 – Debra Hartmann hired as the Commission's second Executive Director.

November 2001 – The Commission office was fully staffed with permanent employees for the first time since 1997.

2001-2002 – The Commission codified policies and procedures and initiated risk-based monitoring strategies.

September 2002 – The Commission prepared for and completed its Corporation Administrative Standards Audit with all action items resolved by spring 2003.

2002-2003 – Risk-based monitoring policies and procedures were quickly implemented and comprehensive monitoring began.

2002-2003 – Concern with the Corporation for National & Community Service's budgetary practices resulted in a national hiring freeze and diminished competitive grant awards for 2003-2004 Program year.

September 2003 – The Inspector General conducted a Pre-Audit Survey focusing on program years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002.

Fall 2004 – Inspector General Audit was conducted and was a great success with minimal findings both programmatically and fiscally with less than 1% of federal funds reviewed as questioned costs, none of which were related to the operating practices of the Commission.

2004 – The Foundation Board of the Volunteer and Community Service Foundation reviewed its purpose and simplified it to be: Support community and volunteer service in partnership with the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission.

May 13, 2005 – The Foundation Board of the Volunteer and Community Service Foundation agreed to simplify the name of the foundation to the Nebraska Volunteer Foundation.

Fall 2005 – Developed and completed 2006-2010 Strategic Plan for the Commission and revised the mission statement to be: Mobilizing Nebraskans to strengthen their communities through volunteering, collaboration and national service.

March 2006 – The Nebraska Volunteer Foundation became an affiliated fund of the Nebraska Community Foundation.

April 2006 – Debra Hartmann, the Executive Director of the Commission passed away.

July 2006 – The Commission, for the first time, began receiving General Funds from the State of Nebraska.

August 2006 – The third Executive Director of the Commission, Barbara Wilson Thomas was hired.

October 2006 – The Commission began administering the Citizen Corps Program through a grant with the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.

March 2007 – A Memorandum of Agreement was signed between ServeNebraska and the Department of Health and Human Services to formally provide an array of support services to the Commission. The Commission began using \$10,000 of its state general fund allocation to participate in the DHHS Cost Allocation Plan to receive approximately \$100,000 - \$120,000 of in-kind match for the support services annually.

April 2007 – The Commission held a Statewide Governor’s Conference on Community Services at the Doubletree Hotel in Omaha.

November 2007 – A first time Disability Summit on Inclusive Emergency Preparedness was held at the Paralyzed Veterans of America Center in Omaha.

April 2008 – Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission introduced its new brand name, ServeNebraska, and launched a redesigned website at the Statewide Governor’s Conference on Community Services at the Holiday Inn in Omaha.

July 2008 – ServeNebraska commissioners decided to hold a state conference every two years.

August 2008 – The Commission passed the federal onsite CNCS Administrative Standards Review.

April 2009 – One commissioner attended the Midwest Cluster Regional Training in Madison, Wisconsin.

February 2010 – The Commission formally ceased administering the Citizen Corps Program.

April 2010 – A Statewide Governor’s Conference on Volunteerism was held at the Doubletree Hotel in Omaha.

June/July 2010 – A “Listening Tour” was held in six Nebraska cities with staff and commissioners traveling to record focus group input on identifying the critical community needs not being met in communities across Nebraska.

September 2010 – Two commissioners attended the CNCS Commissioner Institute in Bethesda, Maryland and 10 commissioners attended the Multi-State Commissioner Institute in Little Rock, Arkansas.

October 2010 – The Commissioners met for a two-day strategic planning retreat to assess Listening Tour results and electronic survey data to develop a new State Service Plan and a new five-year 2011-2015 Strategic Plan for the Commission.

March 2011 – One commissioner attended the ASC Leadership Summit in Alexandria, Virginia.

April 2011 – Commission direction changed from holding statewide conference to partnering with other organizations that have state conferences to reach new audiences and extend the outreach of the commission’s programming.

July 2011 – New five-year 2011-2015 Commissioner Strategic Plan adopted by commissioners along with a new commission board committee structure.

June 2012 – Let’s Build Nebraska – Resources to Build Great Nonprofits new website launched.

July 2012 – New State Volunteer Network of ambassadors recruited to represent all 93 Nebraska counties.