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## SECONDARY ROLE OF THE COMMISSION – SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERISM

Another major responsibility for service commissions is to develop and communicate a statewide vision of national service and foster an ethic of service and volunteering throughout the state. The vision should incorporate all components of national service – AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps\*VISTA, AmeriCorps NCCC, Learn and Serve, Senior Corps, and the larger volunteer community. It can do so by facilitating collaboration between different national service programs, fostering partnerships between Corporation-funded and other service programs, developing relationships with other state agencies and community organizations and reaching out to expand a network of community leaders in volunteer activities. The Commission also seeks to build long-lasting relationships with corporations, foundations, elected officials, the media and state agencies. These relationships should be developed so as to contribute to high quality service projects, effective collaborations, funding support, bi-partisan political support and public support for national and community service.

### Ensure Stability

- Secure adequate matching funds and/or in-kind resources for the commission federal administrative grant.
- Ensure support for service programs and activities from the private sector, including businesses and foundations.
- Ensure long-term support for national and community service activities in the state.
- Develop and maintain non-partisan state and local government support.

### Build a Solid Infrastructure

- Develop and maintain partnerships and other mutually supportive relationships among Corporation programs and other traditional service programs.
- Initiate and maintain efforts to establish close working relationships with the Corporation State Office, including

making recommendations regarding priorities for VISTA and Senior Corps programs.

- Develop and maintain avenues for communication and collaboration with state agencies and state initiatives, particularly those which involve volunteer service and federally-funded community service.

### **Conduct Outreach and Develop the Ethic of Service**

- Through an inclusive process, develop and implement a non-partisan and non-political state plan, including a state vision for national and community service.
- Initiate and maintain efforts to develop a shared identity among Corporation-funded programs and among AmeriCorps members serving in those programs.
- Develop and maintain widespread, high public awareness of service and volunteer programs, especially in communities where AmeriCorps members are performing service.
- Build relationships with the traditional volunteer sector, the non-profit sector, business and foundation communities.