

Chapter 12 – Disability Inclusion

ServeNebraska strives to ensure the full, proactive inclusion of individuals with disabilities in service and actively encourages individuals with physical or mental disabilities to participate in national service programs operating in the State of Nebraska.

Under federal law, national service program sites are required to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. National service program sites must also make reasonable accommodations to enable a qualified applicant or national service participant with a disability to participate in the application process or to perform essential service functions. ServeNebraska has funding available for any national service program site operating in the State of Nebraska to provide reasonable accommodations for applicants with disabilities or current national service members. National service programs sites must apply for the funding through the ServeNebraska Funding Opportunity process, which can be found on Grantee Central on the ServeNebraska website.

Disability Inclusion and Outreach is an essential element of AmeriCorps' success! National Service is for everyone because everyone has something of value to offer. Among AmeriCorps' goals is the full and proactive inclusion of individuals with disabilities in service. AmeriCorps members with disabilities gain valuable experience and skills as well.

ServeNebraska has many partners who specialize in the unique aspects around serving people with disabilities. Their websites may be a good resource for additional information; a few are listed below:

- **ServeNebraska:** <http://www.serve.nebraska.gov/disability/disability.htm>
- **The National Service Inclusion Project** is a CNCS funded technical assistance provider. www.serviceandinclusion.org
- **The Job Accommodation Network (JAN)** is another excellent resource that is available to you at no cost. (800) 526-7234 (voice/TTY). <http://askjan.org/>
- **Nebraska Department of Education Vocational Rehabilitation** <http://www.vocrehab.state.ne.us/>
- **Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP):** <http://www.atp.ne.gov/>

ServeNebraska occasionally is able to offer funding opportunities to increase disability inclusion and outreach to National Service Programs. Funds are awarded on a first come first serve basis to qualified applicants in the following three categories.

- Disability Inclusion training/conference Scholarships
- Inclusive Website Design
- Reasonable Accommodations

A 2012 funding opportunity has a November 30, 2012 application deadline with projects needing to be completed by December 15, 2012. Please refer to Grantee Central for application and instructions, <http://www.serve.nebraska.gov/grantee/grantee.htm>.