



# Overview: State Service Commissions



State service commissions are governor-appointed public agencies or nonprofit organizations made up of more than 1,000 commissioners — private citizens helping lead the nation's philanthropic movement. More than 80% of AmeriCorps grant funding goes to governor-appointed state service commissions. State service commissions determine social needs in their state, set policy and program priorities, competitively award grants to local nonprofits and agencies, provide training and technical assistance, monitor grantees to ensure quality and compliance with federal and state law, and broadly promote service and volunteering in their states. State service commissions are a vital resource that help governors tap the power of citizens to solve problems and strengthen communities through the following principles:

- **The best solutions come from the local level.** The nation's 52 governor-appointed commissions administer more than \$300 million in federal grants annually. State service commissions provide governors with unique solutions to meet each individual state and local needs. Federal investment in state service commissions provides the authority to governors to ensure state control of the AmeriCorps program to meet critical community needs.
- **Return on investment.** State service commissions provide the most efficient, low-cost delivery system for national and community service. State service commissions leverage the federal investment in national and community service by matching most investments dollar for dollar. State service commissions provide the critical infrastructure needed to make sure that national and community service reaches across the nation to small faith and community-based nonprofits that are meeting critical local needs.
- **Meeting local needs while expanding educational opportunities.** AmeriCorps enables individuals the ability to earn money for college while serving in their local communities. AmeriCorps provides short-term employment and prepares members for long-term employment opportunities in the public and private sector. This service empowers members to solve society's problems and places them on a lifelong path to civic engagement.

**FAST FACTS — STATE SERVICE COMMISSIONS:**

- Were created in the National and Community Service Trust Act as amended in 1993 to provide local oversight of federal dollars.
- Are governor-appointed public agencies or nonprofit organizations made up of more than **1,000** commissioners — private citizens leading the nation's philanthropic and service movement.
- Operate at the state and local level granting more than **\$300 million** from federal national service funds while matching these federal dollars from state and local sources to support citizen service and volunteerism in America. These funds support more than **40,000** AmeriCorps members.
- Administer more than **80%** of AmeriCorps State/National funding across the country.

