

Virginia State Service Plan for Volunteerism and National Service 2010-2013

The Virginia State Service plan was developed with input from statewide stakeholders which began at a Public Square forum sponsored by the Richmond Times Dispatch and conference in March 2009 hosted in partnership with the Older Dominion Partnership. Nine regional forums were held in small and large communities including Charlottesville, Mathews, Harrisonburg, Fairfax, Roanoke, Richmond, Portsmouth, Lynchburg and Warsaw. Almost 400 persons attended including representatives of state and local government, non-profit community and faith-based organizations, and members of the Governor's Advisory Board on National and Community Service (Board).

The Virginia Office on Volunteerism and Community Service (OVCS) invited organizations to provide input through an on-line survey featured at our website, www.vaservice.org and through our monthly e-newsletter, *Volunteer Virginia*. Both the Board and members of the Collaborations Workgroup also provided input. The Collaborations Workgroup consists of the State Director for the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the president of the Volunteer Center Network, the director of the Virginia Network of Non-Profit Organizations, the chair of the Senior Corps Association, and the executive director of the Family and Children's Trust Fund. These sessions allowed the Virginia OVCS staff to not only gain input for the State Service Plan and office operations, but also to provide information to organizations interested in applying for AmeriCorps funding. In addition, a copy of the plan was sent to both the Virginia Association of Counties and the Virginia Municipal League for feedback. The plan was been submitted and approved by the Governor's office through the Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Social Services

Virginia's overall goal is to see a continued increase in the number of volunteers (1.7 million adults in 2008) and volunteer rates (29.3% for 2008) over the next three years as reported in the annual *Volunteering in America* study conducted by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Goal

There will be an increase in the number and percentage of Virginians volunteering each year as measured by the annual *Volunteering in America* study conducted by the Corporation.

Results: In 2010, there were 1.7 million volunteers identified by the 2011 Volunteering in America study. This was the same number that was identified in 2009. The overall volunteer rate decreased from 26.8% to 26.3%. However volunteer rate on a national level decreased, which moved Virginia's ranking from number 27 to number 24 in resident volunteers. Number of hours increased slightly to 38 hours per resident and from 37.8 hours, but Virginia moved from number 20 to number 17 in hours per resident. Value of volunteer activity is estimated at \$4.9 billion.

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Plan Objective

There will be an increase in the number and percentage of Virginians volunteering each year as measured by the annual *Volunteering in America* study conducted by the Corporation.

Goal #1 – Increased accessibility to volunteer and national service opportunities in an effort to connect *all* Virginians

Strategies	Timing	Outcome/Update
Increase placement of AmeriCorps members in distressed communities through intermediaries	All years	Intermediary programs working in three (3) distressed communities by 2012-13 <i>Outreach made to programs operating in these areas. Additional points offered to organization applying to serve distressed areas and to organizations that choose to act as intermediaries in their communities.</i>
Invite more national direct programs to include Virginia in their service areas	Year 1	At least one (1) new national direct program by 2010-11 <i>The office has received notification from 15 national directs who are applying and will have members in VA. At least 3 of them are new.</i>
Work with existing sub-grantees, state agencies and their community based affiliates to develop and submit at least two (2) competitive applications each year	All years	Two (2) competitive applications each year with at least one (1) funded <i>VA submitted 5 competitive applications for 2010-11 funding – No award. VA submitted 1 competitive application for 2011-12-No Award</i>

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Goal #2 – Improved capacity of Virginia’s organizations and communities to mobilize volunteer resources through collaborations and partnerships

Strategies	Timing	Outcome/Update 7/8/11
Use Collaborations Workgroup list serve publicizing training opportunities, which includes all national service program sponsors, CNCS state office, Virginia Volunteer Network, Virginia Network of Non-Profit Organizations	All years	Distribute information at a minimum of five (5) events annually <i>OVCS continually forwards training opportunities to the Collaboration Workgroup.</i>
Continue to enhance and increase distribution of e-newsletter and website subscription. Benchmark: 1430 newsletter subscribers in October 2009.	All years	200 additional newsletter subscribers by 2013 <i>Current subscribers at 1888 in September 2011</i>
Hold annual training event for service members on mobilizing volunteers	All years	Annual training
Invite Collaboration Workgroup members to participate in regional forums focused on faith and community based organizations that are hosted by the Department of Social Services	All years	Five (5) forums annually <i>2010-5 2011-6 2012</i>
Investigate insurance options available to non-profit organizations by other states	Year 1	Feasibility determined by January 2011 <i>Decision made not to pursue</i>

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Goal #3 – Greater public visibility of the impact of volunteerism and service throughout the Commonwealth

Strategies	Timing	Outcome/Update
Increase use of social media to reach potential service members and volunteers	All years	<i>News items posted on vasaervice.org now appear on Facebook and on Twitter (124 followers on July 8, 2011).</i>
Continue sponsorship of the Governor Awards for Volunteerism and Community Service	All years	Annual event <i>Events held in April 2010 and April 2011.</i>
Support collaboration between AmeriCorps sub-grantees and other national service programs to generate projects and publicity around Martin Luther King Day of Service, the National Day of Service and Remembrance, AmeriCorps Week	All years	Collaborative service projects or events <i>Projects were held on MLK and 9-11 involving all partners and sub-grantees in 2010 and 2011.</i>
Sponsor annual conference on volunteerism and service at least bi-annually	2011 and 2013	Conference workshops increase capacity and foster collaborations between organizations. <i>Conference held in July 2011-Overall conference satisfaction was measured and the results were as follows: On a scale of 1 to 10 with 1 being “not at all satisfied” and 10 being “highly satisfied”- 54.5% were highly satisfied (8-10); 36.3% were satisfied (4-7) and 9.2% were not at all satisfied (1-3)</i>

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Goal #4 – Fully engage individuals age 55 and older in volunteerism and national service

Strategies	Timing	Outcome/Update
Work with VA Department for the Aging to develop a statewide program of service members working at Senior Navigator sites and agencies for the aging to support the Commonwealth's <i>No Wrong Door Initiative</i>	Year 1 (design with partner input)	<i>Determined to be not feasible. Presented idea at No Wrong Door Steering Committee Meeting. No interest in pursuing was evident.</i>
Seek public input from Governor's Advisory Board on National and Community Service and others as to whether to follow the Corporation's lead and allocate 10% of formula funds to Encore service programs	Year 1	Decision made for 2010-11 funding cycle <i>The Advisory Board felt that Virginia should not allocate 10% of its funds. However it encouraged technical assistance and outreach to organizations who would engage members 55 and over.</i>
Connect to the Older Dominion Partnership with at least one (1) Governor's Advisory Board member serving on the Civic Engagement Workgroup	Year 2	Advisory board member in place by July 2011 <i>No action as of July 2011</i>
Provide technical assistance based on best practice research to develop at least one (1) Encore service program	Year 2	Application submitted for 2011-12 funding cycle <i>No programs identified for submission</i>
Work with TRIAD and the Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (SALT) to include programs and members in collaborative projects.	Year 2	Evidence of collaboration in projects/programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Senior track sponsored by TRIAD at the 2011 Virginia Conference on Volunteerism and Service in June 2011</i> • <i>Collaboration in National Day of Service and Remembrance as partner in the Drive to End Hunger</i>