



## Fact Sheet

# Learn and Serve



### Annual Statistical Highlights\*

- Program Participants  
1.1 million
- Hours Served  
12.5 million
- Local Programs  
1,527
- Volunteers  
Recruited/Managed  
127,000

### General Background

Learn and Serve America provides an on ramp to a lifetime of civic engagement for more than one million students each year. The program awards grants to state education agencies, schools, nonprofit groups, and institutions of higher education to engage students in service activities linked to academic achievement and civic responsibility. This type of service, called service-learning, improves communities while developing the lifelong habit of service in young people. Learn and Serve America also provides free resources on service-learning to the public, teachers, faculty members, schools, youth, and youth service groups through the National Service-Learning Clearinghouse.

### Service Learning Facts

- 24 percent of America's elementary and secondary schools have adopted service-learning programs.
- 44 percent of K-12 schools receiving Learn and Serve America funds have embraced service-learning as a part of their core curriculum.
- 35 states have adopted some form of service-learning policy—either a mandatory, statewide policy or one granting districts the freedom to create their own.
- At least a quarter of all higher education institutions and more than half of all community colleges have adopted service-learning programs.
- 58 percent of higher education institutions that receive Learn and Serve America funds have embraced service-learning as a part of their core curriculum.
- 90 percent of Learn and Serve America grantees and sub-grantees meet a majority of the characteristics of high-quality service-learning programs.

- The most common community-service areas for Learn and Serve America programs are education (32 percent), the environment (15 percent), and community and economic development (15 percent).

### Learn and Serve America Statistics

■ Program Participants	1.1 million
■ Hours Served by Participants	12.5 million
■ Community Volunteers Recruited/Managed	127,000
■ Youth From Disadvantaged Circumstances Serving through Learn and Serve America	442,000
■ Number of Learn and Serve Programs	1,527
■ Annual Federal Funding	37.5 million

*\*STATISTICS NOTE: Statistics represent numbers reported in 2008 for the 2007 fiscal year program activities.*

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- 49 percent of K-12 schools receiving Learn and Serve America funds are in low-income areas, defined as schools with 50 percent or more of students eligible for free or reduced price lunch.
- 5,500 service-learning classes were created as a result of Learn and Serve America funds.

## The Impact of Service-Learning

Research has demonstrated that high quality service-learning strengthens academic achievement, school attendance, and classroom engagement; connects students to their communities; and reduces risky behaviors.

- The National Research Council identifies service-learning as one of the most effective strategies for improving student engagement and academic learning.
- A large-scale Michigan study found service-learning to be positively correlated with test scores on fifth grade state achievement tests in writing and social studies.
- Three separate studies—in Philadelphia, Denver, and Hawaii—found that service-learning students developed better problem-solving skills and understanding of complex issues.
- A national study of high school students found that when youth engaged in service-learning they were more likely to be academically engaged and become attached to school and community.
- A Florida study found that service-learning students were less likely to be referred for disciplinary measures, and participation in service-learning has been correlated to the reduction of behaviors that lead to pregnancy or arrest.

## Learn and Serve America Special Initiatives

Recognizing pressing issues facing today's students and our country, Learn and Serve America has developed grant programs to address specific challenges.

The School-Based Indian Tribes Anti-Meth Initiative grants fund projects that involve students in service-learning focusing on the effects of drug abuse on families and the community at large. Youth leadership development, substance abuse prevention activities, and serving with community elders are emphasized at each of the sites.

The Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Initiative (STEM) grants use service-learning to ignite

a passion for math and science among low-income students. The projects prompt students to use the knowledge and skills from STEM courses to address challenges in their communities.

The Higher Education College Student Social Media Initiative focuses on increasing service and civic engagement of college students through the use of social media such as Facebook, MySpace, podcasts, blogs, and other tools.

## Advancing the Field

Learn and Serve America has developed resources and recognition programs to advance the field of service and service-learning in the nation's K-12 schools and institutions of higher education.

- The President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll program recognizes institutions of higher education that support exemplary, innovative, and effective community service programs.
- The National Service-Learning Clearinghouse provides an online library of lesson plans, research, and project examples to support service-learning programs.
- The Service-Learning: Turning Ideas into Action Communications Kit provides grantees and others with the tools they need to promote service-learning to schools, colleges and universities, youth, and community organizations.
- The Bring Learning to Life public service campaign consists of television and print promotions that highlight the benefits of service-learning for K-12 schools.

## Corporation for National and Community Service

Learn and Serve America is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, which also administers Senior Corps and AmeriCorps. The mission of the Corporation is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering. For more information, visit [www.NationalService.gov](http://www.NationalService.gov).

## More Information

To learn more about Learn and Serve America, visit [www.LearnandServe.gov](http://www.LearnandServe.gov) or call (202) 606-6879. For the National Service-Learning Clearinghouse, visit [www.ServiceLearning.org](http://www.ServiceLearning.org).

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