

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Maine

Commission for Community Service



2011 ANNUAL REPORT



Advancing Volunteerism. Strengthening Communities.



2011 COMMISSIONERS

Mary-Anne LaMarre, Chair
Oakland
Maine Sheriffs' Association

Andrew Matlins, Chair-elect
Bangor
101st Air Refueling Wing
ME Air National Guard



Ron Holmes, Vice-chair
New Sharon
URS - Washington Group International

Susan Austin, Westbrook
Unum

Joan McDonald, Biddeford
Girl Scouts of Maine

F. Celeste Branham, Lewiston
University of Maine Farmington

Andrew McLean, Gorham
University of Southern Maine



Casey Bromberg, Oakland
Kennebec Valley Community Action

Lindsey Jean Oliver, Sidney
Husson University

Debra Eckart, Machias
UMaine Cooperative Extension

Brenda Peluso, South Portland
Maine Association of Nonprofits

Susan Hammond, Bangor
Four Directions Development Corp.

John Portela, Brunswick
Bath Iron Works

Marcia Hartt, Gray
United Insurance

Joel Russ, Walpole
Learning Works

Susan Lavigne, Portland
Opportunity Alliance

Eileen Smart, Concord, NH
Corporation for National and
Community Service



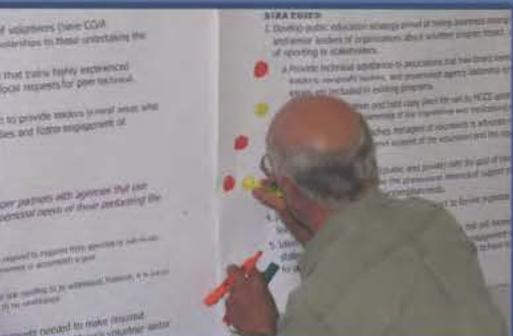
Kristie Littlefield, Sidney
ME Dept of Education

Barbara Wentworth, Kennebunk
United Way of York County

Stephen Letourneau, Fairfield
Catholic Charities Maine

COMMISSIONERS COMPLETING SERVICE

Phillip Crowell, Jr, Auburn
Gary Dorman, Corinna
Dawn Littlefield, Skowhegan
Kathleen Poulin, Winslow
Shelley Reed, ME Dept of Education
Rhyan Romaine, Wells
Judith Stebbins, Winthrop



Commission members are gubernatorial appointees appointed to staggered three-year terms. Terms for about one-third of the Commissioners expire each September.



Maine Commission for Community Service

Maine State Planning Office, Executive Department

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www.maineservicecommission.gov



January 31, 2012

It gives me great pleasure to present the 2011 Annual Report of the Maine Commission for Community Service for review by Governor Paul R. LePage, members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government as well as our service colleagues and partners across the state.

Although this report is required by the Commission's statute, it has come to serve as an opportunity to share updates about Maine's volunteer sector and National Service programs. Both contribute in unique ways to the vitality and viability of Maine communities.

- ◆ In 2011, nearly a third of Maine residents serve as volunteers and, on average, each devoted a total of 43 hours to community service in the year. Their time and talent was worth \$1.1 billion.
- ◆ National Service grant programs for AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, service-learning, and Volunteer Generation brought \$7.3 million from the Corporation for National and Community Service to Maine communities to support the recruitment, training, supervision, and coordination of 2,640 National Service participants. Their formal terms of service required between 300 and 1700 hours of service in just one year.

The work of the Commission extends beyond our grant-making, federal contract monitoring, and technical assistance to volunteer and community service. As we complete the first year of our 2011-2013 Strategic Plan, we are proud to say the federal challenges of this year and the time devoted to planning for a transition to a new fiscal agent did not keep us from making progress on our goals and objectives.

Finally, we want to acknowledge this is the last time the Commission will file a report as an administrative unit of the State Planning Office. While we look forward to continuing our work under a new fiscal agent, it would seem ungracious not to thank the many people at State Planning who, for 18 years, contributed in significant ways to the national reputation the Commission has for strong financial and programmatic administration. We owe so much to their mentoring, sharing, and support.

We trust you will find this report helpful in understanding the results of 2011.

In service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Mary-Ann Taaffe'.



COMMISSION FUNDAMENTALS

The Maine Commission for Community Service (MCCS) builds capacity and sustainability in Maine's volunteer and service communities by funding programs, developing managers of volunteers and service-learning practitioners, raising awareness of sector issues, and promoting service as a strategy.

HISTORY

The Commission was established in 1994 by Executive Order and under state statute in 1995. The 25 board members of the Commission are appointed by the governor to three-year terms and, as outlined in 5MRSA c373 §7502, each represents a specific segment of Maine's volunteer sector.

MCCS is Maine government's partner for the federal Corporation for National Service. The Maine State Planning Office is designated as the fiscal agent and provides administrative support.

MISSION

Foster community service and volunteerism to meet human and environmental needs in the State of Maine.

VISION

Vibrant, productive communities with involved, responsible citizens.

STAFF

Maryalice Crofton, Executive Director
Pam Zeutenhorst, Program Officer, Volunteer Sector Initiatives and Inclusion
Michael Ashmore, Grants Officer for AmeriCorps and Service-learning; State Donations Coordination Team
Meredith Eaton, Training Officer and Maine VISTA Project Director
Rochelle Runge, Public Relations Representative (through August 2011)
Krysta Lilly Brown, Planning and Research Associate (August-December 2011)

AMERICORPS*VISTAS FOR MAINE VISTA PROJECT

Brad Hunter (Team Leader through June), Katherine Klein (Team Leader), Eileen Buzzello, Erin Dunne

STATE PLANNING OFFICE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Tony Van Den Bossche (Director of Finance), Jody Harris (Director of Programs), Carrie Dunbar (Business Manager), Aline Lachance (Administrative Staff)



FINANCES

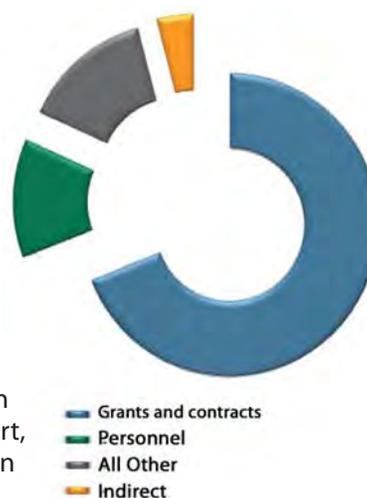
REVENUES

\$1,791,436	Federal funds from Corporation for National and Community Service*
\$19,705	State funds from State Planning Office
\$80,353	Other cash (registration fees for training events, private sponsorships of activities, grants, etc.)
\$262,280	In-kind donations of services, space, supplies (valued according to Govt Accounting Standards and OMB rules)
\$2,153,774	Total Revenues



EXPENSES

\$272,488	Personnel
\$1,487,977	Grants and contracts
\$305,623	All other (includes training, tech assistance subsidies, communications, supplies, etc.)
\$87,686	State and Departmental Indirect
\$2,153,774	Total Expenses



*CNCS grants included AmeriCorps*State, Volunteer Generation Funds, VISTA Support Funds, Learn & Serve, Commission Support, Program Development and Training, and the Disability/Inclusion funds.

MCCS also manages a VISTA project but the support costs for VISTA stipends and benefits (\$473,424) are paid by the federal agency rather than being granted to MCCS.

All MCCS staff positions are federally funded and, during the year, position vacancies covered a cumulative nine months. The data above is for informational purposes only and is not an official financial statement.

“ The magnitude of our social problems will require that all citizens and institutions make a commitment to volunteering . ”

George Romney, former Michigan governor

PARTNERS AND VOLUNTEERS

The Commission is grateful to the following for their contributions to 2011 events and initiatives:

Pro Bono Services and In-kind Supplies

Joan Davis, J Davis Consulting, LLC
Matt Robinson, KIDS Consortium
Daniel Martinage, Association Coach, LLC
Dahlia Lynn, Ph.D., The H Group
Brenda Zollitsch, Ph.D. Candidate, USM
Stephanie Clement, Friends of Acadia
Elizabeth Cole, Heller School, Brandeis University
Alicia J. Nichols, Fundraising Counsel
Shammara Wright, GenerationOn
Megan Emery, Lewiston Public Library
Jennifer Trowbridge, Ellsworth ME
Deborah Somers, Dover-Foxcroft ME
Karen McDonald, Arundel County Dept. of Detention
General Dynamics - Bath Iron Works
Cabot Creamery Cooperative

Patricia Kimball, Ideactive Solutions
Jane Haskell, UMaine Cooperative Extension
Laura Rog, GenerationOn
Anne Schink, ABS Consulting
Ken Bustard, Accounting Coach
Andrea Berry, Idealware
Jen Loble, UMaine Cooperative Extension
Lori Tsuruda, People Making A Difference
Susan Abravenal, Youth Service America
Kaira Esgate, Reimagining Service
Gigi Rolfes, Atlanta GA
Marjorie Withers, Community Caring Collaborative
Time Warner Cable
University of Maine
Association of Leaders In Volunteer Engagement

Financial Support

American Awards
ABS Consulting
LL Bean
Northeast Delta Dental
Corporation for National and Community Service

Aramark
Catholic Charities Maine
Maine Association of Nonprofits
Time Warner Cable

THE STATE OF MAINE'S VOLUNTEER SECTOR

Volunteers are citizens engaged in solving community problems and extending the impact of service resources by contributing their time, talent, and experience. The relationship between citizen engagement and community viability is well documented in research from many disciplines - public safety, economic opportunity, prevention, public administration, environment, and education.

The US Dept. of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Corporation for National and Community Service annually assess the strength and participation rates in volunteering. The report issued each June is based on Current Population Survey data collected the prior September.

Key findings for Maine (VolunteeringInAmerica.gov):

- ◆ 32% of Maine residents volunteer. (± 2% from prior year)
The national average rate of citizen volunteering is 26%.
- ◆ Each Maine volunteer devotes an average of 42.3 hours annually to volunteer work.
- ◆ 42% of Maine teens volunteer compared to 26% of their peers nationally.
37.9% of Maine college students and 35% of Baby Boomers volunteer.



28%

of Maine volunteers serve in educational programs. Faith-based volunteer programs attract

20%

- ◆ The rate of retention among Maine volunteers is 69% compared to the national rate of 65% which means only 30% of new volunteer recruits do not complete their assignments.
- ◆ 12% of Maine residents stepped forward as “good neighbors” and volunteered informally to help with a community need. This informal volunteering is not organized by a community agency and is in addition to the participation noted above.

What are some of the factors that sustain Maine's high rate of citizen volunteering?

- ◆ Homeownership is an indication of whether residents have a long-term commitment and attachment to their communities. Data show that as the rate of homeownership increases the volunteer rate also tends to increase. Nationally, 65.9% of individuals own their home. In Maine, 72.7% own their home.
- ◆ Long work commutes reduce the time and opportunity individuals have to connect to organizations in their communities, thus reducing average volunteer rates. Nationally, commuters travel on average just over 25 minutes to work. In Maine, commuters travel on average 23 minutes to work.
- ◆ As the education level increases in communities, the likelihood of volunteering also rises. At a national level, 85.3% have a high school diploma or GED equivalent and 27.9% have a college degree. In Maine, 90.2% have a high school diploma or GED equivalent and 26.9% have a college degree.
- ◆ Communities with higher numbers of nonprofits tend to have higher volunteer rates. As the number of nonprofits per 1,000 city residents increases, the volunteering rate also increases. Nationally, there are an average of 4.55 nonprofit organizations per 1,000 residents. Maine has, on average, 6.84 nonprofits per 1,000 city residents..

CIVIC HEALTH INDEX

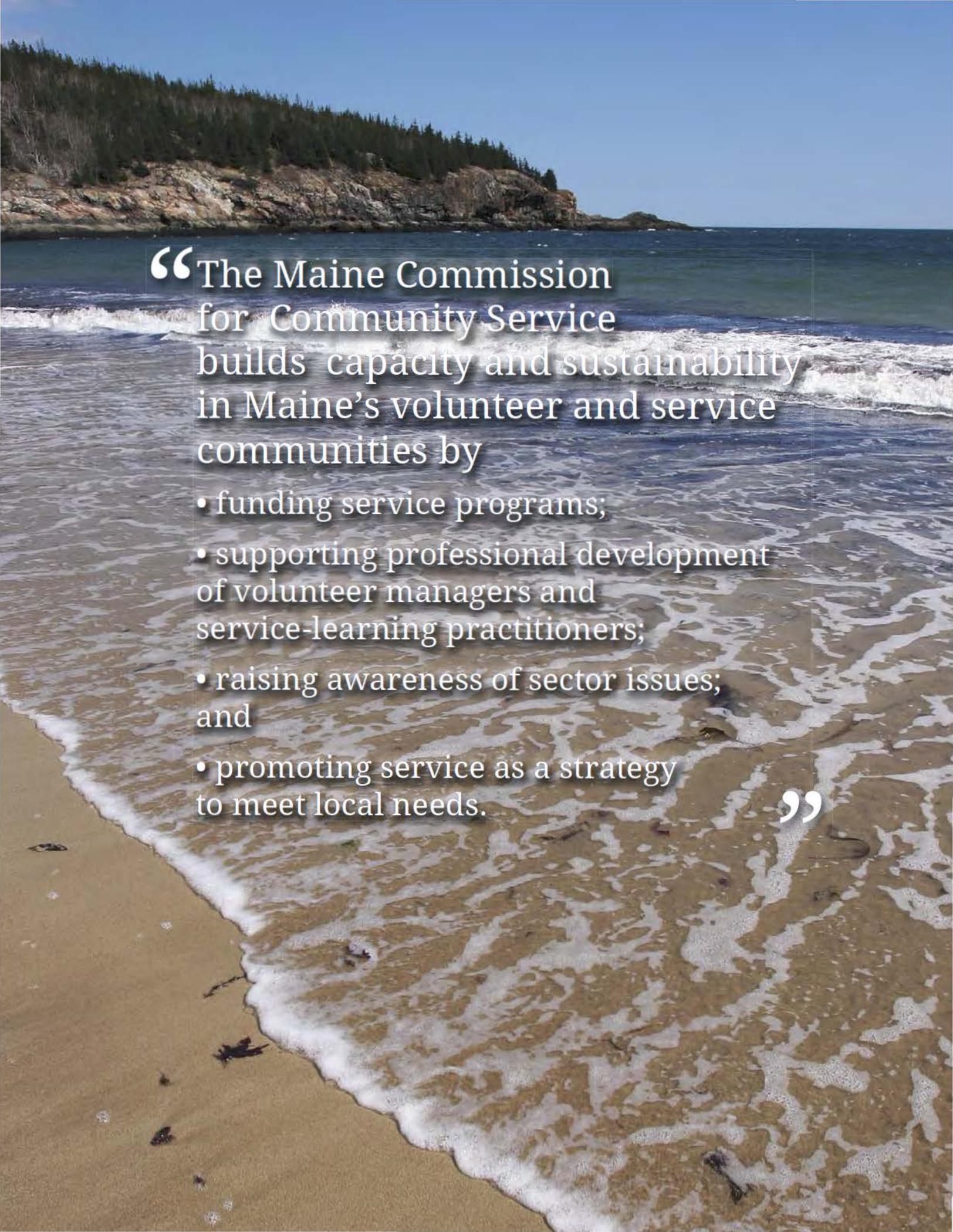
9%

of Maine citizens report they belong to a Service Club or Civic Association.

The Civic Health Index focuses on how citizens build strong communities by staying informed, being connected, and participating or being engaged. The index was started by the National Council on Citizenship (est. 1953) which now partners with the Corporation for National and Community Service on this annual research. The results are published at Civic.Serve.gov.

Four categories of indicators are tracked. Below are Maine's results expressed as a percentage of citizens.

- ◆ 32% - volunteer;
- ◆ 58% - political action (voting and contacting elected officials to express views);
- ◆ social connectedness (interaction with family, neighbors, friends): 89% connect with family; 44% connect with neighbors;
- ◆ 39% - member of a community group (connected to others in community).



“The Maine Commission for Community Service builds capacity and sustainability in Maine’s volunteer and service communities by

- funding service programs;
- supporting professional development of volunteer managers and service-learning practitioners;
- raising awareness of sector issues; and
- promoting service as a strategy to meet local needs.

”

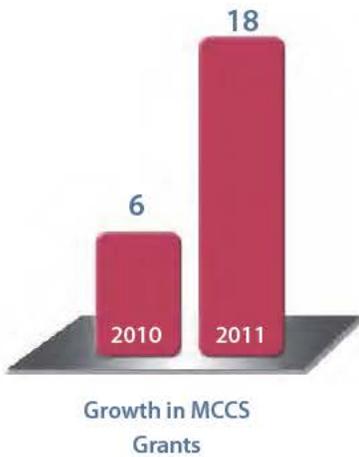
FUNDING SERVICE PROGRAMS

2011 OVERVIEW

The major source of grant funds awarded and managed by the Maine Commission for Community Service are federal monies from the Corporation for National and Community Service. Under these programs, MCCA is responsible for monitoring the performance and outcomes, compliance of grantee and agencies (host sites) at which members serve, and ensuring the participants - especially AmeriCorps members - are eligible to serve and receive program benefits.

In 2011, the Commission added twelve grantees through Learn and Serve, AmeriCorps*State, and Volunteer Generation funds awarded to Maine by CNCS.

At the same time, Time Warner Cable contributed funds for service-learning grants which not only served as match for the federal dollars but also increased the size of the grants to school districts.



2011 AMERICORPS*STATE GRANTEES

Grantee/Program	Grant Funds	# Members
Island Institute/AmeriCorps*Fellows Program	\$139,986	18
Goodwill Industries NNE/Community Resource Corps	\$296,078	75
ME Dept. of Conservation/Maine Conservation Corps	\$390,068	83
Maine Parent Federation/Teen Leadership & Career Corps	\$132,835	11
Hour Exchange/Planning Grant	\$ 29,901	N/A
University of Maine/Planning Grant	\$ 29,996	N/A

- 62 Number of community agencies hosting AmeriCorps members
- 4,170 Number of community volunteers recruited by AmeriCorps to work on projects
- 48,7449 Hours of service by community volunteers (excludes service hours by AmeriCorps)

2011 LEARN AND SERVE: K-12 SCHOOL-BASED GRANTEES

Service-learning is a teaching and learning strategy used from kindergarten through college that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility and strengthen communities.

Two highlights from research on service-learning give a sense of why MCCS is supporting district-wide adoption of this instructional method:

- ◆ Students who participated in service-learning made significantly greater gains in reading, mathematics, history, and science, and are more apt to complete high school than those who did not participate. (Davila and Mora; 2007)
- ◆ Low socio-economic status students who experienced service-learning scored higher in achievement, motivation, grades, bonding to school, and attendance than similar students who did not participate in service. (Scales and colleagues; 2006)



Time Warner Cable contributed \$30,000 to support these awards. The remaining funds were from the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Grantee	Grant Funds	Service-learners	Faculty/Staff	Local Partners
Regional School Unit 34 (Old Town, Bradley, Alton)	\$21,000	700 Elementary 210 Middle 300 Secondary	46	46
Sanford School Department*	\$15,000	622 Elementary 230 Middle 102 Secondary	83	25
*20 Students engaging in service-learning through Summer Programs				
MSAD No. 17, Oxford Hills School District**	\$15,000	145 Elementary 185 Middle 181 Secondary	22	6
**22 Students engaging in service-learning through Summer Programs				
RSU No. 67, Lincoln School District	\$21,000	453 Elementary 292 Middle 264 Secondary	98	59



2011 VOLUNTEER GENERATION FUND (VGF)

The Maine Commission for Community service is one of 19 state commissions receiving Volunteer Generation Funds from the Corporation for National & Community Service. The Fund was a new grant program authorized by the 2009 Serve America Act. It is designed to increase the number of volunteers who make a serious impact on chronic problems and critical needs in communities.

In Maine, The Volunteer Generation Fund purpose is to develop new volunteer centers in four regions of the state where none exist and increase capacity in the existing two volunteer centers. Additionally, the VGF sponsors development of six regional peer networks for managers of volunteers.

What are Volunteer Centers?

Volunteer centers are one-stop locations for:

- ◆ individuals and employers seeking to connect with volunteer programs in their community,
- ◆ nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and schools seeking resources for their volunteer programs, and
- ◆ community leaders seeking to identify appropriate volunteer roles in local responses to needs or issues.

They are a comprehensive resource for all community sectors engaged in responding to local issues and needs.

What do Volunteer Centers do?

Across the country, there are over 250 centers that help the volunteer programs sustain and enhance local impact. Specifically, these centers:

- ◆ provide training and technical assistance to increase volunteer program effectiveness,

- ◆ convene peer networks to provide support and learning opportunities to managers of volunteers,
- ◆ coordinate community-wide days of service that highlight the power of volunteers to impact local problems,
- ◆ recognize the impact and value of volunteers in communities, and
- ◆ participate in community planning and identify how volunteers can contribute in meaningful ways to the solutions.

What are peer networks for managers of volunteers?

The peer networks connect managers and coordinators of volunteer programs at a regional level. Through the networks, these leaders share best practices, encourage collaboration, and create communities of practice focused on engaging citizens as volunteers. Communities of practice are groups of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact on a regular basis.

126

Community Energy Challenge
volunteers built and installed

423

interior storm panels that will result in
energy savings of

\$13,536

for homeowners.

*Sample impact from Volunteer Center,
United Way Tri-Valley Area, Farmington*



Grantee	Status	Funds	Functions	County/Region
Friends in Action Community Connection	New	\$ 3,000	Peer Network	Hancock
Maine Seacoast Mission (Cherryfield campus)	New	\$30,591	Volunteer Center and Peer Network	Washington
United Way of Androscoggin County	New	\$ 8,500	Peer Network	Androscoggin, Oxford
United Way of Eastern Maine	New	\$33,000	Volunteer Center and Peer Network	Penobscot
United Way of Greater Portland	Existing	\$33,000	Volunteer Center and Peer Network	Cumberland
United Way of Mid Coast Maine	New	\$33,000	Volunteer Center and Peer Network	Sagadahoc, Lincoln, Knox, Brunswick, Harpswell
United Way of Tri-Valley Area	New	\$33,000	Volunteer Center and Peer Network	Franklin and Livermore, Livermore Falls
United Way of York County	Existing	\$23,675	Volunteer Center and Peer Network	York

YEAR 1 - VOLUNTEER CENTER HIGHLIGHTS

- Community issues targeted by volunteer centers: Energy, Education, Health
- 8,479 - Number of new volunteers engaged in service related to these issues
- The average amount of time contributed by each volunteer ranged from 5 hours in one region to 54 hours in another county.

“ Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other. ”

John F. Kennedy

SUPPORTING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Commission's work around professional development for National Service grantee staff, their partners, managers of volunteers, and service-learning educators is shaped by four factors:

- ◆ the laws making MCCA responsible for technical assistance and training for National Service grantee staff so their skills, knowledge, and program management abilities support program impact, sustainability, and compliance.
- ◆ the laws and regulations under which MCCA is responsible for helping potential National Service applicants develop the competencies needed to successfully design a program, develop a strong proposal, and compete for funds.
- ◆ research and demonstration findings that link successful achievement of program outcomes to the skills, knowledge and abilities of the leadership in the volunteer or service-learning effort.
- ◆ the existence of national standards for volunteer program management and high quality service-learning implementation as well as established competencies for managers of volunteers.

In 2011, MCCA training, technical assistance, and professional development activities focused on both grant operators and their community partners.

- ◆ AmeriCorps Technical Assistance meetings kept a monthly schedule and 67% of the AmeriCorps staff as well as 22% of VISTA staff attended. These meetings routinely covered compliance issues and federal updates but also included training on program evaluation and the new web platform for project management and reporting.
- ◆ Annual National Service Grantee training was a two-day intensive affair involving 22 grantee staff and MCCA program officers. Sessions covered the new national performance measures, federal agency strategic plan and its impact on grants, as well as best practices in program management.
- ◆ eNews for CNCS grantees was published bi-weekly and distributed to the 75 staff of National Service programs. This bulletin covers federal and Commission issues effecting program operations, reporting, or participation in national events.
- ◆ National Service Staff Council convened quarterly and brought together AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and Volunteer Generation grantees. Its purpose is to facilitate cross program training, closer coordination of activities in communities (especially where multiple grantees are working on similar issues), and planning for statewide activities involving all the programs.

The professional development efforts aimed at a broader constituency were both activities conducted directly by MCCS staff and cost-sharing fees for participation in relevant training conducted by others.

- ♦ *Maine VolunteerFare* subscribers grew 214% to 6,408. (A person subscribes by adding their email to the list on the home page of the MCCS website.) *VolunteerFare* is the electronic newsletter for managers of volunteers. Its content focuses on program operation best practices, news from the volunteer sector in Maine, and new research or learning from national sources. Seven editions were published over the 12 months.
- ♦ VolunteerMaine Webinar Series reached 97 professionals. Of the 12 webinars held, seven were conducted by professionals volunteering their time. All presenters benefitted from coaching from Joan Davis, an expert in virtual training and facilitation. Her volunteer contribution helps presenters make the transition from lecture to interactive learning. The sessions were evaluated by participants on 13 aspects. Overall, the webinars were rated 3.6 out of a possible 4 on quality of content and 3.4 out of 4 on degree to which the webinar furthered the participants' professional development.
- ♦ *From the Field* is the MCCS-sponsored blog which appears on VolunteerMaine.org. In 2011, 72 blogs were posted and reached not only Maine managers of volunteers but also readers in Canada, Australia, Arizona, and all of New England. The 25 bloggers are volunteers with specific expertise. They are recruited and vetted by the Commission before joining the "featured" list.
- ♦ The Professional Development Fund cost-shares educational activities related to increased proficiency in service-learning or managing volunteers. In the last quarter of the year, funds were awarded to staff from AmeriCorps, Learn & Serve, Senior Corps, and several managers of volunteers. Activities supported ranged from a 20 hour course on facilitation to completing requirements for the national certification exam, Certified Volunteer Administrator.
- ♦ The Blaine House Conference on Service and Volunteerism targets the needs of novice volunteer managers and service-learning educators. In 2011, the conference attracted 310 people for a day of training and networking. Trainers from six national organizations joined Maine presenters and 23% of the sessions were focused on service-learning. Highlights of evaluations are the overall rating of sessions as 3.6 out of a possible 4 and a rating of 3.4 out of 4 on the item "increased knowledge/skills."
- ♦ The AmeriCorps Member Conference is a professional development project for AmeriCorps Members. The relatively large planning group is comprised of members and, in the course of organizing the conference, they gain skills and experience in assessing the needs of participants and developing training to meet those needs. 85 people attended in 2011.

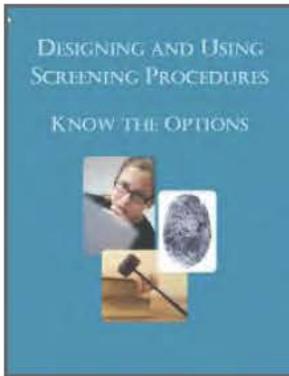
“ The purpose of learning is growth,
and our minds, unlike our bodies, can
continue growing as long as we live. ”

M. Adler

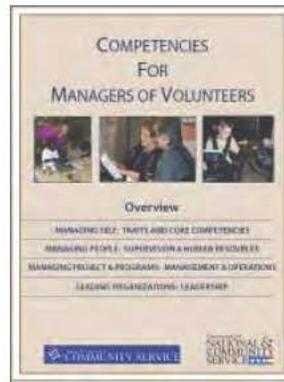
RAISING AWARENESS OF SECTOR ISSUES

MCCS monitors service trends, educates citizens and leaders about emerging challenges or opportunities, and researches issues impacting the volunteer sector. Some of the publications and reports issued in 2011 are highlighted below. MCCS publications can be found on MaineServiceCommission.gov.

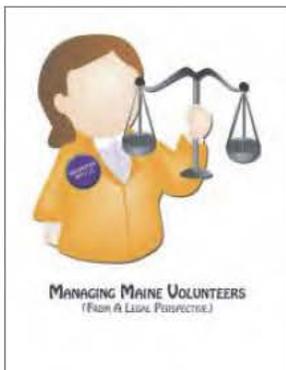
PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH COMPLETED



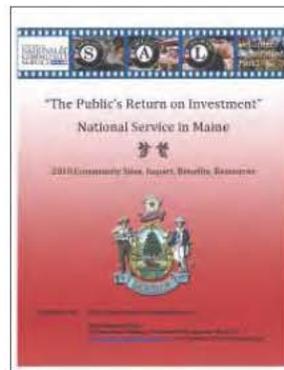
Designing and Using Screening Procedures. Successful volunteer assignments begin with a strong interview and screening process. In places where the people served are vulnerable (children, elders, ill) there often are requirements for criminal background checks. This guide covers options for volunteer programs.



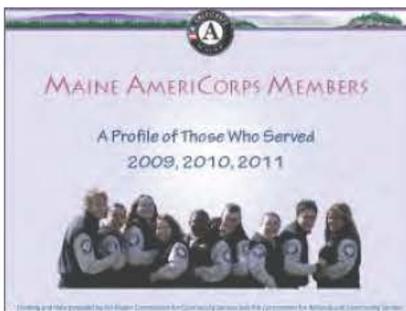
Competencies for Managers of Volunteers (revised). First developed in 2008 and, after international vetting, published for use in the volunteer sector, the revised competencies integrates principles of inclusion into the novice through expert framework. The revision helps volunteer managers lead programs in which citizens of all abilities can contribute.



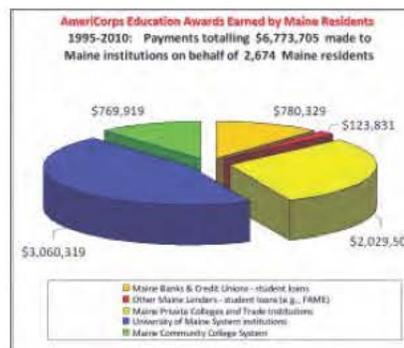
Managing Maine Volunteers (From a Legal Perspective). This long-awaited update of a 1999 publication speaks to issues of volunteer program operation: risk management, liability, duty of care, and laws specifically addressing volunteer issues.



The Public's Return on Investment: National Service in Maine 2010 For the first time, all the Maine National Service grantees are profiled and report on their major accomplishments for 2010, financial and human resources used to achieve objectives, and the community agencies in which their volunteers serve.



Maine AmeriCorps Members: A Profile of Those Who Served (2009, 2010, 2011). This report is based on 388 exit surveys of people who served. Among the findings, 40% of AmeriCorps members move to Maine for service and nearly the same percent opt to remain in Maine when their term is over.



AmeriCorps Education Awards Earned by Maine Residents: Payment to Maine Institutions. Using data obtained from the National Service Trust, the brief paper reports the financial aid earned, the amount used (to date), and the educational as well as financial institutions that have received payments for tuition or student loans.

PROMOTING SERVICE AS A STRATEGY

The Commission is directed to “foster community service and volunteerism as a means of meeting critical human, environmental, educational and public safety needs.” (5MRSA c373 §7501)

In fulfilling this charge, MCCS directly manages several initiatives.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

MCCS co-chairs the Donations Coordination Team with Maine Emergency Management Agency. The Commission is responsible for operating Volunteer Reception Centers (virtual or physical) during declared disasters. A key partner in this effort is 211Maine whose role is to manage calls from potential volunteers who do not have internet access.

A Volunteer Reception Center’s function is to manage the spontaneous volunteers who show up (“self-deploy”) to help. The VRC processes the volunteers away from the zone where first responders are working. It may connect unaffiliated volunteers with organizations that need additional help or create a registry of volunteers available for recovery.

MCCS conducted three trainings on operation of Volunteer Reception Centers. Each event resulted in a team of people who can operate a VRC.

One team of 15 played a key role in the Mass Rescue/Casualty Exercise conducted by the U.S. Coast Guard, the Town of Bar Harbor, Hancock County, and Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines. The VRC processed 89 volunteer “victims” in an hour and, at the end of the day, had one of the highest accountability ratings.

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY OF SERVICE

Since 1994, the celebration of Dr. King’s birthday has been a national day of service, “A Day On, Not A Day Off.” As a state service commission, MCCS joins with the Corporation for National and Community Service in promoting service events that have an impact.

In 2011, MCCS awarded \$500 mini-grants to 16 organizations for MLK service projects. Reports showed 635 volunteers spent the day conducting food drives, health screenings, home winterization, nutrition education, bullying-prevention programs, and more.

GOVERNOR’S AWARDS FOR SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERISM

Nine awards are presented to individuals, businesses, volunteer programs, service-learning educators, school districts, and a volunteer administrator. The April 14, 2011 honorees included MDI School District, TD Bank North, Operation Tribute, Russell Osgood (Cape Neddick), Nickolas Bray (Berwick), Heather Correia (Biddford), and Beverly Larochele (Bangor).



MCCS staff and VRC team members at assignment table for volunteers participating in the Bar Harbor Mass Rescue/Casualty Exercise.

9.11 DAY OF SERVICE AND REMEMBRANCE

In 2009, the families of 9.11 victims and first responders succeeded in having Congress establish September 11 as a day of volunteer community service and remembrance.

MCCS participated in the *I Will* “pledge of service” drive conceived by MyGoodDeed.org, the foundation started by 9.11 families. 27 partners distributed 8,000 pledge cards at 163 events over that weekend.

Nearly 200 volunteers responded immediately and pledged 9,628 hours of service to neighbors and community agencies.

In early 2012, the Commission will poll everyone who pledged to find out how many people were able to complete the service.



VOLUNTEERMAINE.ORG

This one-stop portal for people seeking volunteer opportunities and programs seeking volunteers as well as technical assistance registered 291,529 visitors in 2011.

The 9th anniversary of the site was marked by a makeover that better integrates the five platforms which make up the site. Funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the work was overseen by a committee of local volunteer organizations.

THE MAINE VISTA PROJECT (MVP)

Under an agreement with the Corporation for National and Community Service, MCCS is managing placement, training, supervision, and impact reporting for the largest cohort of AmeriCorps*VISTA members in Maine.

The 34-member project was authorized in March 2011, and VISTA members started serving terms in August 2011. MVP outcomes are determined by the federal funder (CNCS) which has established national performance measures as part of its strategic plan. Thus, MVP aims to

- support 1200 students participating in service-learning activities. VISTA members will work with schools and education-focused nonprofits to increase adoption of service-learning as a teaching methodology linked to positive outcomes, such as increased student engagement, attendance, academic performance, and retention
- develop or strengthen programming which allows 600 veterans to access services and assistance in the areas of access to education, housing, healthcare, and legal services
- build curriculum which allows 200 children of military members to participate in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math education programs outside of school

The project will also meet target outcomes in the areas of financial literacy to refugees and immigrants, improve volunteer management practices, develop anti-obesity and nutrition education for youth, and much more!

Hosting agencies for the MVP AmeriCorps*VISTA members include:

- Augusta, Bread of Life Ministries
- Augusta, Maine Commission for Community Service
- Bangor, Pine Tree Legal Assistance
- Bryant Pond, UMaine Coop. Ext. Bryant Pond
- Kennebunk, United Way of York County
- Lewiston, Healthy Androscoggin/CMCS
- Lewiston, Tri-County Mental Health Services
- Mt. Desert, MDI Regional School System
- Orono, UMaine VETS Program
- Portland, Catholic Charities of Maine
- Portland, Community Financial Literacy
- Portland, Learning Works
- Portland, Pine Tree Legal Assistance
- Portland, The Telling Room
- Portland, United Way of Greater Portland
- Portland, USM Vets Resource Center
- Saco, Sweetser
- Scarborough, Southern Maine Agency on Aging
- Searsport, Searsport District Middle/High School
- Skowhegan, MSAD # 54
- Waldoboro, UMaine Cooperative Extension Knox-Lincoln
- York County, MSAD #35 & MSAD# 57



MVP VISTA Jerry DeWitt coordinated “Veterans Stand Up and Be Counted Day” is a statewide effort to get veterans to stop into veterans service organizations and connect with their benefits. Here, Jerry shakes hands with Senator Margaret Craven who, with Representative Peggy Rotondo helped secure Governor LePage’s proclamation recognizing the event.

The Commission wishes to express its appreciation to Ted Crofoot, graphic designer, who volunteered his services for this report.



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Advancing Volunteerism. Strengthening Communities.

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