

Volunteer Funding Advocacy Update



The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) is a federal agency that engages and supports citizens in service to communities across our country. CNCS and all of its programs have been proposed for elimination in the 2018 federal budget. CNCS programs include: RSVP, Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, AmeriCorps and VISTA.

Greater Cleveland Volunteers has been operating one of these national service programs, the RSVP program for 45 years. The program currently has 425 volunteers, age 55+, providing needed services to 88 nonprofit organizations throughout Cuyahoga County. Our RSVP volunteers provided 56,000 hours of service to the community in 2016. Their service is valued at \$1.3 million.

RSVP volunteers provide meals to those in need at local food pantries, deliver meals to homebound seniors, tutor children and adults, help the unemployed find jobs, assist refugees in resettling, serve the homeless, provide health education, mentor prisoners, assist with disasters, provide services to older adults and much more.

*I ask you to **contact your U.S. Senators** to make them aware of the importance of these national service programs, and the tremendous "return on investment" that they generate in our community, and in communities across the country. If you are an RSVP volunteer (age 55+ serving in one of the areas mentioned above), tell them how important your volunteer service is to you and the people you help in our community. If you are not an RSVP volunteer, we ask for your support of your fellow volunteers that are part of national service programs.*

If you live in Ohio, call or write to Senator Rob Portman and Senator Sherrod Brown and ask them to: Retain current funding levels for the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) programs, including the RSVP program.

Remind them that national service programs are a cost-effective investment and benefit:

- ◆ Nonprofit organizations that receive assistance from national service volunteers
- ◆ Clients at these organizations that receive services from caring volunteers
- ◆ Volunteers that have meaningful opportunities to use their time, talent, and skills

Senator Rob Portman:

Phone: Washington, D.C. office: 202-224-3353 or Cleveland office: 216-522-7095

Mailing Address: 1240 East 9th St, Room 3061, Cleveland, OH 44199

Senator Sherrod Brown:

Phone: Washington, D.C. office: 202-224-2315 or Cleveland office: 216- 522-7272

Mailing Address: 801 West Superior Ave., Suite 1400, Cleveland, OH 44113

You can also contact **your U.S. Representative.**

To find their name and contact information go to this website and enter your home zip code: <http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>

Thank you for your support!

Joy Banish

Executive Director

Greater Cleveland Volunteers

