

May 30, 2012

The Honorable John Garamendi
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Garamendi,

I am pleased to inform you that the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) has awarded a 2012 AmeriCorps grant to one or more organizations in your district. Attached is a brief description of each grantee, including local contact information. We are providing you with this early notification so you have the opportunity to notify your constituents in advance of our public release scheduled for Thursday, May 31, 2012.

These grants are the result of the Fiscal Year 2012 AmeriCorps State and National funding competition, and advance the priorities of the bipartisan 2009 Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act and CNCS' 2011-2015 Strategic Plan. The grants focus AmeriCorps resources on six key service areas: disaster services, economic opportunity, education, environmental stewardship, healthy futures, and veterans and military families. For 2012, we emphasized support for programs with a focus on education, veterans and military families, and disaster services.

The AmeriCorps staff have reported that the current year's grant cycle was highly competitive. This year there were both continued strong demand by organizations seeking AmeriCorps resources and a reduction in available grant funding in CNCS' Fiscal Year 2012 appropriation; as a result, we were unable to fund many outstanding organizations—either for new programming or the expansion of existing programs.

AmeriCorps programs engage more than 80,000 individuals in intensive, results-driven service each year through more than 14,000 organizations across the country. In exchange for 1,700 hours of service, AmeriCorps members earn a \$5,550 Segal AmeriCorps Education Award to help pay for college or pay back student loans. Part-time service opportunities, with proportional education awards, range from 900 to 300 hours. Since 1994, more than 775,000 AmeriCorps members have given 1 billion service hours in their communities. Among other accomplishments, AmeriCorps members last year mobilized 3.4 million community volunteers, and tutored, mentored or served more than 3.5 million disadvantaged youth.

In a time of growing social and economic challenges, national service is a critical and cost-effective method to engage millions of citizens in solving problems in their communities. In implementing the Serve America Act, we are focused on achieving higher levels of impact in our work through our four agency priorities: using service as a solution to meet major national challenges and better demonstrating results; expanding opportunities for more Americans of all

ages and backgrounds to serve and making service a transformative experience for all who serve; maximizing the value we add to grantees, partners, and participants; and operating at the highest level of accountability, integrity, and transparency.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss national service with you at your convenience, so please do not hesitate to contact me or Kim Allman, Acting Director of Government Relations, at (202) 606-6707.

Warmest regards,



Wendy Spencer
Chief Executive Officer

**AmeriCorps State & National Grants
FY2012**

AmeriCorps grants support organizations that sponsor national service programs to tackle community needs in education, veterans and military families, economic opportunity, health, environmental stewardship, and disaster services. Grants cover some of the cost of operating the program, in addition to a small stipend for the AmeriCorps member, which is matched by the recipient organization. Programs which operate in one state only are funded through and supported by their Governor appointed state service commission. Multi-state programs and Indian Tribes programs are funded directly by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

California Children and Families Foundation

First 5 Service Corps

719 El Cerrito Plaza

El Cerrito, CA 94530

Contact: Sheila Boxley
(510) 526-9999
sboxley@thecapcenter.org

This is a single state program funded through California Volunteers.

Contact: Holly Martinez, Executive Director
California Volunteers
770 L Street, Suite 1160
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 323-4504
holly.martinez@CaliforniaVolunteers.ca.gov

Approved Funding Level:

Grant Funding: \$ 1077522

AmeriCorps member positions: 90

Program Summary

AmeriCorps members will provide individualized school readiness activities in one-on-one and/or small group sessions in early care and education environments to children, ages 2-5, in order to increase school readiness of those children and ultimately reduce the academic achievement gap that exists between disadvantaged and affluent students in 11 counties in California.
