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Governor Jay Nixon announces more than \$4 million in AmeriCorps grants for 21 organizations

JEFFERSON CITY – Governor Jay Nixon today announced that 21 Missouri organizations will receive \$4,232,627 in AmeriCorps funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).

These grants will support 695 AmeriCorps Members across the state to serve with twenty one organizations. AmeriCorps Members will tackle critical challenges in Missouri including tutoring and mentoring youth, assisting veterans and military families, facilitating health education programs, preserving our state’s natural resources through environmental stewardship projects, and helping communities respond to and recover from disasters.

“Giving back to one’s community is a proud Missouri tradition and a great way to build character,” said Governor Nixon. “These AmeriCorps Members will meet local needs and strengthen communities as they develop civic and leadership skills that last a lifetime. I congratulate these outstanding organizations and thank all those who serve their communities through AmeriCorps.”

AmeriCorps engages more than 75,000 Members in intensive service annually to serve through nonprofit, faith-based, and community organizations at 25,000 locations across the country. These Members help communities tackle pressing problems while mobilizing millions of volunteers for the organizations they serve. After completing a full term of service, AmeriCorps Members receive an award of \$5,645 that can be used to pay for college or qualified student loans.

“AmeriCorps Members make a powerful impact on the toughest challenges facing our nation,” said CNCS CEO Wendy Spencer. “Building on Missouri’s strong tradition of neighbor helping neighbor, AmeriCorps Members will improve lives and strengthen communities across the state. As they serve others, AmeriCorps Members will also expand opportunities for themselves - gaining skills and experience to jumpstart their careers. As we mark the 20th anniversary of AmeriCorps, we salute AmeriCorps Members for their dedication, and thank our outstanding partners who make their service possible.”

Of the total funding amount, \$2,231,960 will be granted to the Missouri Community Service Commission, the Governor-appointed state service commission, which will award grants to nonprofit organizations and public agencies across the state. The law creating AmeriCorps gave a key role to states in determining how National Service resources are used and in promoting volunteerism and service. Additionally, \$335,287 was awarded to multi-state programs headquartered in Missouri and \$1,847,819 was awarded to Missouri organizations directly by CNCS.

The current year’s AmeriCorps grant cycle was highly competitive, due to the strong demand by organizations seeking AmeriCorps resources. The 2014 competition prioritized investments in economic opportunity, education, veterans and military families, disaster services, and continued a new initiative for governors and mayors.

Below is a listing of 2014 AmeriCorps grants in Missouri.

Multi-State Program:

- Boys Hope Girls Hope Bridgeton \$ 335,287.00

AmeriCorps State Competitive Programs:

• AmeriCorps St. Louis Safety Service Corps	St. Louis	\$ 453,250.00
• Eldon R-1 School District	Eldon	\$ 390,000.00
• Missouri College Advising Corps	Columbia	\$ 524,000.00
• Waynesville R-VI School District	Waynesville	\$ 480,569.00

AmeriCorps State Formula Programs:

• American Red Cross	Springfield	\$ 119,529.00
• Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Missouri	Columbia	\$ 66,500.00
• Boys & Girls Clubs, Inc.	Sedalia	\$ 92,644.00
• Child Abuse Prevention Association	Independence	\$ 106,399.00
• College Bound	St. Louis	\$ 252,700.00
• Harvesters - The Community Food Network	Kansas City	\$ 146,234.00
• inspireSTL	St. Louis	\$ 65,125.00
• International Institute of St. Louis	St. Louis	\$ 131,293.00
• Jumpstart for Young Children	Columbia & Kansas City	\$ 299,999.00
• Missouri River Communities Network	Columbia	\$ 66,500.00
• MO Department of Natural Resources/Division of State Parks	Jefferson City	\$ 66,500.00
• Poplar Bluff R-I School District	Poplar Bluff	\$ 247,950.00
• Primaris/CLAIM	Columbia	\$ 100,097.00
• Purdy R-II School District	Purdy	\$ 71,577.00
• Teach for America	Kansas City & St. Louis	\$ 150,000.00
• YMCA of Greater Kansas City	Kansas City	\$ 66,474.00

2014 marks the 20th anniversary of the AmeriCorps program. Since 1994, more than 830,000 Americans have provided more than 1 billion hours of service addressing critical challenges from poverty and hunger to disasters and the dropout crisis.

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The Missouri Community Service Commission (MCSC) is located within the Missouri Department of Economic Development. Its mission is to connect Missourians of all ages and backgrounds in an effort to improve unmet community needs through direct and tangible service. The MCSC serves as the administrator of AmeriCorps State funding in Missouri by awarding monetary grants and providing technical assistance and support to its sub-grantees.

AmeriCorps is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency that engages more than five million Americans in service through AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, the Social Innovation Fund, and the Volunteer Generation Fund, and leads the President's national call to service initiative, United We Serve. For more information, visit www.NationalService.gov.