



**Ohio Sunset Review Committee  
Agency Questionnaire**

**Agency Name:** Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism (more commonly known as ServeOhio)

**Point of Contact:** William Hall, Executive Director

**Agency's primary purpose – goals and objectives:**

For over twenty years, ServeOhio – Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism has worked with local communities across the state to build a strong infrastructure of AmeriCorps programming and volunteer engagement. ServeOhio acts as a program leader, convener and champion. As a program leader, ServeOhio develops AmeriCorps programs and National Days of Service Projects in partnership with community-level organizations – ensuring that valuable resources are expended on locally-identified, critical needs. In our role as a convener, ServeOhio brings together local and statewide leadership to construct effective strategies for national service expansion and volunteer mobilization. As a champion, ServeOhio celebrates service and volunteerism by recognizing outstanding volunteer achievement; educating local leadership on the impact of service; and increasing professional development opportunities for those in the field to elevate the efficacy of local service and volunteer initiatives.

Working with local partners, ServeOhio builds AmeriCorps programs that meet critical local and state challenges. In the current program year, ServeOhio is funding 20 local AmeriCorps programs engaging over 800 AmeriCorps members who are providing over 1.1 million hours of service. AmeriCorps funding priorities include education; economic opportunity; healthy futures; environmental stewardship; disaster services; and veterans and military families. AmeriCorps programs provide opportunities for Ohioans to make an intensive commitment to service in their community – 1,700 hours over a 10-12 month service term for a fulltime member. Through this unique federal-state-local partnership, ServeOhio is able to address local needs while also providing a valuable service experience for the AmeriCorps member – building skills and increasing employment opportunities for thousands of Ohioans.

The vast majority of our AmeriCorps programs focus on education. ServeOhio improves academic achievement by supporting 692 AmeriCorps members serving in 334 schools across Ohio. AmeriCorps members tutor, mentor, and teach more than 50,000 students– increasing attendance rates and course completion – helping students build successful strategies for high school graduation, targeted higher education pursuits, and meaningful employment opportunities to achieve long-term life goals.

ServeOhio builds skills and increases employment opportunities for the 800 individuals now serving as AmeriCorps members. Ohio AmeriCorps members will receive over 112,000 hours of professional development and training, and will earn over \$3.8 million in education awards that can be used to pay for post-secondary education or qualified student loans. Since the inception of AmeriCorps in 1994, Ohio residents have qualified for more than \$93 million in AmeriCorps education awards – a valuable resource that significantly reduces student debt.

ServeOhio invests in local volunteer mobilization through AmeriCorps and National Days of Service project funding. Last year, Ohio AmeriCorps members mobilized over 15,000 community volunteers to support the organizations they serve. Through a longstanding public-private partnership with Honda Manufacturing of America and AEP Ohio, ServeOhio provides funding for local service projects on MLK Day, Global Youth Service Day, and Make A Difference Day. In the most recent annual funding cycle, over \$19,000 was granted to support 22 service projects that engaged 3,220 Ohio volunteers. In addition to funding volunteer mobilization, ServeOhio champions outstanding volunteers via our ServeOhio Awards which honors high-impact service in local Ohio communities. ServeOhio also convenes Ohio volunteer

administration professionals in high-quality professional development at our annual Ohio Conference on Service and Volunteerism and through targeted dialogue on improving volunteer infrastructure.

***Agency's past and anticipated workload – number of staff required to complete workload and total number of staff:***

In response to decreasing resources in fiscal years 2010-2013, the Commission on Service & Volunteerism decreased its workload by eliminating programming that was less directly connected to the agency mission. This allowed us to downsize our staff from 9 to 6 FTE's without sacrificing our core statutory responsibilities of managing AmeriCorps and supporting community service statewide. Our permanent position ceiling remains at 6 FTE's and we anticipate that this level of staffing will remain stable through the end of the present biennium.

The major driver of workload is our primary mission of administering the AmeriCorps program for the State of Ohio. AmeriCorps is a federally-funded initiative that provides grants to grass-roots organizations in support of projects designed to address specific local needs using the "human capital" of AmeriCorps members, who commit to a term of voluntary national service in exchange for a base living stipend and post-service education award. Federal funds flow to the local projects via state service commissions like ServeOhio; the commissions also are responsible for ensuring projects comply with federal AmeriCorps regulations. The AmeriCorps workload is best explained in terms of a "grant cycle", with five distinct phases: Application, Pre-Award, Award, Project Management/Operation, and Closeout. The complete grant cycle runs 24 months; a new cycle starts every calendar year. This means the first three phases of one cycle overlap the last two phases of the prior cycle, so at any given time staff are working across two cycles (sometimes three cycles, if projects receive extensions.) Three staff work full-time on AmeriCorps, and all of the other three staff spend part of their time on AmeriCorps (estimated 4.25 total FTE's), making the AmeriCorps workload the most significant determinant of overall agency workload. We project the AmeriCorps workload will remain stable over the next few years, with approximately 20-25 sub-grants under management during each grant cycle, accounting for approximately 800 AmeriCorps member service opportunities for Ohioans each year.

The secondary driver of agency workload is our ServeOhio program initiative to encourage and support the overall field of volunteerism and community service in Ohio. It includes management of the ServeOhio website and social media, oversight of the annual ServeOhio awards program, planning and management of the annual ServeOhio Conference, and the National Days of Service Mini-Grant program encompassing three grant competition/award cycles annually. Present workforce allocation is three staff and 1.0 FTE. The ServeOhio workload is projected to remain stable over the next year, with no changes in services or key processes that would significantly alter staff time for this program. Lastly, agency administration also impacts workload. This includes all functions relative to overall agency operations, including finance, human resources/payroll, policy/planning, and office infrastructure. Much of this effort is coordinated through the Department of Administrative Services and Office of Management and Budget. Present workforce allocation is two staff and 0.75 FTE. No significant changes in workload or staff allocations are anticipated over the next several years. Our present staffing level of six full-time FTE's allows us to adequately fulfill our mission and achieve compliance with federal grants management requirements.

***Agency's past and anticipated budget and sources of funding:***

The primary source of funding for the Commission is federal grants from the Corporation for National and Community Service, recorded in Fund 3R70. This includes operating funds for the Commission of approximately \$385,000 per year (subject to a dollar-for-dollar match requirement) and pass-through funds to support AmeriCorps projects throughout the state. Commission support funds and about 60% of the pass-through funds are determined via population-based formula; the remainder of the pass-through funds come from a competitive pool awarded by CNCS on the basis of outstanding program quality. Strong AmeriCorps programs in Ohio have historically leveraged competitive funding of nearly \$2.5 million per year over the past few years. General Revenue Funds support commission operations, and are used as the primary matching source against the federal commission support funds. The GRF totals shown below for FY16 and FY17 reflect the total appropriation as passed by the General Assembly, plus a supplement added via Controlling Board action to restore funding for office rent in Rhodes Tower as requested by OBM (\$11,762 in FY16 and \$10,475 in FY17). Additional GRF support has been requested to offset costs associated with the recently-enacted pay increases, but action on the request remains under review at OBM (\$5,000 in FY16, \$18,000 in FY17). Fund 5GN0 represents corporate support for our ServeOhio programming efforts related to volunteerism, and averages \$30,000 per

year. Per agreement with our federal funding agency, most of the corporate support can be counted as match toward the federal operating grant, which supplements GRF match and decreases the potential federal award that could be forfeited for lack of the dollar-for-dollar match.

Fund	ALI	Description	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17
			(Actual)	(Actual)	(Budget)	(Budget)
GRF	866321	CSV Operations	\$ 286,660	\$ 293,840	\$ 305,834	\$ 304,547
3R70	866617	AmeriCorps Programs	\$ 5,629,763	\$ 6,421,868	\$ 7,182,899	\$ 7,178,630
5GN0	866605	ServeOhio Support	\$ 30,500	\$ 29,602	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
		TOTAL	\$ 5,946,923	\$ 6,745,310	\$ 7,518,733	\$ 7,513,177

**Number of members of agency governing board and their compensation:**

The Ohio Legislature established The Ohio Commission on Service and Volunteerism in 1994, under the original name of The Governor’s Community Service Commission. ServeOhio is purposed specifically to administer grants in Ohio under the federal National & Community Service Trust Act of 1993. The Commission consists of 23 members as defined in Ohio Revised Code 121.40, which composition is intended to be broadly inclusive and non-partisan, in compliance with federal statute (42 USC 12638).

- Four (4) voting members represent state agencies as follows: Department of Aging, Department of Higher Education, Department of Education, and Department of Youth Services. Members are designated by and serve at the pleasure of the Agency directors.
- Two (2) voting members represent the education committees of the Ohio House of Representatives and Senate. Members are the committee chairs or their designees; designees serve at the pleasure of the committee chairs.
- Fifteen (15) voting members are appointed by the Governor. Federal legislation requires representation of the following constituencies: community volunteer sector, program development, faith-based sector, national service programming, youth sector, business sector, community organizations, older adult sector, local government, and local labor.
- Two (2) non-voting members serve ex officio as follows: The Director of the State Office of the Corporation for National and Community Service and the Director of the Governor’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

ServeOhio Commissioners receive no compensation, but are eligible to receive reimbursement for travel expenditures related to meeting attendance.

**Additional notes:**

ServeOhio appreciates the opportunity to testify before this committee and respectfully requests reauthorization to continue our work to expand and support national service and volunteer engagement in Ohio. We would be happy to address any questions you may have at this time.