

**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:

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. States are required to have a state service commission to receive federal AmeriCorps funding. ServeOhio operates as the State Service Commission for Ohio.

For over twenty-five years, ServeOhio 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 26 local AmeriCorps programs engaging over 900 AmeriCorps members who are providing over 1.2 million hours of service. Our AmeriCorps funding priorities include education; economic opportunity; healthy futures; and environmental stewardship. 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.

ServeOhio builds skills and increases employment opportunities for the 900 individuals now serving as AmeriCorps members. Ohio AmeriCorps members will receive over 130,000 hours of professional development and training, and will earn over \$4.2 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 \$118 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. We provide funding for local service projects on MLK Day (January), Global Youth Service Day (April), ServeOhio Day (June) and Make A Difference Day (October). In the most recent annual funding cycle, over \$56,000 was granted to support 63 service projects that engaged 3,500 community volunteers. In addition to funding volunteer mobilization, ServeOhio champions outstanding volunteers via our ServeOhio Awards which honors high-impact service in local communities during National Volunteer Week. ServeOhio also convenes Ohio volunteer administration professionals in high-quality professional development, including our newest Skills-Based Volunteer initiative which trains nonprofit organizations to develop and implement highly defined projects that increase organizational capacity.

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

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 basic 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.) Four staff work full-time on AmeriCorps, and the other four staff members spend a portion of their time on AmeriCorps, making the AmeriCorps workload the most significant determinant of overall agency workload.

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 professional development opportunities for volunteer administrators, including the annual ServeOhio Conference and Skills-Based Volunteer initiative; and the National Days of Service project program encompassing four grant competition/award cycles annually. One staff member currently oversees these components with assistance from organizational leadership and contractual services.

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/Central Service Agency and Office of Management and Budget. Given our role in federal funding administration, two staff members work exclusively in performing oversight of fiscal compliance with our subgrantees and grant management reporting to our federal grantor.

We anticipate expansion of both our AmeriCorps portfolio and volunteer engagement programming over the next few years. AmeriCorps enjoys strong bipartisan support at the federal level and has secured consistent increases in funding during recent federal budget cycles. ServeOhio is accessing such resources to expand AmeriCorps programming in alignment with state priorities relative to the successful transition of foster-care youth; local support for organizations working on the opioid crisis; suicide prevention; and workforce development. We anticipate that our AmeriCorps program portfolio will expand to over 30 programs supporting over 1,000 AmeriCorps members in the next program year. In addition, we anticipate expansion in our volunteer engagement programming as we work closely with the administration and other state agencies on effectively harnessing the power of community volunteers to further statewide priorities. Given such factors, we anticipate the need to increase our workforce from 8.0 FTEs to 11.0 FTEs over the next two years pending federal and state appropriations.

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 \$431,643 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 51% 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 \$4 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 FY20 and FY21 reflect the total appropriation as passed by the General Assembly. Fund 5GN0 represents corporate support for our ServeOhio programming efforts related to volunteerism, and averages \$15,000 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	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21
			(Actual)	(Actual)	(Budget)	(Budget)
GRF	866321	CSV Operations	301,000	305,593	307,176	305,971
3R70	866617	AmeriCorps Programs	7,060,922	8,304,789	9,649,635	9,671,749
5GN0	866605	ServeOhio Support	20,670	8,199	30,000	30,000
Total			7,382,592	8,618,581	9,986,811	10,007,720

Number of members of agency governing board and their compensation:

The Commission consists of 21 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.
- 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.

Agency-recommended legislative changes to improve organizational efficiency:

The commission has no legislative recommendations at this time.

Additional notes:

ServeOhio appreciates the opportunity to demonstrate our impact before this committee and respectfully requests reauthorization to continue our work to expand and support national service and volunteer engagement in Ohio.