

Budget Activity 5: Learn and Serve America

(National and Community Service Act of 1990, Title I, Subtitle B)

Table 18. Learn and Serve America Budget Summary (dollars in thousands)

Budget Item(s)	FY 2009 Actual	FY 2010 Enacted	FY 2011 Request	Increase/ Decrease (2010-2011)
School-based Formula	\$17,249	\$21,019	\$22,003	\$984
School-based Competitive	\$5,683	\$0	\$0	\$0
School-based Tribes and U.S. Territories (set-aside)	\$709	\$650	\$680	\$30
Community-based Competitive	\$4,172	\$0	\$0	\$0
Higher Education	\$9,271	\$9,029	\$9,451	\$422
Innovation in Service-Learning Research	\$0	\$7,417	\$6,670	-\$747
Service-Learning Longitudinal Study	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
GARP	\$375	\$385	\$391	\$6
Total Budget Authority	\$37,459	\$39,500	\$40,198	\$698
Total Volunteers and Participants	1,500,000	1,450,000	1,600,000	150,000

Program Summary

Learn and Serve America (LSA) provides an on-ramp to active citizenship and lifelong volunteering for over a million and a half students each year from kindergarten through college. The service-learning programs that LSA supports engage young people in identifying and addressing community needs, while also strengthening the capacity of communities to address their unique, long-term challenges. Integrating community service and teaching enhances classroom and extracurricular learning and has been demonstrated to improve students' academic, civic, and social skills.

LSA administers a range of grant programs to engage students of all ages in service-learning activities that directly impact their communities:

School-based Formula funds are allotted by statutory formula to State Education Agencies (SEAs) to support service-learning through partnerships between elementary and secondary schools and community organizations.

Higher Education grants are awarded competitively to institutions of higher education to implement service-learning programs that engage students, faculty, and staff in service to the local community. These grants help to increase the long-term capacity of service-learning programs at institutions of higher education.

Indian Tribes and U.S. Territories Grants are funded with School-based funds and are awarded competitively to support service-learning programs locally or throughout a Tribal nation or U.S. Territory. The Kennedy Serve America Act requires that up to three percent but no less than two percent of LSA's School-Based funds are used to support service-learning projects in Tribal nations or U.S. Territories.

Summer of Service grants support collaborative efforts to establish or implement community-based service-learning programs during the summer months. Summer of Service programs will engage 2,000 middle school students in projects that are intensive, structured, supervised, and designed to produce identifiable improvements to the community. This opportunity provides youth – particularly those from disadvantaged

circumstances – with service-learning experiences that will motivate them to become more civically engaged and aspire to obtain higher education. Program participants who complete at least 100 hours of service within the summer program are eligible for a \$500 education award.¹

Program Impact and Accomplishments

The Corporation funded 115 LSA grantees during the 2009 program year (FY 2008 funding) that directly implemented programs and/or provided sub-grants to approximately 1,600 local operating sites. As a result, 1.5 million participants were engaged in service-learning activities for nearly 20 million hours through LSA grant making, addressing challenges and unmet needs across communities.

Table 19. LSA Performance on Corporation Strategic Initiatives

Strategic Initiative and Performance Measure	FY 2007 Actual	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2008 Target	FY 2009 Estimate	FY 2009 Target	FY 2010 Target
Engage Students in Communities						
Number of Higher Education Institutions Matching Segal Award ¹	76	77	67	NA	NA	NA
Number of College Students Serving	76,408	83,436	75,000	80,000	75,000	85,000
Percent of LSA Funded Org Adopting 6 of 9 Sustainability Measures	22%	23%	28%	25%	29%	30%
Ensure a Brighter Future For All of America's Youth						
Number of Disadvantaged Children and Youth Serving Communities	442,265	428,664	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Number of Disadvantaged Youth Mentored through Learn and Serve programs	79,112	94,501	100,000	120,000	110,000	110,000
Percentage of K-12 schools receiving Learn and Serve America grants where 50% or more of the students are eligible for the free or reduced price school lunch program.	49%	53%	50%	54%	52%	55%
Harness Baby Boomers' Experience						
Number of LSA Baby Boomer Volunteers	20,597	21,825	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Mobilize More Volunteers						
Number of LSA Volunteers and Participants	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,300,000	1,500,000	1,450,000	1,600,000
Number of Volunteers Leveraged through Learn and Serve Programs	127,006	141,500	150,000	150,000	130,000	130,000
Number of Volunteer Service Hours Generated through Learn and Serve Programs	12,500,000	19,900,000	25,400,000	22,000,000	22,000,000	22,000,000

¹ The Corporation is no longer tracking this measure.

Final performance data is not yet available for FY 2009 since the Corporation awards LSA grants toward the end of each fiscal year. These grants were focused in the following areas:

Education

Higher education grants totaling \$9.271 million were awarded in two different areas. One group of six grantees is focused on the utilization of Web 2.0 strategies to engage more college students in service. These grantees are leveraging social media tools and the Internet to build an online community of students and faculty dedicated to civic action. A second group of 18 grantees are developing program models that address critical community needs created or worsened by the economic downturn. These models engage students and institutions of higher education in service that supports local nonprofit sectors.

¹ At the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer, a participant who is deemed economically disadvantaged can earn a maximum of \$750.

Community-based Programs

Grants totaling \$4.17 million were awarded to eight national, statewide, and regional nonprofits, to support local service-learning programs, primarily during after-school, weekend, and summer hours.

School-based Competitive Programs

School-based STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) grants totaling \$5.683 million were awarded to seven programs to support the integration of service-learning into middle school STEM curriculum to enhance achievement of academic standards while fostering civic responsibility and knowledge. Classroom learning is applied to the implementation of service activities related to watershed restoration, water quality, air quality and environmental education.

School-based Indian Tribes and U.S. Territories

School-based grants totaling \$1 million were awarded to six tribal nations to make young people part of the solution to the methamphetamine crisis, which is devastating Indian communities and rural areas across the U.S. Grantees engage tribal youth in a variety of anti-meth efforts, including participating in local methamphetamine task forces, serving as peer educators who counsel youth on the dangers of meth, promoting traditional culture and values, developing substance abuse awareness campaigns, and engaging in community service as a positive alternative to drug use. An additional three grants totaling \$709,239 were awarded to school-based tribal entities to implement programs that provide service-learning activities that address a number of local, community issues.

Though grant making through LSA is relatively small, several grantees have successfully leveraged their Corporation funding to acquire additional resources to expand program resources and success.

As part of the National Service-Learning Clearinghouse, Corporation research has documented the significant benefits of service-learning and found that students who participated in service-learning projects that involve reflection, planning, and a duration of a semester or more were three times as likely to believe that they can make a great deal of difference in their community.¹ Moreover, in a national study of service-learning programs for students aged 12-18, the Corporation found that when students had roles in planning projects, as well as sufficient opportunities for reflection, they were more likely to say they would engage in service in the next year, were more interested in world events, and felt more efficacious.²

FY 2011 Budget Request and Performance Plan

For FY 2011, the Corporation requests \$40.198 million for Learn and Serve America, an increase of \$698 thousand over the enacted FY 2010 appropriation. This level of funding includes \$1 million for the Summer of Service program, and will support 150,000 additional program participants over the FY 2010 level. Specifically, LSA plans to:

- **Engage disadvantaged youth in service.** Grantees who receive funding through the Summer of Service program will target disadvantaged youth in service to low-income communities, employing them as assets to improve their individual communities as well as their leadership skills and civic engagement. Applicants will demonstrate the civic impact on students who participate. LSA also will continue to implement its Youth Engagement Zone initiative.
- **Mentor disadvantaged youth.** Grantees will mentor over 120,000 youth from disadvantaged backgrounds by matching them with a college student or adult in a supervised setting through school-based and other programs aimed at supporting and advancing their academic achievement and college access.

¹ National Service Learning Clearinghouse. Online. Available: <http://www.nylc.org/objects/publications/StandardsResearch.pdf>, pg. 2

² National Service Learning Clearinghouse. Online. Available: <http://www.nylc.org/objects/publications/StandardsResearch.pdf>, pg. 17

- **Catalyze college students to serve.** Grantees will attract over 195,000 college students to service. These students will create a vital link between institutions of higher education and challenged communities, particularly through their support to local nonprofits and schools struggling with high dropout rates.

This request also includes \$1 million to support the second year of a ten-year longitudinal study on the impacts of service-learning. This study, together with the implementation of national performance measures, will continue to provide data on the impact of service-learning on communities and students.

In FY 2011, the Corporation will focus school-based formula grants on increasing student achievement and making measurable improvements in the environment, health, and economic success for students and communities. Higher Education grants will continue to focus on drop-out prevention, teacher preparation, and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

As part of the update to the Corporation's strategic plan, LSA will focus on developing performance measures specifically on student engagement, student attendance, student behavior, and student academic achievement. However, until the update to the Corporation's strategic plan is complete in fall 2010, it is not possible to provide a full, detailed performance plan.