




COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
Office of the Commissioner

October 27, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Glenn Youngkin
Governor of Virginia

Members, Virginia General Assembly

FROM: Kevin Erskine 

SUBJECT: Annual Report on the Governor's Advisory on Service and Volunteerism

This report is submitted in compliance with § 2.2-2481 of the Code of Virginia, which provides the following regarding activities of the Governor's Advisory Board on Services and Volunteerism:

5. Submit an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly for publication as a report document as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports. The chairman of the Board shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an annual executive summary of the interim activity and work of the Board no later than the first day of each regular session of the General Assembly. The executive summary shall be submitted for publication as a report document as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

Please contact me with any questions at (804) 726-7011.


KE:kc
Attachment

cc: The Honorable Janet V. Kelly, Secretary of Health and Human Resources



Annual Report on the Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism

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Pictured on cover: GABSV members with Governor Youngkin during the 2024 Governor’s Volunteerism & Community Service Awards.

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY BOARD ON SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERISM

A Report to the Governor and the Virginia General Assembly

October 1, 2025

REPORT MANDATE

§ 2.2-2481 of the Code of Virginia provides the following regarding activities of the Governor's Advisory Board on Services and Volunteerism:

5. Submit an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly for publication as a report document as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports. The chairman of the Board shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an annual executive summary of the interim activity and work of the Board no later than the first day of each regular session of the General Assembly. The executive summary shall be submitted for publication as a report document as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The activities of the Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism (GABSV) improved the quality of life for Virginians. Working hand in hand with community partners, the GABSV tackled some of the most pressing challenges facing the Commonwealth.

The GABSV leveraged a federal investment of **\$17 million** to support AmeriCorps members serving across the Commonwealth and empower the implementation of the three-year State Service Plan (SSP) in partnership with the Virginia Service Foundation. The 2025-2027 SSP was also created to promote strategies **to increase participation in service and volunteer activities** and **improve the capacity and quality of the volunteer and service ecosystem statewide**.

The second Virginia Community Engagement Index (VCEI), a comprehensive study of service, volunteerism, and civic action, **surveyed more than 3,200 Virginians**. The GABSV also championed Serve Virginia's effort to secure a \$500,000 award to support a new Youth Mental Health Corps program in Virginia as part of a national initiative to help youth access mental health resources and to support workforce development.

An additional **\$75,000 was secured to support the development of a new Volunteer Hub** across the rural River Counties of Lancaster, Middlesex, and Northumberland, Virginia.

About VDSS and Volunteerism

The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) partners with local departments of social services and community organizations to promote the well-being of children and families across the Commonwealth.

We proudly serve alongside nearly 13,000 state and local human services professionals throughout the Social Services System, who ensure that thousands of Virginia's most vulnerable citizens have access to the best services and benefits available to them.

Together, we work each day to serve, empower, and create opportunities for brighter futures.

The Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism (GABSV) improves the quality of life for Virginians. Americans of all ages and backgrounds united to meet local needs, strengthen communities, and expand opportunity through national service in Virginia. AmeriCorps invests federal funding to support cost-effective community solutions, working hand in hand with local partners to empower individuals to help communities tackle their toughest challenges.

DEFINITIONS

The Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism

The Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism (GABSV) is part of the Virginia Department of Social Services' Division of Community and Volunteer Services. This organizational placement allows staff to integrate service and volunteerism priorities with statewide programs and projects. [GABSV members](#) are confirmed by the Governor.

In accordance with VA Code § 2.2-2478, the GABSV is established as an advisory board, within the meaning of § 2.2-2100, in the executive branch of state government to advise the Governor and Cabinet Secretaries on matters related to promotion and development of national service in the Commonwealth and to meet the provisions of the federal National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993. GABSV membership is included in Appendix B.

AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps is the federal agency for national service and volunteerism. AmeriCorps provides opportunities for Americans of all backgrounds to serve their country, address the nation's most pressing challenges, and improve lives and communities. The AmeriCorps mission is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement.

AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC)

AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) is a full-time, team-based residential service program for 18-26-year-olds. AmeriCorps members serving in the NCCC program represent a wide variety of socioeconomic, cultural, geographic, and educational backgrounds.

AmeriCorps members serving in the NCCC program are assigned to one of four regional campuses and then placed into teams ranging between 8-12 members. The teams complete a variety of service projects, which are generally 3 to 13 weeks in duration, and respond to local communities' needs throughout the United States and territories. Each team has a specially trained Team Leader who serves and resides with the team. Each team is provided with one 15-passenger van and fuel is covered by AmeriCorps (for locations in the continental US). Each team is also allocated funds for food and laundry. All members are background-checked and fully insured by the Federal Tort Claims Act and Federal Employees Coverage Act.

AmeriCorps Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA)

Founded in 1965, Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) is an anti-poverty program designed to provide needed resources to nonprofit organizations and public agencies to increase their capacity to lift communities out of poverty. AmeriCorps VISTA provides opportunities for Americans 18 years or older from a diverse range of backgrounds to dedicate a year of full-time service with an organization ("sponsor") to create or expand programs designed to empower individuals and communities in overcoming poverty.

CONTACTS

Kathy Spangler, Director, Serve Virginia

kathy.spangler@dss.virginia.gov, 804-567-0039

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE GABSV

BACKGROUND

The GABSV was established in compliance with the National and Communities Trust Act of 1993 under which Virginia receives AmeriCorps State grant funds.

As the state service commission, Serve Virginia is guided by the GABSV and operates within VDSS with support from the Virginia Service Foundation (VSF), an independent 501(c)(3). Serve Virginia leads national service and community volunteerism across the state, setting priorities and developing resources. In addition to overseeing annual grants for AmeriCorps State, Serve Virginia works to determine and respond to community needs, set policy priorities, and recognize individuals and organizations for their community contributions.

Section 2.2-2481 specifies four mandates for the GABSV. This report documents the collaborative efforts of VDSS staff and the GABSV for July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025.

SECTION 1: AMERICORPS & THE VIRGINIA STATE SERVICE PLAN

Mandate 1: Advise the Governor, the Secretaries of Health and Human Resources, Education, and Natural and Historic Resources, the Assistant to the Governor for Commonwealth Preparedness, the State Board of Social Services, and other appropriate officials on national and community service programs in Virginia in order to (i) fulfill the responsibilities and duties prescribed by the federal Corporation for National and Community Service (now operating as AmeriCorps) and (ii) develop, implement, and evaluate the Virginia State Service Plan, which outlines strategies for supporting and expanding national and community service.

GRANTS MANAGEMENT

Members of the GABSV continue to empower the [Virginia State Service Plan](#) (SSP). During this period they worked to conclude the 2022-2024 SSP and engage stakeholders in the creation of the 2025-2027 SSP, ensuring that VDSS met AmeriCorps requirements. As part of this, they also served on grant review panels to recommend funding for AmeriCorps grants. The approved recommendations totaled \$6,164,683 for the 2025-2026 program year.

AMERICORPS NATIONAL DAYS OF SERVICE

GABSV members supported activities on National Days of Service in communities across the state, supporting AmeriCorps' recognition and support of 9/11 and MLK Day. The Virginia Service Foundation awarded mini grants of up to \$250 to 25 community organizations.

COMMUNITY SERVICE IN VIRGINIA

In 2024, the GABSV and Serve Virginia led the implementation of the 2025 Virginia Community Engagement Index (VCEI) in order to collect updated data on the state of service, volunteerism, and civic action in Virginia; to study new trends; and to analyze how Virginians continue to invest in their local communities. More than 3,200 respondents from across Virginia participated, representing all regions of the state, and full findings will be reported in late 2025.

SECTION 2: PROMOTE AMERICORPS PROGRAMS

Mandate 2: Promote the use of AmeriCorps programs to meet Virginia's most pressing human, educational, environmental, and public safety needs.

The GABSV led efforts to promote and increase the use of other AmeriCorps programs.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PROMOTING AMERICORPS & SERVICE

Elected officials promoted AmeriCorps programs and community service by visiting sites:

- The Honorable Senator R. Creigh Deeds; Virginia College Advising Corps; July 22, 2024
- First Lady of Virginia Suzanne S. Youngkin; Girls on the Run Hampton Roads; April 24, 2025
- The Honorable Delegate Chris Runion; Appalachian Conservation Corps; June 13, 2025

AMERICORPS NCCC

Serve Virginia supported National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), including 10 projects and 88 NCCC AmeriCorps members in Virginia, improving public lands, supporting disaster preparedness and response, providing educational opportunities, and helping build and repair homes for vulnerable Virginians, among other activities.

AMERICORPS VISTA CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT

Serve Virginia administered a VISTA capacity-building project with 11 sites within VDSS and local nonprofits. One VISTA leader and 11 VISTA members offered practical support for substance use abatement, refugee and immigrant services, emergency management, and more.

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH CORPS

Following a successful planning grant, Serve Virginia and the GABSV secured \$500,000 to support the creation of a Youth Mental Health Corps program in Virginia as part of a national initiative to help youth access mental health resources and to support workforce development.

AMERICORPS IN VIRGINIA

In 2024, AmeriCorps provided more than \$17 million in federal funding to support Virginia communities through national service initiatives. These initiatives were carried out by national service members and volunteers participating in AmeriCorps programs, impacting over 371 service sites in Virginia. AmeriCorps members served 16,694 youth; 2,557 individuals in need of substance use intervention; and 874 individuals who needed job training/placement. In addition, AmeriCorps members in Virginia earned \$3,422,390 in Segal Education Awards.

In April 2025, the federal AmeriCorps agency issued two letters of termination to Serve Virginia, as part of a nationwide termination of FY24-funded AmeriCorps programs. In Virginia, this terminated 16 out of 23 AmeriCorps operational grant programs (totaling \$4,191,036 in formula funding with a match of nearly \$2 million) as well as the Serve Virginia AmeriCorps VISTA Capacity Building Project (valued at \$350,000 annually). The terminated AmeriCorps programs reflected a loss of critical services and prematurely exited over 155 AmeriCorps members in Virginia. New funding has been awarded for the 2025-2026 program year.

SECTION 3: RECOGNIZE COMMUNITY SERVICE CONTRIBUTIONS

Mandate 3: Collaborate with the Department of Social Services and other public and private entities to recognize and call attention to the significant community service contributions of Virginia citizens and organizations.

GOVERNOR'S VOLUNTEERISM & COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

With the help of the GABSV, Governor Youngkin selected honorees for the 2024 Governor's Volunteerism & Community Service Awards, spotlighting outstanding efforts of volunteers and organizations across Virginia. In 2024, 156 nominations were submitted and [10 honorees](#) were recognized in November during an awards reception at Virginia's Executive Mansion.

VIRGINIA VOLUNTEERISM SUMMIT

The 2025 Virginia Volunteerism Summit featured more than 25 workshops, networking opportunities, and keynotes to promote innovation across organizations and institutions that utilize volunteers in Virginia. Fifty-five Virginia counties and cities were represented in the more 360 registrants for this year's event, presented by Serve Virginia, VDSS, GABSV, and VSF.

SECTION 4: FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Mandate 4: Assist the Department of Social Services to promote the involvement of faith-based organizations in community and national service efforts.

The GABSV engaged faith-based organizations in community and national service efforts through National Days of Service, the Governor's Volunteerism & Community Service Awards, the Virginia Community Engagement Index (VCEI), and the Virginia Volunteerism Summit.

RESOURCES

Serve Virginia staff partnered with the VDSS Division of Public Affairs to promote volunteerism and service resources to the faith community through the Serve Virginia newsletter, social media, and [ServeVirginia.org](https://www.ServeVirginia.org).

CONCLUSION

The accomplishments and activities of the GABSV helped improve the lives of Virginians through service, and the work of the GABSV continues to go well beyond the federally mandated responsibilities. The GABSV promotes volunteerism through their own service initiatives and partners with the Governor and other elected officials to recognize volunteer efforts. Working hand-in-hand with local partners, the GABSV continues to collaboratively set statewide priorities, while cultivating a sustainable infrastructure for all to engage in service and volunteerism and developing resources for the Commonwealth to meet Virginians' pressing needs.

APPENDIX A CODE OF VIRGINIA, ARTICLE 25

Article 25. Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism

§ 2.2-2478. Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism; purpose.

The Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism (the Board) is established as an advisory board, within the meaning of § 2.2-2100, in the executive branch of state government to advise the Governor and Cabinet Secretaries on matters related to promotion and development of national service in the Commonwealth and to meet the provisions of the federal National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993.

§ 2.2-2479. Membership; terms; quorum; meetings.

A. The Board shall consist of no more than 20 nonlegislative citizen members, to be appointed by the Governor from the Commonwealth at large. Nonlegislative citizen members appointed to the Board shall be selected for their knowledge of, background in, or experience with the community and volunteer services sector and in accordance with guidelines provided in the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993. The Governor may appoint additional persons, at his discretion, as nonvoting members.

B. Nonlegislative citizen members shall be appointed for terms of three years. Appointments to fill vacancies shall be for the unexpired terms. No nonlegislative citizen member shall be eligible to serve more than two successive three-year terms; however, after the expiration of the remainder of a term to which a member was appointed to fill a vacancy, two additional terms may be served by such member if appointed thereto.

C. The voting members of the Board shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman annually from among its membership. A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum. The Board shall meet no more than six times per year. The meetings of the Board shall be held at the call of the chairman or whenever the majority of the members so request.

2015, cc. 26, 452; 2017, c. 395; 2018, c. 455.

§ 2.2-2480. Compensation; expenses.

Members shall receive no compensation for their services. However, all members shall be reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as provided in §§ 2.2-2813 and 2.2-2825. Funding for the costs of compensation and expenses of the members shall be provided by the Department of Social Services in accordance with federal law.

§ 2.2-2481. Powers and duties of the Board.

The Board shall have the power and duty to:

1. Advise the Governor, the Secretaries of Health and Human Resources, Education, and Natural and Historic Resources, the Assistant to the Governor for Commonwealth Preparedness, the State Board of Social Services, and other appropriate officials on national and community service programs in Virginia in order to (i) fulfill the responsibilities and duties prescribed by

the federal CNCS and (ii) develop, implement, and evaluate the Virginia State Service Plan, which outlines strategies for supporting and expanding national and community service throughout the Commonwealth.

2. Promote the use of AmeriCorps programs to meet Virginia's most pressing human, educational, environmental, and public safety needs.

3. Collaborate with the Department of Social Services and other public and private entities to recognize and call attention to the significant community service contributions of Virginia citizens and organizations.

4. Assist the Department of Social Services to promote the involvement of faith-based organizations in community and national service efforts.

5. Submit an annual report to the Governor and the General Assembly for publication as a report document as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports. The chairman of the Board shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an annual executive summary of the interim activity and work of the Board no later than the first day of each regular session of the General Assembly. The executive summary shall be submitted for publication as a report document as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

§ 2.2-2482. Staffing.

The Department of Social Services and any other executive branch agencies as the Governor may designate shall serve as staff to the Board. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall assist the Board upon request.