



2021 Maryland State Service Plan

Mission

The [Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism](#)'s (GOSV) mission is to change Maryland for the better through service and volunteerism.

State Service Plan Overview

The Maryland State Service Plan is a roadmap for national service and volunteerism in Maryland. It outlines priorities and strategies for 2021 through 2023. It was developed by the State Service Plan work group which consists of [Commissioners](#) and [GOSV staff](#), based upon a public input process. The plan focuses on two overriding goals: raising the profile of the GOSV and its resources, and expansion of the GOSV's purview; all in an effort to reach communities, organizations, and individuals across Maryland with meaningful, effective service and volunteerism.

Priorities

Priority 1: *Expand and Improve [AmeriCorps Programs](#) in Maryland*

STRATEGY: Through targeted outreach, grantmaking and grantee support, the GOSV will support development of new AmeriCorps programs, the growth of existing AmeriCorps programs, and the reach of AmeriCorps resources into communities throughout all regions of Maryland.

ACTION STEPS:

A. Address the relevant needs of the community as deciphered through the public input process including ongoing surveys and focus groups conducted periodically.

B. Identify organizations that have the capacity to apply for AmeriCorps program operating grants and provide information and support.

C. Support existing AmeriCorps operating grant recipients in applying for and retaining competitive AmeriCorps funding and/or scaling up to increase the reach of their programs and the number of AmeriCorps opportunities throughout the state.

D. Develop a statewide outreach strategy that provides information about national service to nonprofits, schools and government agencies, including small grassroots and faith-based organizations.

E. Host training and professional development events that are open to all national service participants and/or program staff in Maryland.

Priority 2: *Increase Volunteer Engagement*

STRATEGY: The GOSV will serve as the hub for volunteer engagement in Maryland through its volunteer engagement platform, volunteer recognition events, and support of regional and local volunteer efforts.

ACTION STEPS:

A. Launch statewide volunteer engagement platform, connecting it to local volunteer engagement platforms throughout the state.

B. Host recognition events and programs: the Governor's Volunteer Recognition Day at the Maryland State Fair, the Baltimore Ravens' Honor Rows, the Governor's Service Awards, the GOSV Youth Service Awards, and the Black History Month Leadership and Service Awards.

C. Collaborate with and support local volunteer organizations.

Priority 3: *Strengthen Community Partnerships and Collaborations*

STRATEGY: The GOSV will utilize information gathered from the public input process to communicate community needs and strengthen connections where they are needed with community partners, service stakeholders, state and local agencies, and corporations.

ACTION STEPS:

A. Community Partners and Collaborators:

- Collaboratively advocate for increased access to community identified need of technology to enhance and support service.

- Assist partners, particularly in the Eastern Shore and Western Maryland regions, in accessing for-profit corporate funding, grants, and key partnerships for long-term, equitable, sustainable efforts.
- B. Service Stakeholders: Promote AmeriCorps national service resources such as VISTA, NCCC, Senior Corps, hosting individual AmeriCorps members, and AmeriCorps planning grants.
 - C. State and Local Agencies: Facilitate agencies accessing national service resources, and connecting service stakeholders and partners.
 - D. Corporations: Offer summary of community-identified needs and facilitate relevant partnerships to achieve corporate-social responsibility goals.

Crosscutting Priority 4: *Increase Service and Volunteerism Opportunities and Engagement for People Over 55*

STRATEGY: The GOSV will focus on opportunities for individuals over 55 as it implements its strategies in each priority area, endeavoring to increase over 55 participation in volunteerism and all streams of service.

ACTION STEPS:

- A. Provide training and support to help existing and new AmeriCorps program staff in their outreach efforts to recruit individuals over the age of 55.
- B. Strive to connect individuals over the age of 55 with volunteer opportunities throughout the state and in a wide range of activities.
- C. Support existing streams of service, especially AmeriCorps Seniors programs, in their networking efforts.
- D. Ensure that at all times the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism has at least one Governor-appointed commissioner who has knowledge of and experience in engaging individuals over the age of 55 in service and volunteerism.
- E. Promote intergenerational activities that invite seniors to share their skills and connect with youth to form mutually beneficial relationships.