

Research Report Brief

Report on Veterans and Military Families



Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE**

What was the research question?

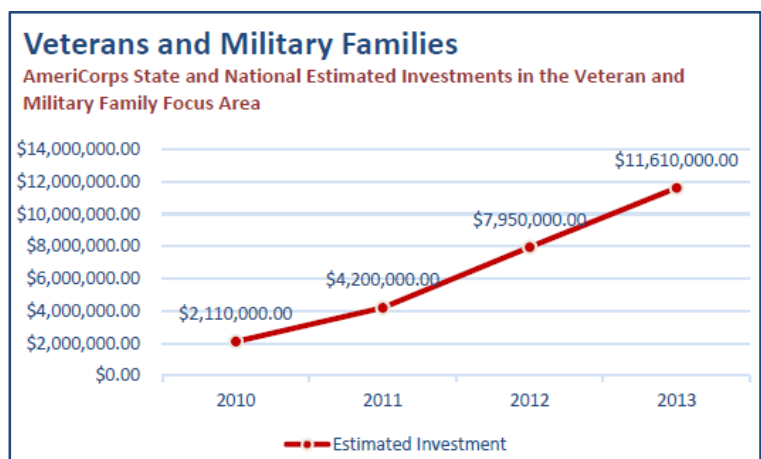
The purpose of this study was to understand how Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) grantees are engaging veterans and military families in national service. The research was focused on these CNCS-generated issue areas: (1) services and support to military families; (2) volunteer opportunities for veterans; (3) education and certifications; (4) employment; (5) access to benefits; (6) military children; (7) wounded warriors; and (8) wellness and other support services.



What did the survey find?

Overall, the survey indicated:

- In 2012, CNCS **designated more than 1,000 AmeriCorps members to support veterans and military families** and recruited more than **27,000 veterans to serve as AmeriCorps and Senior Corps members** across 200 American communities.
- In 2013, CNCS **provided funding for more than 2,500 AmeriCorps members** serving veterans and military families.
- More than **500 Senior Corps projects and 8,000 Senior Corps volunteers** serve at Veterans Affairs facilities each year.
- More than **36,000 veterans benefitted** from AmeriCorps assistance in 2013; in 2012 Senior Corps volunteers provided **service to approximately 300,000 veterans**.
- CNCS launched a **series of partnerships** in 2012-13 to support veterans and their families. These include: working with the National Guard Bureau to improve services, launching the Vet Corps initiative with the National Guard and the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, and beginning the VA's VetSuccess on Campus Counselors project with AmeriCorps members to help ease veterans' transition to campus life.
- AmeriCorps funded **more than 1.2 million volunteer hours** in support of veterans and military families in 2011-2012. The economic benefit of CNCS programs for veterans and military families is estimated to exceed \$28 million.
- CNCS implemented a variety of **organizational changes** to improve its engagement of veterans and military families. For example, CNCS established veterans and military families-focused projects as a Tier 1 funding priority, as explicitly noted in new CNCS Notices of Funding Opportunities.



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Research Methodology

This report was a synthesis of various sources and studies to illuminate and illustrate CNCS' relationship with and service to veterans and military families in America. The report is a component of the CNCS effort to evaluate its adherence to its 2011-2015 Strategic Plan, which establishes objectives specifically related to better integrate the veterans and military families community in national service.

Veterans and Military Families

AmeriCorps State and National Estimated Members Serving in the Veteran and Military Family Focus Area



Study At-a-Glance

Study Design: Synthesis Report

Research Partner: National Academy of Public Administration

How is CNCS using the findings to improve?

CNCS is using this report to better address the challenges programs face when engaging and recruiting veterans into national service opportunities. Shortly after the report was completed, the CNCS CEO assembled a Veterans and Military Families Steering Committee and charged them with developing recommendations that would increase CNCS's ability to serve more veterans and the ability of more veterans to serve. The findings of the report also led CNCS to offer training workshops, materials, and special initiatives aimed at establishing best practices for engaging and serving the veterans community. Lastly, this report highlighted for the field CNCS programs and grantees that were using national service to improve their support of veterans and military families.

The content of this brief was drawn from the full research report submitted to CNCS by National Academy of Public Administration. The brief was written by staff in the Office of Research and Evaluation at CNCS. All original content from the full report is attributable to its authors.

AmeriCorps engages more than 75,000 Americans in intensive service each year at nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups across the country. Since the program's founding in 1994, more than 900,000 AmeriCorps members have contributed over 1.2 billion hours in service across America while tackling pressing problems and mobilizing millions of volunteers for the organizations they serve.

Senior Corps connects today's 55+ with the people and organizations that need them most. We help them become mentors, coaches or companions to people in need, or contribute their job skills and expertise to community projects and organizations. Volunteers receive guidance and training so they can make a contribution that suits their talents, interests, and availability.