



September 18, 2026

AmeriCorps Agency Colleagues,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the President's Volunteer Service Award. This comment is provided by America's Service Commissions (ASC), the association of the 52 Governor designated state service commissions, which administer 75% of AmeriCorps State and National funding and support an ethic of service in their states and territories. Additionally, several commissions and many of their local partners serve as certifying organizations for the President's Volunteer Service Award.

We are hopeful that this public comment opportunity is not simply a procedural task but may be a signal that the PVSA is being resumed. This comment should be viewed as encouragement to the AmeriCorps Agency to bring the PVSA off pause and relaunch this initiative centered around recognizing everyday Americans serving their neighbors.

The President's Volunteer Service Award is one avenue to shine a light on to the agency's mission to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering by recognizing every day Americans serving Americans in communities across the country.

We encourage the agency to consider the following renovations to the President's Volunteer Service Award:

- High participation costs – the PVSA may be cost prohibitive to some organizations that are interested in acting as certifying organizations.
- Consider implications of the sudden and lengthy pause period on folks working towards the lifetime award.
- Remain cognizant of the burden on certifying organizations, community organizations, and the individuals themselves if looking to further renovate the process, materials, or other PVSA-related mechanisms.
- We encourage an update the broader field on the status of the PVSA program and when the pause may be lifted.

ASC and the state service commission network welcome the opportunity to discuss this comment and the President's Volunteer Service Award further. Don't hesitate to reach me at azuel@statecommissions.org with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Alli Zuel, CVA
Network & Volunteer Engagement Manager
America's Service Commissions (ASC)