

**Memorandum of Understanding
Between
The Administration on Aging
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
And
The Corporation for National and Community Service**

By this **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)**, made on the date indicated below, by and between the Party, the Corporation for National and Community Service (hereinafter, "Corporation"); and the Party, the Administration on Aging, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (hereinafter, AoA), the Parties agree to the following:

Purpose and Scope

Some 45 million Americans participate in volunteer activities and 15 million - about one third - of these are older persons. Despite the large number of people who share their time and talents, the needs of our communities and the nation outstrip the number of people who volunteer. Older Americans are in an excellent position to volunteer. In many cases they may have the time as well as the experience and expertise to help in a variety of activities. In addition, recent research findings, documented in *The Health Benefits of Volunteering: A Review of Recent Research*, demonstrate the positive relationship between health and volunteering. Older volunteers, in particular, are the most likely to receive greater benefits from volunteering.

The Older Americans Act (OAA) was originally signed into law in 1965. In addition to creating the Administration on Aging, it authorized grants to States for community planning and services programs, demonstration training projects in the field of aging.

The 2006 amendments to the Older Americans Act highlight the role of volunteers as a strategy to support and enhance OAA programs. The amendments:

- provide guidelines for the use of volunteers at all levels in OAA programs;
- provide for demonstration grants for a variety of multigenerational and civic engagement activities and training and technical assistance initiatives that encourage community capacity-building involving older individuals and demonstrate effectiveness and cost savings in meeting critical needs; and
- call for collaboration between the AoA and the Corporation in modernizing the way community-based organizations utilize older adults as volunteers.

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to facilitate the development of collaborative activities between the AoA and the Corporation to help modernize the way community based organizations utilize older adults as volunteers. AoA and the Corporation are entering this agreement to address issues affecting older

Americans within the extent of each organization's jurisdiction and available resources. AoA and the Corporation agree to work together through the activities described below.

Background

Administration on Aging

AoA's mission is to promote the dignity and independence of older people, and to help society prepare for an aging population. AoA provides financial support to develop comprehensive and coordinated home and community-based care for older people and their caregivers. Created in 1965 to carry out the OAA, AoA is part of a federal, state, tribal and local partnership consisting of 56 State Agencies on Aging, 655 Area Agencies on Aging, 244 Tribal and Native organizations, two organizations serving Native Hawaiians, and 29,000 local service providers. Each year about nine million older people, and over 700,000 of their caregivers, use AoA services, whose delivery largely depends upon the efforts of a half a million volunteers.

Corporation for National and Community Service

The mission of the Corporation is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering. The Corporation provides grants, training, and technical assistance to developing and expanding organizations. The Corporation also provides opportunities for Americans of all ages and backgrounds to serve communities across the country by addressing critical community needs through its Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America programs. In addition, the Corporation explores, develops, and models effective approaches for using volunteers to meet the nation's human needs and conducts and disseminates research that helps develop and cultivate knowledge that will enhance the overall effectiveness of national and community service programs.

The Corporation administers three AmeriCorps programs, including AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America). AmeriCorps VISTA provides full-time VISTA members to nonprofit, faith-based and other community organizations, and public agencies to create and expand programs that bring low-income individuals and communities out of poverty.

Authorities

AOA Authorities: Sections 202(c), 373(d), and 417 of the OAA, as amended. See 42 U.S.C. §§ 3012, 3030s-1, 3032f.

Corporation Authorities: 42 U.S.C.A. §§12501 et seq.; 42 U.S.C. §12651d; 42 U.S.C. §4953.

This MOU does not constitute or give rise to a partnership or joint venture between the Parties, nor does it constitute an obligation of funds by either party. Each Party shall

operate under the terms of this MOU as an independent entity and not as an agent for the other. In addition, nothing in the Memorandum limits any of the Parties' independent authority to make decisions regarding the respective roles and responsibilities of that party.

Collaboration

AoA and the Corporation will work together to help modernize the way public and private non-profit organizations, such as community and faith-based organizations, utilize older adults as volunteers to significantly increase the number of these adults who are engaged in activities that address the needs of vulnerable populations throughout the United States.

Announcement of Collaboration

This Memorandum of Understanding will be signed during the joint national conference of the Corporation and the Hands On Network national conference that will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, June 1-3, 2008.

The Corporation, as it deems it necessary and appropriate, will continue to provide media relations and other Public Affairs support for this initiative.

National Center on Multigenerational and Civic Engagement

The AOA is funding the National Council on Aging (NCOA) to develop a national technical assistance center on Multigenerational and Civic Engagement and to support up to twenty-four (24) model programs eligible to receive up to \$30,000 each per year for three years.

Under this initiative, NCOA will provide technical assistance and training to the grantees; identify and disseminate best practice models; and bring in additional partners.

The Corporation agrees to support the development of VISTA projects with organizations that are awarded grants under the Multigenerational and Civic Engagement program. The Corporation anticipates, subject to the availability of funds, that up to forty-eight (48) VISTA members will be placed with approved organizations for up to three years to support this initiative. The Corporation will also provide research/evaluation and planning services that will be determined, and help identify potential partners to develop technology and expand research.

The AoA and the Corporation may develop additional activities to support ongoing partnerships in engaging older volunteers in service under this MOU including:

- Increased AoA/Corporation collaboration to include RSVP and Senior Companion volunteers as part of the coordinated system of long-term care for older persons;

- AoA/Corporation collaboration on the expansion of intergenerational activities;
- AoA/Corporation collaboration to assist Area Agencies on Aging in creating broader opportunities for older persons to participate in civic engagement activities.

Entirety

This MOU constitutes the entire understanding of the Parties with respect to the roles and responsibilities of the Parties.

Duration, Modification, and Termination of Agreement

This MOU will become effective immediately upon signature of both parties for a period of three years, and remains in effect until modified or terminated by the Parties. In the event that either Party desires to modify the agreement, the parties may do so by mutual consent. If either Party desires to terminate this MOU, that Party will provide not less than a thirty (30) day written notice of an intent to terminate the MOU to the other Party.

Josefina G. Carbonell
Assistant Secretary for Aging
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Date

David Eisner
Chief Executive Officer
Corporation for National and Community Service

Date