

JustServe Mission, Vision & Service Objectives



Mission

JustServe AmeriCorps works for a just and safe community by engaging National Service Members in community-driven violence prevention/anti-poverty efforts throughout Seattle/King County. We partner with Seattle Police Department and other local criminal justice system agencies, middle and high schools, community-based organizations and faith-based organizations to:

- ✓ Engage National Service Members in intensive, effective community service—“getting things done for America” in the area of public safety.
- ✓ Help National Service Members build skills and commitment for lifelong community service.

Vision

JustServe AmeriCorps (and all of Solid Ground’s other National Service programs) are committed to working in accountability to the communities we serve. We value: ~Diverse experience as legitimate knowledge. ~Racial, economic, social, gender and environmental equity. ~Challenging the status quo and embracing change. ~Undoing racism. ~Power sharing. ~Enriching individual and community life.

Our program has a strong focus on undoing racism, both in the projects where we place Members and in the way that Solid Ground recruits, trains and supports Members in our community. We are committed to undoing racism, because it is a root cause of poverty—and because racism undermines and sabotages our community’s work to undo classism, sexism and other oppressions that perpetuate violence and poverty.

2009-2010 Service Objectives

In the 2009-2010 service year, JustServe AmeriCorps will coordinate the placement of 32 full-time AmeriCorps Members within approximately 15 different site projects throughout Seattle/King County. Solid Ground will also sponsor two full-time AmeriCorps Team Leaders providing peer mentoring, support and facilitation to the JustServe AmeriCorps team.

Each individual Member Work Plan will focus on one or more of the following service priorities:

1) Prevention & Intervention for Disadvantaged Youth:

- Throughout the AmeriCorps team, Members will provide leadership development, conflict resolution skills, service learning activities, mentoring and/or support groups for more than 345 youth at risk of involvement in violence and/or incarceration, county-wide. This includes low-income youth, youth involved in the juvenile justice system, youth in foster care and youth with incarcerated parents. **Performance Measures:** As a result of these activities, 70% of the youth will gain up to 10 external Developmental Skills and Assets (DSAs), which have been identified as protective factors for involvement in violence by the Search Institute. In addition, more than 60% of the youth will gain between 10 and 20 external DSAs, more than 70% of youth will gain up to 10 internal DSAs, and 60% will gain between 11 and 20 internal DSAs—which further reduce the likelihood of youth involvement in violence.



b) Throughout the AmeriCorps team, Members will also provide violence prevention education to more than 825 disadvantaged youth, county-wide. **Performance Measures:** More than 70% of youth receiving violence prevention education from AmeriCorps Members will report that they gained skills and information to prevent violence to themselves or others in the community. More than 60% will report that they plan to take action in the next month, to use these new skills.

2) **Victim Advocacy:** Members working at Seattle Police Department Victim Support Team Program and other victim advocacy programs will provide crisis intervention, safety planning and advocacy to more than 250 domestic violence victims involved in the Criminal Justice System. **Performance Measures:** More than 75% of victim/survivors will gain two or more community resource referrals to help increase their safety. More than 75% of victim/survivors will report that they are more able to plan for their safety as a result of services from the AmeriCorps Member.

3) **Re-Entry Support:** Members working at the Village of Hope and other community-driven re-entry support organizations will provide culturally appropriate resource referrals, mentoring and support to more than 100 adults returning to the community after incarceration. **Performance Measure:** More than 60% of returnees will report that their stability in the community has increased as a result of support from the AmeriCorps Members.

4) **Alternatives to Incarceration:**

a) Members working at Seattle Community Court will lead community service activities (as alternatives to incarceration in the King County Jail) for more than 600 adult defendants with low-level misdemeanors. **Performance Measures:** Among these defendants, recidivism will decrease to 32%, and 50% of defendants will make contact with one or more social service providers.

b) Members working with the King County Juvenile Court will support more than 100 youth in meeting court requirements, to help reduce the disproportionate number of youth of color locked up in juvenile detention. **Performance Measure:** Among these youth, the number of 'Failure to Appear' warrants will drop by at least 62%.

5) **Volunteer Mobilization:** Members throughout the AmeriCorps team will recruit, train, support and mobilize more than 450 community members (of all ages) to get involved in violence prevention efforts throughout Seattle/King County. **Performance Measures:** Volunteers mobilized by JustServe Members will contribute more than 5,000 hours of service and leadership to local violence prevention efforts by the end of the 2009-2010 AmeriCorps service year. Over 25% of these volunteers will be baby-boomer aged individuals, born between 1946 and 1964. More than 60% of community volunteers generated by JustServe Members will report that they plan to continue to volunteer in this or other public safety or social justice work, beyond this year. More than 80% of host sites will report that Member mobilization of volunteers helped to strengthen their public safety work.