

**Colorado Governor's Commission on Community Service  
Colorado State Service Plan 2006 – 2008  
State Service Plan Update – November 1, 2007**

**FINAL**

**I. Introduction**

The Colorado Governor's Commission on Community Service, under the Office of Lieutenant Governor Barbara O'Brien, is pleased to present this 2006 – 2008 State Service Plan Update to the Corporation for National and Community Service. This plan update is appropriate and timely because 2006 – 2007 was a significant year of transition for the Colorado Commission.

- The newly elected Governor and Lt. Governor were inaugurated in January 2007, and Lt. Governor Barbara O'Brien's office assumed leadership over the Governor's Commission.
- The Commission held a planning retreat in mid-March, 2007 and a facilitated priority goals setting meeting in August 2007.
- The new Executive Director of the Governor's Commission was appointed in May 2007.
- In August 2007 a new Commission Chair was elected.

This plan update reflects the results of the Commission's goal-setting sessions and reflects goals and priorities set forth by the new administration.

The original plan was an update of the Colorado State Unified Plan for 2002 – 2005. This new update provides for a restatement of existing program goals, but with a new emphasis on the alignment of the Governor's Commission on Community Service goals and programs, as stated in the 2006-2008 State Service Plan, with the community service goals and priorities set forth by Colorado's new governor, Governor Bill Ritter, and new Lt Governor, Barbara O'Brien.

Many of the goals and specific programming areas articulated in the Colorado State Service Plan for 2006-2008 are still current and appropriate for the 2007 Plan Update. Because of multi-year grants, current programming will continue. New programs may shift as additional funding becomes available. Special emphasis will be placed on aligning community service and volunteerism in the state with Governor Ritter's goals of fulfilling the "Colorado Promise". The plan update also identifies and places high priority on those service areas that are consistent with the Lt Governor's Strategic Plan. Finally, program and management goals articulated in the new management plan, endorsed by the Commission, is a significant addition to the State Service Plan.

**II. Collaborative Partners**

A draft of this plan update was presented to all Colorado streams of service, partner organizations, sub grantee programs and stakeholders through public meetings and via email. The following organizations, participants in the 2006 plan development, were invited to offer comments, feedback and suggestions for the 2007 Update:

- National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC),
- The Corporation for National and Community Service State Office (state office),
- Colorado Governor's Commission on Community Service commissioners,
- Colorado Commission sub grantee programs,
- The Colorado Department of Education (CDE),
- Learn and Serve programs,
- Campus Compact,
- AmeriCorps National Directs,
- Colorado Volunteer Center Network,

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Other non profit, education, government, and foundation volunteer and community service based organizations such as the American Red Cross-Mile High Chapter, Salvation Army, City and County of Denver Mayor's Office of Strategic Partnerships, Mile High United Way 2-1-1, AmeriCorps Alumni Association, DenverWorks, Disability Mentoring Month Committee, Daniels Fund foundation, Junior League, Johnson and Wales University, Regis University, Senior Hub, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, the Colorado Coalition of Faith and community stakeholders participated.

Some examples of current year collaborations with stakeholders include:

- National Philanthropy Day – the Commission continues its work at promoting and honoring individuals, nonprofit organizations and corporations who exemplify the highest standards of volunteerism to their community. The Commission's resources have been specifically targeted at identifying youth and youth groups to honor as exemplary volunteers.
- Colorado Volunteer Center Network - as a member of this volunteer center network, the Commission is providing leadership and resources that will implement the groups plans to start up a state internet portal for all volunteer centers, promote the creation of new volunteer centers in remote areas of the state, and strengthen the capacities of all volunteer centers by accessing VISTA volunteers and other means of support.
- Colorado Mentoring Collaboration and Youth Mentoring Collaboration – by providing monetary and in kind resources to the Youth Mentoring Collaborative, the Commission is supporting the growth of the mentoring resources in the Denver metro area. Additionally, in partnership with one of its commissioners, the Commission launched the Colorado Mentoring Collaboration, a statewide effort at promoting and building the resources of mentoring organizations outside of the Denver metro area.

**III. The Colorado Promise:**

Special emphasis is being placed on aligning the goals of the Governor's Colorado Promise with the programming priorities of the Governor's Commission on Community Service. Those areas of the Colorado Promise most closely aligned with the goals in the existing state service plan are summarized in part below.

**Governor Ritter's "Colorado Promise":**

**Education: Investing in our schools and our students:**

1. Fostering high-quality educators and inspiring a new generation of teachers
2. Making sure children arrive at school ready to learn; expand early childhood education
3. Improving student achievement
4. Getting parents more involved; launch a family literacy crusade; promote and support the role parents play; promote parental participation in homework assignments

**Health**

1. Focusing on prevention, childhood immunization, developing and disseminating educational vaccination materials; educating parents about the Colorado information Immunization System
2. Investments in rural health, including building an adequate rural health provider workforce

**The Environment**

1. Public land management; ensure that public lands are used wisely including recreation and wilderness preservation

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2. Protecting livable places and open spaces; preserve open spaces, provide lands for recreation, protecting our natural resources
3. Conservation

**IV. The Lt. Governor's Strategic Plan:**

Strengthening children, families and communities.

Mission: The mission of the Lt. Governor's office is to strengthen families and communities, support the health, education, and development of all children, and improve the quality of life for all Coloradans through the promotion of education, childhood development, community service, citizenship, civic engagement, volunteerism and the arts.

The Lt Governor's office promotes education, early childhood and youth development. Programming and policy initiatives include:

- Smart Start Colorado
- The Head-Start – State Collaboration
- Co-Chairmanship of the P-20 Education Council

**Governor's Commission on Community Service Management Plan**

Finally, in addition to specific program areas noted below, the Governor's Commission on Community Service has adopted the following management goals:

- Develop and maintain organizational and financial resources necessary to provide effective and efficient program services
- Establish and maintain effective and efficient grants program management and systems
- Build strategic partnerships
- Promote community service and volunteerism
- Establish and achieve standards of excellence in all aspects of operations and by providing professional growth and development for employees.

**V. Specific Programming Areas:**

Consistent with multi-year grant programming, no significant changes are anticipated in 2007-2008 in the Specific Programming Areas of the State Service Plan. The following service areas remain priority service areas for the Commission, and where appropriate, the State Service Plan is aligned with the Governor's Colorado Promise, Lt. Governor's Strategic Plan and the Commission's new management plan. The continuing priority programming areas are:

- Education and literacy
- Disability inclusion
- Volunteerism and community service
- Disaster preparedness, education, and community volunteer response
- Strengthening families initiatives
- Youth mentoring
- Non profit collaboration, sustainability, and support
- Outreach to at risk youth
- Engaging seniors in service

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New GCCS Project and Program Initiatives for 2007-2008**

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**1. Building Strategic Partnerships**

Consistent with the goals set forth in the 2006-2008 State Service Plan, one of the major goals of this year's plan update is to build and maintain strategic partnerships. To this end the Commission is embarking on a campaign to increase public awareness of community service and volunteerism related to strengthening communities, expanding volunteerism, youth development and education, civic engagement, and mentoring. The Commission has begun an extensive outreach plan for 2007-2008. The goal of the outreach plan is to expand the commission visibility in Colorado and to foster volunteer service statewide with emphases in three distinct areas: public information, marketing and branding, and community awareness and build partnerships. The goals are:

- Educate the general public about the mission and goals of the commission.
- Increase community awareness and media exposure in a variety of ways: personal appearances, print media, routine and periodic press releases, more visible announcements, web site updating, expansion of electronic database of partner agencies and organizations, and other ways.
- Encourage all Colorado residents, especially youth, to engage in volunteer service to make the state a better place to live and raise a family.

**2. Program Evaluation**

The Commission is implementing an evaluation of its 2007 Formula Grant programs. The focus of the project is on "outcomes based" evaluation strategies. A committee consisting of Commission staff and program managers will outline the framework for an evaluation tool and process. The Corporation's T/TA providers will provide assistance in this aspect of the project. Through an RFP process, a subcontractor will be chosen to implement the evaluation plan.

**VI. Laying the Foundation for the Future**

Now in the second year of a three-year grant and program cycle, the GCCS State Service Plan Update process is necessarily limited in scope. However, the Commission is charting a course to engage in a more comprehensive and extensive plan process for the next three year planning cycle, beginning in late 2008 and culminating with the adoption of the 2009-2011 State Service Plan. The guiding principles for that plan process will include:

1. Extensive outreach and stakeholder engagement in the planning process.
2. Effective communications with a wide range of constituencies.
3. Inclusiveness, diversity, transparency and accountability in the plan development process.
4. Processes that result in statewide participation, including community forums.

**Reference Documents:**

GCCS Grant Portfolio  
GCCS Management Plan