



An affinity group of the National Human Services Assembly

Learn and Serve America

Background:

Learn and Serve America is a national, competitive grant program that provides grants to states, K-12 schools, colleges and universities, and non-profit organizations to provide service-learning opportunities for over 1.8 million young people throughout the country, each of whom complete an average of 60+ hours of service per year.

Learn and Serve grants are used to create new programs or replicate existing programs, as well as to provide staff, faculty, and volunteers with training and professional development. Learn and Serve is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service and will be funded under the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill starting in 2005.

Service-learning is a teaching and learning approach that integrates community service with academic study to enrich learning, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities. Service-learning encourages youth to be involved in their communities while helping them make the connection to public policy and long-term systemic change.

Program:

- Learn and Serve America fosters collaboration between educational institutions and civic, faith-based, and community groups to engage youth in meaningful service to address local needs
- Service-Learning programs help young people in America answer the President's Call to Service, and meet the President's goal of dedicating 4,000 hours or two years of their lives in service to their communities
- Service-learning programs complement the President's Civics and Character Education programs and strengthen academic achievement, yet these programs reach a fraction of the school districts across the country.
- 75% of the Learn and Serve America appropriation is designated for school-based and community based service-learning. Of this, 85% is for school-based and 15% is for community-based service-learning.
- 25% of the Learn and Serve America appropriation is reserved for institutions of higher education.

Funding:

Learn and Serve America has been level-funded at \$43 million for the past decade

FY 2005 President's Budget Request \$46 million

FY 2005 Appropriation \$43 million

FY 2006 President's Budget Request \$40 million

National Collaboration for Youth Funding Request: \$46 million

- Restore cut to \$43 million for programs
- Increase of \$2 million for teacher training
- Increase of \$1 million for longitudinal research study

For more information, contact Kelita Bak, Youth Service America (kbak@ysa.org).