

USA

Freedom Corps

The President's Call to Service

Launched on January 29, 2002 as part of President Bush's State of the Union Address, the USA Freedom Corps is an effort to foster a culture of service, citizenship, and responsibility, building on the generous spirit of the American people.

That effort begins with President Bush's two-year call to service—his challenge to all Americans to devote at least 2 years of their lives, the equivalent of 4,000 hours—to service.

The USA Freedom Corps initiative was born out of the response to the terrorist attacks of September 11 in communities around the country. Americans responded to the evil we experienced with remarkable courage and compassion—demonstrating what a new culture of responsibility and service can look like.

The USA Freedom Corps is a coordinating council, similar to the National Economic Council or National Security Council. The office is not an operating entity, but relies on the federal agencies and departments that are a part of the coordinating council to carry out policies and programs.

Through its operating agencies, the USA Freedom Corps will work to offer expanded developing national service opportunities for Americans at home and abroad.

1. The Citizen Corps programs share the common goal of helping communities prevent, prepare for, and respond to crime, natural disasters, and other emergencies. All these efforts will strengthen our homeland security. Composed of existing and new programs under the direction of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Justice, Citizen Corps programs offer potential volunteers the opportunity to provide emergency response and emergency planning services to their communities.

2. Through the USA Freedom Corps effort, President Bush is also working to enhance and reform the AmeriCorps, Senior Corps and Learn and Serve America programs that are a part of the Corporation for National and Community Service. He will make accountability for results a hallmark of each of these programs while at the same time working to expand the population served by their members and volunteers.

The President has already sent his principles for reforming and strengthening the Corporation's programs to Congress, and has asked them to pass new authorizing legislation before the end of this legislative session.

3. Through the USA Freedom Corps effort, President Bush will also strengthen the Peace Corps and offer the talent of Peace Corps volunteers to countries around the world. He has already pledged to double the number of Peace Corps volunteers over the next five years from less than 7,000 today to nearly 15,000 volunteers by 2007.

The USA Freedom Corps is also working to connect Americans with service organizations large and small in communities across the country. President Bush has talked about the gathering momentum of millions of acts of compassion and service that already take place around the country every day. His call to service includes the acts of these volunteers and seeks to expand their numbers and enhance their experiences.

For information on any of the federal service programs and services, or on volunteer opportunities in their neighborhoods, prospective volunteers can go to www.usafreedomcorps.gov or call 1-877-USA-CORPS.