



# Commission Planning Retreat Meeting

Nov 13, 2025 | 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. | Utah State Capitol Seagull Room (East Senate Building)

## 9:00      Welcome & Governance

- Approval of Minutes
- Board business
  - Outgoing commissioner recognition
  - Vice Chair nomination
  - AmeriCorps State 2026 updates
  - Federal Funding updates
  - 2026 Strategic Planning Process

## 9:30      Commissioner Activity

## 10:00      Program Discussion - Seagull & Beehive Rooms (East Senate Building) (breakouts: 10:00 - 10:50, 11:00 - 11:50)

- Director overview
- Breakout groups
  - AI: How to embrace and leverage this in our work? (Mike Moon/ Janessa Edwards)
    - Seagull Room
  - Bridging divides through service (Greg Bates/ Laura Rothlisberger)
    - Beehive Room

## 12:00      Lunch + Mingle - Board Room (Main Building)

## 1:00      Power of Service Recognition Gold Room (Main Building)

## 2:00      Adjourn

## Commission Meeting Schedule 2026

• Jan 12, 12:00 - 2:00	State Capitol, Hybrid
• May 18, 12:00 - 2:00	State Capitol, Hybrid
• August 10, 12:00 - 2:00	UVU, Hybrid
• November 17, 9:00 - 2:00	State Capitol in person



# Minutes

Utah Commission on Service & Volunteerism

Aug 11, 2025 | 12:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M. | UVU Student Center SC 213C

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## Attendees

Commissioners and Representatives: Katie Mazzie, Donna Law, Jake Murakami, Kim Hammer, Ben Trentelman, Joanne Brattain, Max Rogers, Alexis Palmer, Cassidy Hansen, Anna Romero and DeLaina Tonks.

Department of Cultural & Community Engagement Staff and Guests: Loggins Merrill, Yvette Woodland, Greg Bates, Sara Dorsey, Valerie Thibault, Mike Moon, Judy Hut, and Janessa Edwards.

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## Welcome & Governance

### Katie Mazzie, Chair

Katie welcomed the commission members and thanked Alexis for hosting everyone at UVU.

Approval of Minutes from the Commission meeting on May 12, 2025 and June 30, 2025.

Motion to approve by Jake Murakami and motion seconded by Kim Hammer.

Unanimous approval.

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## Program Discussion

### Dashboard Presentation & Review

Yvette discussed the format and updates of the dashboard, including current initiatives for each team.

Loggins discussed the upcoming NGA in-person summit in Utah. He also shared updates on the Housing Access subcommittee, including the need to re-assess and re-engage following uncertainties with funding.

Yvette discussed updates with the YMHC programs and efforts, including upcoming member recruitment and future updates to lookout for.

### Service to Career Pathways

Yvette discussed the Service to Career Pathways efforts to set members up for lifelong service, including specific pathways and resources to support members before, during and after their term of service.

Open discussion on who and where these resources would focus on.

### Budget Updates

Mike presented the proposed fiscal year 2026 budget and discussed the switch from a calendar year to a fiscal year.

Open discussion about the specific details of the budget.



Motion to approve by Joanne Brattain and motion seconded by Alexis Palmer.  
Unanimous approval.

Open discussion about when to approve budgets moving forward. A decision was made to approve the next budget at the August meeting.

Mike discussed the CIF administrative grant being held with no indication as to when or how that is going to be funded along with what is being done to move forward without those funds. Loggins clarified that this is happening across the country and not just in Utah.

#### AmeriCorps State Updates

Janessa shared that the 25-26 formula grants were awarded on August 1, allowing for an on-time start for programs. Competitive grants are still being held and therefore programs have begun operations at the Plan B funding levels until the release of competitive funds.

Janessa discussed the decision not to reinstate terminated AmeriCorps programs. She also shared the possibility to credit terminated members for hours that would have been served if the program had not been terminated and the process to do so.

#### Volunteer for Good Updates

Judy shared an overview of the first year of the Volunteer for Good program and shared some reflections from the participating students. Some challenges include a customized tracking system, team buy in, and varied participation by demographic. The focus for the upcoming year will be service learning opportunities and elevating recognition.

DeLaina discussed how VFG has helped Mountain Heights Academy create accountability measures and student access to service along with plans for the coming year.

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#### **Chair/Director Updates**

##### Commission Structure and Membership

Katie discussed vacant positions in the commission structure and the outstanding need for the governor to fill the open seats.

Katie shared the need to form a Nominating Committee for a 2026 Commission Vice Chair and laid out the timeline to express interest.

Katie briefly discussed upcoming events and dates to remember.

#### Power of Service Updates

Sara discussed the Power of Service Recognition in November along with the timeline and expectations from the commissioners to nominate candidates.



### United in Service Week Updates

Loggins discussed the new United in Service Week initiative, including the specific opportunities to either showcase the commission's work or engage in a meaningful service.

### AmeriCorps Seniors Updates

Loggins gave an update on the growth of the AmeriCorps Seniors programs since 2021 and some upcoming events.

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Motion to adjourn by Max Rogers and motion seconded by Joanne Brattain.  
Unanimous approval.

DRAFT

UServeUtah CY25 Strategic Plan Dashboard						
Team	Strategy	Time Frame	Annual Target	Actual	Progress	
<b>Mental Health Goal 1: Research and share information on the positive mental health benefits of service and volunteerism</b>						
CE	Gather insights into the mental health benefits of youth volunteerism by using Golden Software to track and analyze reflections submitted by high school students in the Volunteer for Good program.	Jan 2025-July 2025	100%	100%		Complete
<b>Mental Health Goal 2: Improving physical, mental, and behavioral health through service</b>						
AC State	Prioritize grant funding opportunities for those that promote mental health.	January 2025	100%	100%		Complete
AC State	Improve social integration and healthy connections of youth and young adults by promoting opportunities for service in high school and higher education.	Ongoing	10	10		Complete
CE	Improve social integration and healthy connections Utahns create through service by hosting United In Service Events throughout the state. Develop partnerships to enhance education on the benefits of service.	Jan 2025, April 2025, Sept 2025, Nov 2025	3 partners	8 partners		Complete
MarCom	Improve social integration and healthy connections of youth and young adults by promoting opportunities for service in high school and higher education.	Ongoing	6 outreach events Monthly (12) social media posts	16/6 outreach events attended 10/12 social media posts		In progress: on track
AC Seniors	Decrease isolationism and increase connections with older adults throughout the state through service.	Ongoing	2 surveys	1 survey		In progress: on track
<b>Mental Health Goal 3: Increase types of and reach of mental health resources to those engaged in service and volunteerism</b>						
AC State	Provide mental health counseling services to those engaged in national service and volunteerism.	August 2025	100%	100%		Complete
VISTA	Offer mental health counseling and other support services to members to the VISTA program.	Ongoing	9	9		Complete
Special Projects	Increase mental health resources to rural Utah through service-centric programming.	Ongoing	100%	75%		In progress: on track

UServeUtah CY25 Strategic Plan Dashboard						
Team(s)	Strategy	Time Frame	Annual Target	Actual	Progress	
<b>Housing Access Goal 1: Prioritize expanding access to housing through UServeUtah programming and initiatives</b>						
AC State	Prioritize grant funding opportunities that expand access to housing as well as those providing support to vulnerable families facing housing challenges.	January 2025	100%	100%	Complete	
VISTA	Prioritize intermediary VISTA placements with organizations working to expand access to housing and support to vulnerable families facing housing challenges.	February 2025	4	4	Complete	
AC State	Support nonprofits and community organizations to enhance their ability to serve individuals facing housing challenges.	August 2025	2	2	Complete	
<b>Housing Access Goal 2: Increase services aimed to support and stabilize families and individuals to remain in housing and divert them from homelessness</b>						
VISTA	Partner with housing agencies and organizations to identify areas that service and volunteerism can serve as a solution and support housing navigation with Utahns.	August 2025	2	3	Complete	
AC State	Use service to support housing navigation.	Ongoing	5	11	Complete	
<b>Housing Access Goal 3: Increase the amount and types of housing available through service and volunteerism</b>						
AC State	Identify partners in this space and collaborate to find ways that service can be a solution to housing availability.	Ongoing	5	7	Complete	
VISTA	Help families and individuals find permanent, stable housing	December 2025	25	75	Complete	

UServeUtah CY25 Strategic Plan Dashboard						
Team(s)	Strategy	Time Frame	Annual Target	Actual	Progress	
<b>Institutionalizing Service Goal 1: Provide opportunities for young people to participate in national service and community engagement, and recognize them for the impacts they make through service</b>						
AC State	Increase awareness of AmeriCorps State and the benefits of participating in national service.	Ongoing	15	16		Complete
VISTA	Increase awareness of AmeriCorps VISTA to Utah organizations as an option to meet community needs and offer national service opportunities.	Ongoing	5	3		Complete
MarCom	Increase awareness of AmeriCorps and the benefits of participating in national service.	Ongoing	6 community events Monthly (12) AmeriCorps social media posts	6 community events 10 posts		In progress: on track
CE	Recognize the contributions of youth participating in Lt. Governor's High School Volunteer Program (Volunteer for Good) by developing formal recognition program.	Jan 2025 - June 2026	100%	75%		In progress: on track
AC State	Recognize the contributions of AmeriCorps members through formal recognition.	Ongoing	100%	100%		Complete
<b>Institutionalizing Service Goal 2: Provide opportunities for Utahns age 55+ to participate in national service and community engagement, and recognize them for the impacts they make through service</b>						
AC Seniors	Increase awareness of AmeriCorps Seniors and the benefits of participating.	Ongoing	5 strategies	5 strategies		In progress: on track
AC Seniors	Recognize the contributions of seniors in Utah through formal recognition.	Ongoing	4 events	3 events		In progress: on track
<b>Institutionalizing Service Goal 3: Increase collaboration and partnerships with government agencies, educational institutions, faith based organizations and nonprofits to identify ways to institutionalize service throughout the state</b>						
Special Projects	Support workforce development opportunities for those engaged in national service programs to facilitate the transition to education and employment.	Ongoing	100%	75%		In progress: on track
CE	Evaluate the Leading for Impact corporate training pilot by collaborating with stakeholders to determine its feasibility and value in supporting corporate service and nonprofit partnerships through volunteerism.	January - March assessment, roll-out August if applicable	100%	100%		Complete
AC State	Promote opportunities for service that bring people together to address and solve community issues.	Jan-Dec 2025	100%	100%		Complete
VISTA	Support Statewide AmeriCorps VISTA Collaborative Group that sponsor VISTA members with training, networking, and collaborative connection opportunities.	December 2025	12	5		Complete
<b>Institutionalizing Service Goal 4: Identify and address barriers to participation in national service and volunteerism in order to increase rates of participation</b>						
AC State	Increase benefits to serving as an AmeriCorps member to increase members serving in Utah.	September 2025	100%	80%		In progress: on track
VISTA	Maintain enhanced benefits for AmeriCorps VISTA members to retain those serving in the UServeUtah intermediary program.	Ongoing	100%	100%		Complete
AC State	Innovate new ways people can serve while navigating known challenges and barriers.	Ongoing	5	4		In progress: on track



# AmeriCorps

## Utah

### **2026-2027 Priority Areas:**

1. **Housing:** Programming that specifically addresses housing stability, homelessness alleviation or prevention, or increases the number of affordable housing units in Utah.
2. **Mental Health:** Programming that engages youth or young adults in efforts to improve mental health outcomes or provides a direct mental health benefit to youth or both.
3. **Early Education Literacy:** Specifically, programs focused on K-3 literacy efforts.
4. **Preserving Utah's Natural Spaces:** Programs with a strong focus on the Governor's initiative related to the Great Salt Lake and broader environmental resilience.

### **2026-2027 Priority Components:**

1. **Service to Career Pathways:** Program models that incorporate workforce development by providing members with specialized training, certifications, higher education credits, or other support to help them successfully transition into the workforce following their service.
2. **State Service Initiatives:** Programs that align with state service initiatives funded or prioritized by the legislature, governor, or lieutenant governor
3. **Bridging Divides:** Program models that foster constructive civic dialogue, promote respectful communication, and improve community collaboration across different viewpoints.

*\*The focus areas represent the specific types of programs that would receive priority points on their application. The program components are broader topics that could be woven throughout any application. The proposal is that we would give applicants two ways to earn priority points on their applications.*