



ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

About the Commission

UServeUtah, the Utah Commission on Service and Volunteerism, was created by state statute in 1994 and is comprised of 20 members representing local government; community based organizations and statewide networks as well as 5 staff. As the state's central coordinating body for service and volunteerism, the Commission is responsible for developing, implementing, and sustaining a vision and culture of civic engagement and national and community service within the state.

Since its inception in 1994, UServeUtah has focused on increasing the capacity of organizations to serve, strengthen and transform communities through service and volunteerism. It furthers its mission by: promoting volunteerism, administering National Service programs, connecting people with opportunities to serve, building organizational capacity for effective volunteer engagement, and participating in strategic initiatives that mobilize volunteers to meet local needs.

Fundamentals

The **purpose** of UServeUtah, the Utah Commission on Service and Volunteerism is to enable individuals, communities, and organizations in Utah to benefit from the service, power, skills, and passion of volunteers.

Our **mission** is to strengthen Utah communities through the power of service and volunteerism.

Our **vision** is to have vibrant productive communities with active engaged citizens.

Our work is based in these core **values**:

- We believe that volunteerism is a uniquely American form of civic engagement that is fundamental to our democracy and critical to our communities.
- We believe volunteers build strong communities and have a lasting impact on local needs.
- Utah volunteers are exceptional. They are willing to make the time, and the connections that come from reaching out in service to and with others.
- We know that volunteers are bedrock in any community. Neighborhoods where volunteers gather and serve are more vibrant, safe, and engaged.
- Volunteering collectively grows bonds across various experiences, beliefs, backgrounds and barriers.
- People who volunteer feel a unique sense of ownership and responsibility and are in turn transformed by the experience.

UServeUtah has a long history of advocating the value of volunteerism, training skilled volunteers, coordinating a statewide system to facilitate service, developing innovative AmeriCorps programs, and promoting Utah's national leadership in volunteerism. Our **competitive advantages** include:

- We offer state leadership. As a branch of the state government and a program of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, we can use our bully pulpit to promote volunteerism with authority.
- We collaborate. We have years of experience working in the public and private sectors to focus resources on volunteerism.
- We have data. Our studies measure the impact volunteers have on our lives and our communities.
- We have expertise. Our training to volunteer organizations helps them better use and support volunteers
- We bring resources to the table. Our nationally-recognized AmeriCorps programs connect local needs with manpower in a cost effective and efficient way.

Focus Areas

To achieve our mission the UServeUtah concentrates efforts in three **focus areas**:

National Service

AmeriCorps, the Domestic Peace Corps, annually engages more than 80,000 Americans nationwide in intensive, results-driven service in the areas of education, public safety, health and the environment.

UServeUtah manages the Utah AmeriCorps*State program portfolio comprising programs that target underserved and needy populations in the areas of: Economic Opportunity, Education, Environmental Stewardship, Disaster Preparedness, Healthy Futures and Veterans and Military Families.

UServeUtah administers all Utah AmeriCorps*State grants and provides administrative, fiscal and programmatic oversight, technical assistance and program development in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).

Community Engagement

UServeUtah seeks to build and cultivate capacity in the volunteer and service community through collaboration, consensus and the concept of collective impact. UServeUtah functions as consultant, and training resource to expand public/private partnerships and volunteer mobilization capacity.

UServeUtah recognizes outstanding volunteers across the state through the annual Volunteer Achievement Awards, as well as support of statewide volunteer recognition programs.

UServeUtah, through community engagement efforts, sponsors National Service Days in Utah, including Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, Global Youth Service Day and 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance.

Disaster Service

Volunteers can be essential in helping to rebuild lives and rebuild communities after a disaster. It is important that volunteers are given meaningful and constructive opportunities to serve, while not overwhelming the affected community during the response and recovery. UServeUtah seeks to help local communities plan for coordination of spontaneous and unaffiliated volunteers during disaster recovery efforts.

In the event of a disaster, UServeUtah serves on the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) and is the lead in coordinating volunteer and donations management. UServeUtah also acts as the liaison with the Corporation for National and Community Service to call upon National Service resources such as AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) and FEMA Corps members for on-ground support

Objectives

UServeUtah's work is directed by a 3-year strategic plan which is the roadmap to building systems that harness and focus our unique and invaluable resource – the cultural ethic of service and volunteerism that exists among Utah citizens. The plan lays out a comprehensive framework based on guiding objectives with strategies and specific activities outlined.

All strategies, activities and performance measures are consolidated under three Commission **objectives**:

- Objective #1 **Build and cultivate** capacity in the volunteer and service community. A primary aim of UServeUtah is to help organizations effectively use service & volunteerism as a strategy to fulfill their mission and to address critical community problems.
- Objective #2 **Promote and inspire** statewide National Service and volunteerism Utah has a culture of volunteerism, but individuals need to be made aware of needs and occasions to serve. UServeUtah is committed to creating ways for Utahns to identify and engage in quality volunteer and service opportunities.
- Objective #3 **Recognize** the effort of outstanding volunteers. As our values state, Utahns are exceptional, they are willing to make the time, and the connections that come from reaching out in service to and with others. We are dedicated to recognizing and acknowledging individuals for their volunteer efforts.