

# Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act Fact Sheet

## Major Themes

- Bi-partisan support
- Expand opportunities for Americans to serve
- Demonstrate outcomes
- Innovations in the nonprofit sector
- Authorization ? Appropriations
- Effective Date: October 1, 2009

## AmeriCorps

- Sets AmeriCorps on a path to increase from 75,000 to 250,000 members by 2017
- 5 new Service Corps
  - Education
  - Energy and Conservation
  - Health
  - Community Development
  - Other (disaster relief, public safety, etc.)
- Directs the Corporation for National and Community Service to make an effort to allocate at least 10% of grants to organizations involving significant number of individuals 55+

## National Service Trust

- Ties education award to maximum Pell grant (\$5,350 in 2009, with annual increases – currently education award is \$4,725)
- Replaces two-term cap with aggregate of two full-time education awards
- 55+ may transfer to child or grandchild

## New Initiatives

- Social Innovation Fund (\$)
- Volunteer Generation Fund (\$)
- Call to Service Campaign
- 9/11 Day of Service
- Fellowship programs
- Silver Scholars
- Nonprofit Capacity Building grants

## Top Five Opportunities for 09-10

1. Growth in AmeriCorps Portfolio: The President's budget increases funding for AmeriCorps state programs by a third which would potentially increase the number of AmeriCorps members serving in Minnesota from 800 to 1100.
2. The Social Innovation Fund: The President's budget includes \$50 Million for this fund which is designed to replicate and take to scale successful evidence based programs.
3. Involving more Baby Boomers in AmeriCorps
4. The Volunteer Generation Fund: The Act calls for states to receive formula funding to specifically generate more volunteering. .
5. Thought Leadership: The Serve America Act has seeded broad scale creative thinking about the potential of service and volunteerism as a tool to address our most critical human needs.