



CITIES OF SERVICE

CITIESOFSERVICE.ORG

About Cities of Service

Founded in New York City on September 10, 2009 by 17 mayors from cities across the nation, Cities of Service is a bipartisan coalition of mayors who have committed to work together to engage citizens to address critical city needs through impact volunteerism. The coalition builds on the work of New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, who created the nation's first high-impact service plan in April 2009 and appointed the nation's first municipal Chief Service Officer.

The coalition aims to create a vibrant and growing network of municipal governments effectively leveraging citizen service as a reliable, viable tool to achieve measurable impact on pressing local challenges. By accelerating the service movement at the most local level—connecting local needs to the supply of willing volunteers in innovative and impactful new ways—Cities of Service aspires to create a new chapter in America's longstanding history of service while making local government more effective.

Today, the Cities of Service coalition includes more than 100 mayors, representing nearly 50 million Americans. Like the founding mayors, each coalition member has made a commitment to work with other mayors around the country and advance service strategies in their own city by crafting a high-impact service plan.

Impact update

As of December 2011, 23 US cities had launched high-impact service plans, all of which can be downloaded at citiesofservice.org. Thirteen additional cities are in the process of developing high-impact service plans; three of these cities have appointed a Chief Service Officer using city funds and nine others have appointed a volunteer Chief Service Officer in partnership with AARP. The model also has spread abroad with the launch of "Team London" in June 2011.

Sample highlights of city progress as of December 2011 include:

In **Atlanta**, Mayor Kasim Reed's high-impact service plan focuses on youth and neighborhood restoration. Impact since launch in March 2011 includes:

- More than 1,100 square feet of graffiti have been removed by community volunteers through neighborhood cleanup efforts; and
- More than 250 students are enrolled in volunteer-supported programming that engages youth in productive activities at Centers of Hope locations during out-of-school hours.

In **Houston**, Mayor Annise Parker's high-impact service plan focuses on emergency preparedness, education, and veterans. Impact since launch in March 2011 includes:

- More than 17,000 Houstonians have been trained in CPR to help improve the city's cardiac arrest survival rate.

In **Los Angeles**, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's high-impact service plan focuses on education, economic development, and the environment. Impact since launch in September 2010 includes:

- More than 13,000 high school students at-risk of dropping out engaged by volunteers with more than 2,300 students returning to school.

In **Nashville**, Mayor Karl Dean's high-impact service plan is focused on education and the environment, with a particular emphasis on flood recovery after the historic May 2010 floods. Impact since launch in September 2010 includes:

- To help with flood recovery, 135 miles of waterways have been assessed, 21 miles of waterways have been cleaned up and 62.9 tons of debris and trash have been removed;
- More than 800 trees and 90 rain gardens have been strategically planted to prevent future flooding; and
- Energy efficient upgrades have been incorporated into the rebuilding of 60 homes damaged by the flood, with an overall energy reduction of over 30% per home.

In **New York City**, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg's high-impact service plan is focused on strengthening communities, helping neighbors in need, education, health, the environment and emergency preparedness. Impact since launch in April 2009 includes:

- More than 112,000 New Yorkers have been trained in CPR to help improve NYC's cardiac arrest survival rates;
- More than \$16.9 million in tax rebates have been returned to New Yorkers thanks to volunteer tax preparers; and
- More than 2.4 million square feet of rooftops have been coated with reflective paint to make buildings more energy efficient.

In **Orlando**, Mayor Buddy Dyer's high-impact service plan focuses on youth, education, and crime prevention. Impact since launch in March 2011 includes:

- More than 600 students have increased their leisure time reading through Mayor Buddy's Book Club, a volunteer-led reading program.

In **Philadelphia**, Mayor Michael A. Nutter's high-impact service plan focuses on education, neighborhood revitalization, and the environment. Impact since launch in September 2010 includes:

- More than 2,300 caring adults have been trained as "graduation coaches" to help young people complete high school and plan for successful future; and
- More than 1,600 residents have been matched with volunteer opportunities through the SERVE Philadelphia website.

In **Pittsburgh**, Mayor Luke Ravenstahl's high-impact service plan focuses on education, youth, and neighborhood restoration. Impact since launch in March 2011 includes:

- More than 5,800 pounds of trash removed by community volunteers through neighborhood cleanup efforts across 47 blocks.

In **Sacramento**, Mayor Kevin Johnson's high-impact service plan focuses on public safety, education, homelessness and the environment. Impact since launch in September 2010 includes:

- More than 11,000 people trained to respond to emergencies.