



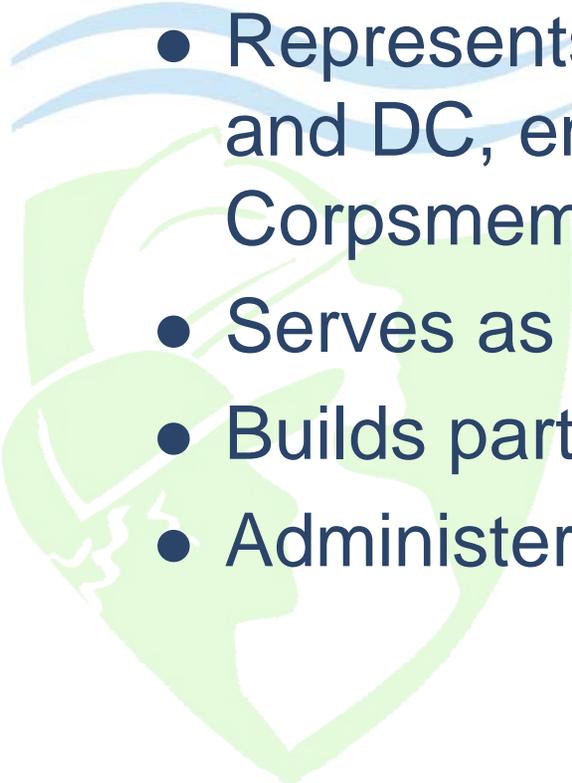
**The
CorpsNetwork**

Strengthening America through
service and conservation

Civic Justice Corps Re-Direct-Reform NY February, 2008

Sally Prouty
President and CEO
The Corps Network

The Corps Network

- 
- Represents 115 Corps operating in 42 States and DC, enrolling over 21,000 Corpsmembers
 - Serves as the voice for Corps nationally
 - Builds partnerships to support Corps
 - Administers national projects

The Corps Network

- Promotes service and service learning as strategies to achieve
 - positive youth development
 - Educational advancement
 - Career preparation
- Promotes an ethic of stewardship
- Assures quality programming
- Provides training and technical assistance

Goals for today...

- Share regarding the in-process development of the Civic Justice Corps program model
- Share regarding US DOL and Corporation for National and Community Service funded Civic Justice Corps projects
- Share regarding newly funded Civic Justice Corps projects in New Orleans
- Answer your questions

My Corps Experience

- 7 years – Director of a statewide Civilian Conservation Corps
- 2 residential and 6 non-residential sites
- Enrollment target changed to include formerly incarcerated and court involved
- Over 400 formerly incarcerated enrolled upon exit from DYS

Results

- “Youth enrolled were 4 times less likely to be re-incarcerated than youth who did not participate in CCC...”

– Gino Natalucci-Persichetti, DYS Director

Civic Justice Corps – Susan Tucker, Director, After Prison Initiative, OSI

**The
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- A national service initiative that creates stipended, service-learning opportunities for residents of high-incarceration neighborhoods.
- Affirmatively recruiting people with criminal records, the CJC involves its Corpsmembers in visible and valuable projects designed to improve community health, safety, beauty, and sustainability.

CJC Service Learning Projects

- Focus on environmental, economic, and social sustainability;
- Provide pathways out of poverty and prison by promoting active citizenship and preparing residents for careers in the emerging green economy;
- Promote active citizenship;

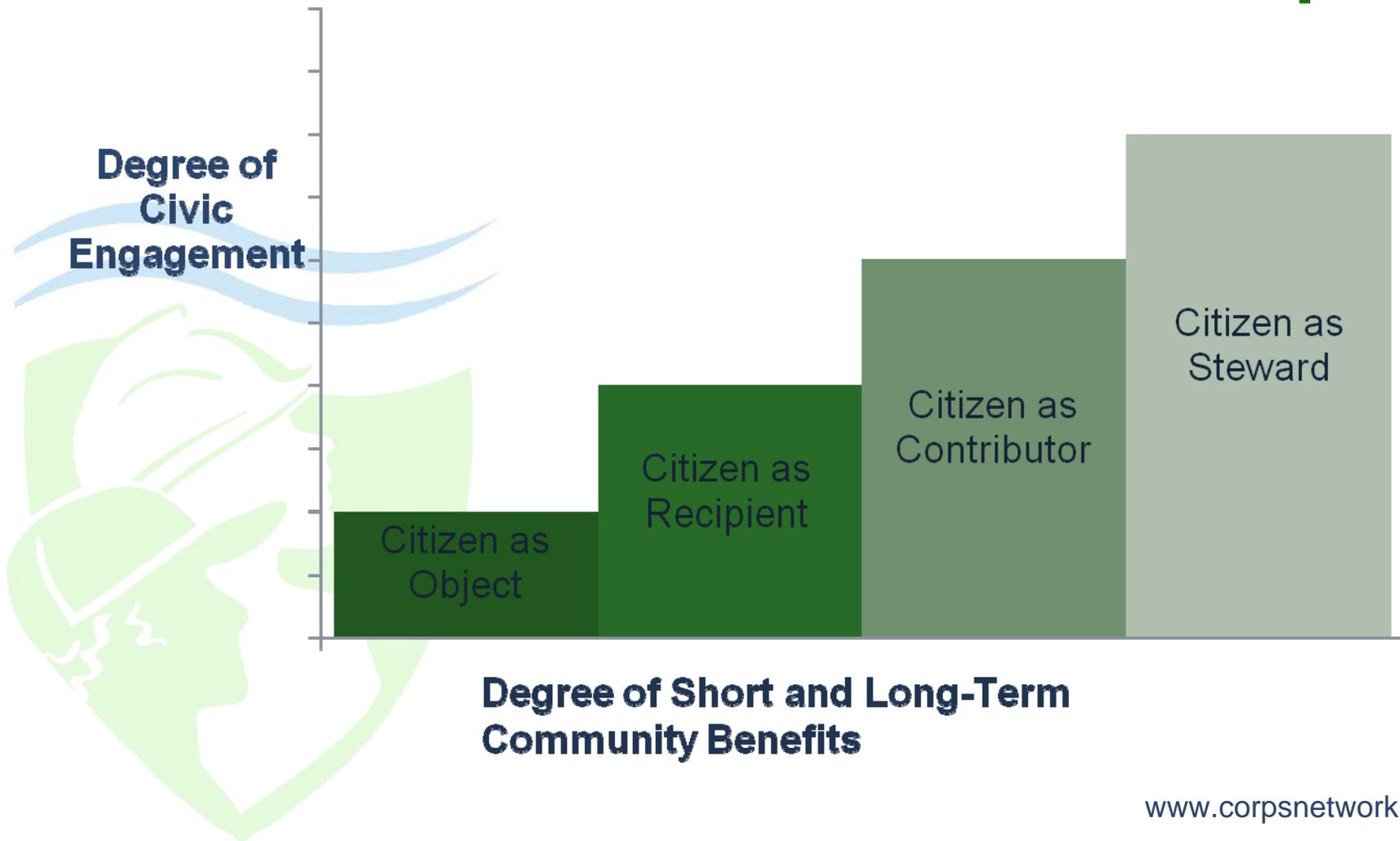
CJC Service Learning Projects cont.

- Strengthen neighborhood infrastructure and civil institutions by mobilizing financial and human capital;
- Reorient the mission and resources of state and local justice systems toward performative, restorative justice and away from harsh punishment and excessive prison, parole and probationary terms.

Dennis Maloney's Legacy



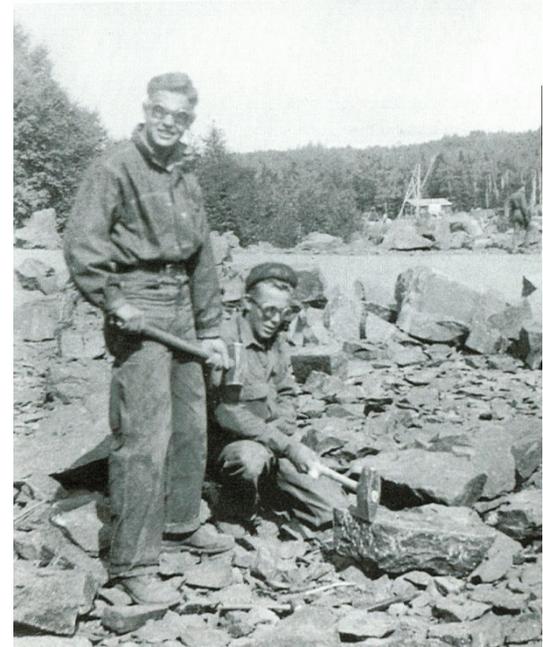
Dennis Maloney's Frame for the Civic Justice Corps



History of Service and Conservation Corps

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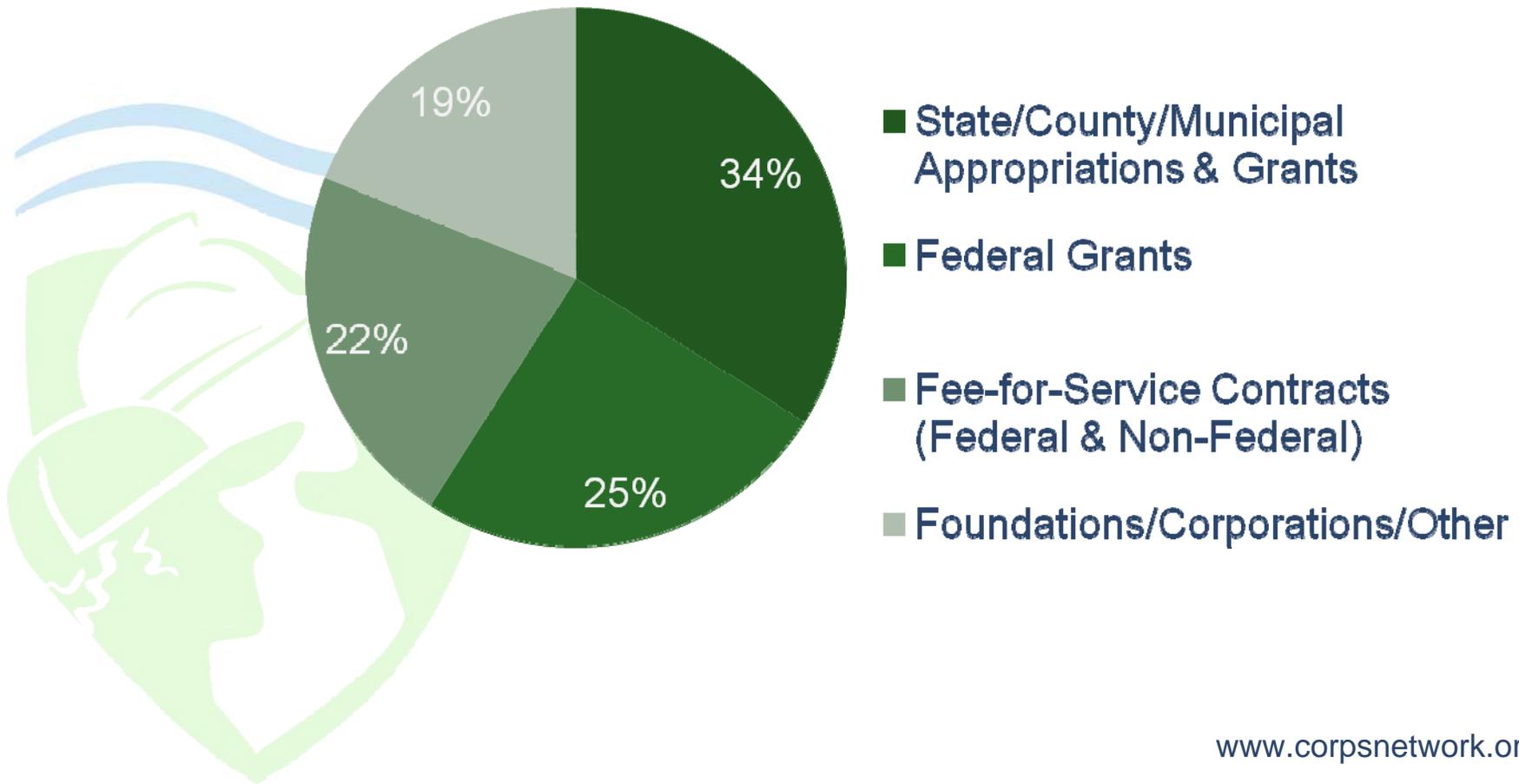
- Legacy of the 1930's Civilian Conservation Corps
- Relunched in 1976—25+ years of experience
- Knowledge base of youth development and community engagement



A proven strategy for giving young men and women the chance to change their communities, their own lives and those of their families through service.

Funding Sources for Service and Conservation Corps

The CorpsNetwork



Service and Conservation Corps

- Primarily crew-based with adult leaders serving as mentors and role models
- Service that meets community needs as the central element

Corpsmember Demographics:

- 59% male
- 60% young people of color
- 50% family income less than \$15,000
- 52% without HS diploma or GED
- 30% court involved
- 10% formerly in foster care



Service as a Strategy

Service is a proven strategy for reengaging young people—enabling them to change their lives and their communities.

A random assignment evaluation by Abt Associates found

- Significant employment and earnings gains by Corpsmembers;
- Positive outcomes especially strong for young African-American men;
- Arrest rates drop by one-third among all Corpsmembers;
- Out-of-wedlock pregnancy rates drop among female Corpsmembers; and
- Corps generate over \$13.24 worth of services per program hour.

Civic Justice Corps: Yr 1 Results

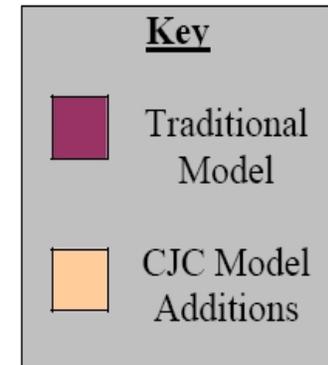
- 9.2 % recidivism (we promised 20% below the prevailing rate of 50 - 70%)
- 90.7% activity participation (80% promised)
- 95.9% retention in job/college placements (75% promised)
- 401 enrolled (we promised 300 the first year & 400 over the entire project)
- 309 formerly/currently incarcerated (we promised 1/2 or 200)
- High growth employers engaged

Civic Justice Corps Demonstration

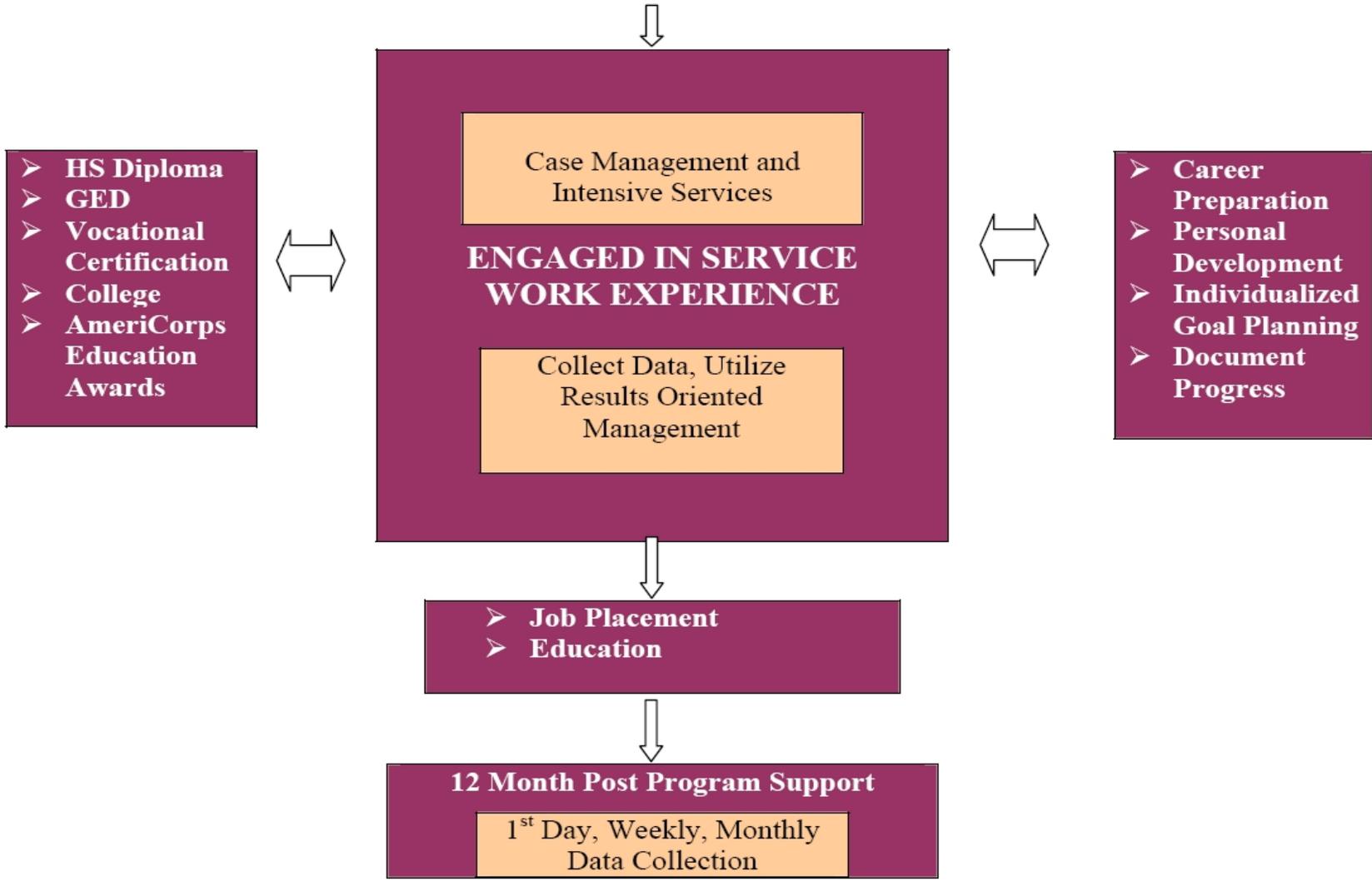
- CNCS – 3 sites
- U.S. Department of Labor – 11 sites
- Open Society Institute
- JEHT Foundation
- Cascade Center for Community Change



Civic Justice Corps – The Corps Network



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Systems Change

- *Justice agencies as allies*
Formal partnerships with justice agencies
- *Employers as primary partners*
Formal partnerships with employers
- *Teaming up with youth to remove barriers*
Case management during the term of service—
and for 12 months following
- *Service as a strategy for re-engagement*
- giving back, gaining skills, confidence, maturity
- *A team committed to results*
Intensive focus on data and outcomes

Increasing Civic Engagement through Service Learning

Key Service-Learning Strategies (1)

- Youth Ownership

Young people active partners in identifying community needs, planning service activities, and evaluating success.

- Genuine Community Needs

Service addresses needs that the community identifies as important. The community is an active and respected partner.

Material adapted from www.NYLC.org, The National Youth Leadership Council

Increasing Civic Engagement through Service Learning

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Key Service-Learning Strategies (cont.)

- **Connections to Learning Objectives**

Service is tied directly to specific learning objectives—
Corpsmembers understand that learning has direct application to
community improvement.

- **Reflection**

Critical and creative thinking ensures high levels of benefit for youth
and community.

Material adapted from www.NYLC.org, The National Youth Leadership Council

www.corpsnetwork.org

Increasing Community Benefit through Service **The CorpsNetwork**

Categories of Service:

Conservation/Environmental Restoration/Recycling	53%
Education/Human Services/Healthcare	33%
Homeland Security/Disaster Relief	9%
Building Construction/Renovation	5%



Impact on Community and Environment

- Quilter CCC (Ohio). Partnering with Community Action in weatherization of low-income homes, Corpsmembers are trained, receive college credit and national certification
- Montana CC – Warm Hearts Warm Homes program established by Governor Schweitzer. MCC served 1400 LIHEAP eligible homes
- Earth Conservation Corps (Washington, DC): Install green roofs on city government buildings. (ECC itself had first green roof in the city.)
- Mile High Youth Corps (Colorado) – Corpsmembers improve energy efficiency of homes in their own communities through Gov's Energy Office Low-Income Energy Assistance Program
- East Bay (Oakland)—Corpsmembers plant trees in urban areas through Urban Re-leaf program.
- Baltimore Civic Works – Corpsmembers perform energy audits and develop plans for energy savings.

Civic Justice Corps: Key Components

- *Employer Partnerships*: High growth industry
- *Justice Agency Partnerships*
- *Community Partnerships*: meaningful service projects, collaboration, resource sharing
- *Corpsmember Development*: All elements enhanced by the service experience
 - Education
 - Lifeskills development
 - Career preparation
 - Targeted support services

Southeast Louisiana Youth Career Development Project

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- US DOL National Emergency Grant
- The Corps Network in partnership with Greater New Orleans WIB's, JOB1, LA State DOL and the US DOL
- \$8.5 million
- Utilizing Civic Justice Corps program model

Southeast Louisiana YCDP cont.

- Civic Justice Corps program model
- Unique - based on 4 month enrollment and offering a 450 hour education award
- Community capacity building – 6 agencies/organizations will house the Corps
- Enrolling 800 youth and young adults (16 – 24) in next 22 months

Southeast Louisiana YCDP cont.

- At least 25% formerly incarcerated and additional 25% court involved
- No substantial work history (less than 6 months)
- WIB region - enrollment and service projects
- Focus - environmental restoration, energy conservation, restoration of historic structures
- Sustainability – goal from the start!

Next Steps: Clean Energy Corps and Green Jobs

The “Green New Deal”

Through service, young men and women find pathways out of poverty into green economy jobs that can't be outsourced.

Clean Energy Corps:

Improving energy efficiency, transportation enhancements, and environmental restoration.

In summary...

- Thanks to Susan Tucker and Dennis Maloney – the CJC concept is being incorporated into the traditional Corps program model.
- We believe that the knowledge base being developed by the CJC learning community will be invaluable. Already great results are evident.

In summary...

- Ideally, the CJC/service learning experience would begin in the institution or while under supervision and lead to enrollment in a CJC that offers support upon exit – as members continue their education and/or enter employment while also serving as creative problem solvers and leaders in their communities.

Conclusion...

- We would like to see every high incarceration community in the U.S. host an active Civic Justice Corps and every adult and juvenile prison become a center for service learning.



The CorpsNetwork

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