Funding Highlights:

• Makes a substantial investment in national service, setting the program on a path for expansion to 250,000 slots.

• Creates a new Social Innovation Fund to invest in and scale up innovative non-profits and solutions to address the Nation’s most pressing social problems.

• Engages more retiring Americans in service, harnessing their skills and knowledge.

• Expands service-learning in the Nation’s schools, helping students become contributing citizens and community members through service.

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) provides opportunities for Americans to serve their community and country while meeting the Nation’s greatest national challenges. Through CNCS programs, Americans of all ages can help strengthen our country in different ways, from tutoring at-risk youth to responding to natural disasters to building the capacity of community organizations. The President’s Budget proposes $1.13 billion for CNCS, an increase of $261 million from the 2009 likely enacted level, to give more Americans the opportunity to serve and to build the capacity of the nonprofit sector to find innovative solutions to social problems.

Expands National Service. The President’s Budget makes a substantial investment in National Service, giving more individuals the opportunity to make an intensive commitment to giving back to their communities. The Budget would set AmeriCorps on a path to expand from its current 75,000 funded slots to 250,000, and would ensure the availability of service opportunities to achieve demonstrable results. The Budget would also increase the amount of the Eli Segal Education Award, which has not been adjusted since the program’s inception in 1993.

Creates a New Social Innovation Fund. Innovators often come up with great ideas for addressing critical national challenges, but too often lack the capital to develop, evaluate, and scale up successful ideas. The Budget would create a new social innovation fund, charged with testing promising new approaches to major challenges, leveraging private and foundation capital to meet these needs, and scaling up research-proven programs.

Engages Retiring Americans in Service. Older Americans have a wide range of skills and knowledge to contribute to the Nation’s communities. New efforts are needed to tap the idealism and experience of this “Baby Boomer” generation – the largest and healthiest generation to enter
The President’s Budget would expand and improve Senior Corps programs, which connect individuals over the age of 55 to local volunteer opportunities, allowing more retirees to help meet the needs and challenges in their communities.

Expands Service-Learning in the Nation’s Schools. Service learning is an approach that connects classroom lessons with meaningful community service opportunities. The Budget includes additional resources for Learn and Serve America, which supports programs in schools, higher education institutions and community-based organizations that engage students, their teachers, and others in service-learning.

Strengthens the Management Capacity of the Corporation. The Budget provides needed resources to strengthen the capacity of CNCS to manage its programs, measure performance, and conduct rigorous evaluations of the impact of CNCS programs. Coupled with a strong Administration commitment to management reform, the Budget will ensure that CNCS can support both growth and excellence in service.