



## Media Release

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**For Immediate Release**

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### **Teach for America-Arkansas receives AmeriCorps funds to add teachers in Delta**

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) has awarded a one-year AmeriCorps grant of \$128,000 to Teach for America-Arkansas of Little Rock to support its program to place teachers in low-income rural areas of the state.

The grant is a portion of \$2,423,853 awarded to AmeriCorps programs in Arkansas as part of 2014 AmeriCorps State and National grant competition. Four other programs in Arkansas were awarded funding. The funds will be distributed through the Arkansas Service Commission, part of the Arkansas Department of Human Services Division of Community Service and Non-Profit Support.

This first time AmeriCorps funding for Teach for America-Arkansas will help support the work of 160 AmeriCorps members. Teach for America has been working in Arkansas since the late 1990s. Teachers for the program are recruited from among the best and brightest college student leaders from 300 colleges across the country. Students recruited to teach are not necessarily education majors. “We look for students who have a track record of leadership on campus and we put an emphasis on those with rigorous math and science backgrounds,” said Teach for America-Arkansas Executive Director Jared Henderson. This year, after more than six weeks of training, 70 new teachers will join 90 Teach for America teachers who are serving in about 40 schools in 20 school districts in Arkansas’ Delta region.

“The role we play in the Arkansas Delta is a crucial one,” said Henderson. “It’s not uncommon for districts there to have shortages of well-qualified teachers and this funding will allow us to continue to work in these areas. Even after we place these 70 new teachers into the program this fall, I still have 90 additional requests for teachers sitting on my desk, so the need is great.”

In addition to the grant funding, CNCS will make available \$903,200 in Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards for the AmeriCorps members funded by this grant. After completing a full term of service, AmeriCorps members receive an award of \$5,645 that they can use to pay for college or to pay off student loans.

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Every day in communities across America, AmeriCorps members are making a powerful impact on the most critical issues facing our nation. Whether improving schools, fighting poverty, rebuilding after disasters, providing health services, preserving the environment, or supporting veterans and military families, AmeriCorps members are getting things done. Since the program's inception, more than 830,000 men and women have taken the AmeriCorps pledge, serving more than one billion hours and improving the lives of countless Americans. These funds will support the 20th anniversary class of AmeriCorps members.