



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
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**DE BLASIO ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF EXPANDING NYC SERVICE YEARS
AND CITY OF NEW YORK AS OFFICIAL EMPLOYER OF NATIONAL SERVICE**

Over 100 civic leaders attend a summit announcing the launch of Expanding NYC Service Years and NYC as the largest city to become an Employer of National Service

NEW YORK—NYC Service, in partnership with the United Way of New York City and the Franklin Project at the Aspen Institute, announced the launch of *Expanding NYC Service Years* with an initial investment of \$380,000 to support new service year programs beginning this fall. The City of New York and the Corporation for National and Community Service also announced that New York City has signed on as an Employer of National Service.

Expanding NYC Service Years is an innovative, cross-sector initiative to expand the number of service year opportunities for young New Yorkers citywide. During 2015 and 2016, New York City will launch seven to ten service year programs with 100-300 members, mobilizing New York City's young adults to serve their City for a full-time year of service. The initiative will work to address critical New York City needs through neighborhood-based programs which recruit and develop a local workforce pipeline in areas like education, mentorship, and economic empowerment. The expansion of NYC service years is made possible by a commitment of \$250,000 from lead funder Citi Foundation, as well as support from the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund and UJA-Federation of New York.

City agency partners committed to leading programs include the Administration of Children's Services, Department of Education, Department for the Aging, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Probation, Human Resources Administration, Small Business Services, and the NYC Young Men's Initiative. The overall goal is to double New York City service year members from 5,000 to 10,000 over the next several years.

New York City is also now the largest city to sign on as an Employer of National Service, recognizing the great skills and knowledge that job candidates with AmeriCorps and Peace Corps experience can contribute to the City workforce. Employers of National Service builds a talent pipeline which connects AmeriCorps and Peace Corps alumni with leading employers from the private, public, and nonprofit sectors to create recruitment, hiring, and advancement opportunities. In addition, the City of New York is leading an effort to encourage more New York City employers to join Employers of National Service.

"Increasing the number of service year programs – and the number of people participating in them – will support New Yorkers in need while helping our young people and future leaders develop valuable skills. I'm so excited about this partnership, which will deliver for the people of New York City in so many ways," said **Deputy Mayor for Strategic Policy Initiatives Richard Buery**. "The City is also pleased to be an Employer of National Service – AmeriCorps and Peace Corps alumni have so much experience and passion that can make them wonderful employees."

"The expansion of NYC service year programs will ensure we continue to address New York City's greatest needs while supporting workforce development and developing civic leaders," said **NYC Chief Service Officer**

Paula Gavin. "We are grateful for the generous support of Citi Foundation, The Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund, and UJA-Federation of New York that has made this possible."

"By becoming an Employer of National Service, the City of New York is making a smart move to attract talented, dedicated, and experienced leaders to work in city government," said **Wendy Spencer, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service.** "I commend Mayor de Blasio for sending the message that the City wants AmeriCorps and Peace Corps alumni on its team."

"United Way of New York City is proud to be the core strategic and fundraising partner on the expanding service year strategy as well as an Employer of National Service," said **Sheena Wright, President and CEO of United Way of New York City.** "This unprecedented commitment to service years will help us to tackle some of the most critical challenges facing our most vulnerable communities and build a City of Possibility for every New Yorker."

"The Franklin Project believes that every young American should have an opportunity to serve their country and be expected to do so," said **Jay Mangone, Director of the Franklin Project at the Aspen Institute.** "New York City is in the forefront of expanding service year opportunities at the local level."

"Service is a key component of *Pathways to Progress* – our three-year, \$50 million commitment to jump start the career readiness of 100,000 youth," said **Brandee McHale, President of the Citi Foundation.** "We are proud to collaborate with NYC Service to give more young people in the five boroughs the opportunity to make a difference in their communities through the expansion of NYC Service Years, while also building workplace skills and gaining the leadership experience that will help prepare them for success."

"Creating new pathways to service years has the potential to generate a catalytic opportunity in helping young adults move forward in careers, and it builds experiential knowledge to help impact communities," said **Laurie Tisch, President of the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund.**

"UJA-Federation of New York is proud to support volunteer engagement in New York City and is honored to be a launch partner for the Expanding NYC Service Years Launch Fund," said **Eric Goldstein, Chief Executive Officer of UJA-Federation of New York.**

"By fostering the expansion of NYC service years, we are not only creating critical career opportunities, but also helping our city develop a diverse workforce to address some of our most pressing challenges. The Mayor's Fund is proud to work with both NYC Service and our generous private sector partners to support this important program," said **Darren Bloch, Executive Director of the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City.**

About NYC Service

NYC Service – a division of the Mayor's Office – promotes volunteerism, engages New Yorkers in service, builds volunteer capacity and mobilizes the power of volunteers and service years to impact New York City's greatest needs. Our vision is to inspire and empower all New Yorkers to volunteer and serve New York City and each other. Learn more and search for service opportunities by skill, borough and interest at nyc.gov/service.

About Corporation for National and Community Service

The Corporation for National and Community Service is a federal agency that engages more than five million Americans in service through its AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, Social Innovation Fund, and Volunteer Generation Fund programs, and leads the President's national call to service initiative, United We Serve. Since 1994, more than 830,000 Americans have provided more than 1 billion hours of service to their communities and country through AmeriCorps. For more information, visit NationalService.gov.

About United Way of New York City

For more than 75 years, United Way of New York City has been the activist inside, working deep within the system to weave a net of interconnected solutions to catch our poorest neighbors. We orchestrate hundreds of partners in a symphony of hope, and mobilize communities to break down barriers and build opportunities that improve the lives of low-income New Yorkers for the benefit of all. We help ensure that short-term needs are being met while simultaneously working on long-term solutions to the city's most intractable problems. We envision caring communities where all individuals and families have access to quality education and the opportunity to lead healthy and financially secure lives. We are the activists inside, working to make New York City work for every New Yorker. [Follow](#), [like](#) and [pin](#) us, and learn more at unitedwaynyc.org.

About The Franklin Project at the Aspen Institute

The Franklin Project envisions a future in which a year of full-time national service—a service year—is a cultural expectation, a common opportunity, and a civic rite of passage for every young American. We are leading the effort to improve citizenship by giving every young person in America the opportunity to serve. Sometime between the ages of 18 and 28, the young person would do a fully paid, full-time year of service in one of an array of areas, including health, poverty, conservation, or education. These young people will not only do good work and solve problems, but they will also become better young Americans. Learn more about the Franklin Project www.franklinproject.org.

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