



Dear Colleagues,

The White House, in partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service, has announced an exciting new summer service initiative. In a video message on June 17th, President Obama announced United We Serve, encouraging Americans to create meaningful change in their communities by engaging in service. The initiative launches today and I am in New Orleans, joining volunteers from the St. Bernard Project and other local organizations to rebuild a New Orleans home that was destroyed in Hurricane Katrina.

As dedicated HUD employees, you serve the American people every day, supporting communities across the country and expanding access to affordable and fair housing. I know your dedication doesn't stop there. For years, you have invested your own time serving our communities through volunteer efforts, so I know that President Obama's call to service will resonate with you as it has resonated with me.

United We Serve will engage Americans – young and old, from every background, all across the country – in sustained, meaningful community service from June 22 to September 11, a new National Day of Service and Remembrance. But, of course, the call to service will not end on September 11.

There are many ways for HUD to engage in United We Serve. I am writing to encourage you to participate this summer by:

- Sending a message to your friends and neighbors to direct them to Serve.gov.
- Engaging in sustained, outcome-oriented service this summer and taking a leadership role by organizing to solve problems in your community.
- Posting volunteer opportunities you create to Serve.gov so people can get plugged into your efforts, and encouraging any community organizations you work with to post as well.
- Telling your service stories at Serve.gov. Throughout the summer the Corporation for National and Community Service will highlight examples of exemplary service. The First Lady has also made engaging the federal workforce in community service a priority and she will be eager to know what you did this summer.

As part of this initiative, the President is calling on ordinary Americans to take a leadership role in recruiting and organizing their friends, family, and neighbors to develop their own service projects that address pressing community needs in partnership with local organizations. Serve.gov features toolkits for developing projects in issue areas like education,

health, energy and the environment, and community renewal. I encourage you to think of creative ways that you can develop your own projects as well.

This will be a very exciting 81 days and beyond. I hope you will join me in answering the President's call and engaging in your community this summer and beyond.

In Service,



Shaun Donovan
Secretary

Note: Because of the work we do at HUD, volunteering for some organizations may create a conflict of interest. If you can affect an organization in carrying out your official duties, or if you are a former employee of an organization, you should not volunteer for the organization. Your Regional Counsel or the Ethics Law Division at (202) 708-3815 can provide guidance in these situations. Also, if you wish to volunteer your services during official time, you must obtain advance approval from your supervisor or manager. Please see the links below for more information.

[HUD Volunteer Policy overview](#)
[Memorandum on Volunteerism](#)
[AFGE HUD Volunteer MOU](#)