

# Illinois Service Learning Fact Sheet



## General Background

Learn and Serve America provides an "on-ramp" to a lifetime of civic engagement for more than a million students each year. The program awards grants to state education agencies, schools, nonprofit groups, and institutions of higher education to engage students in service activities linked to academic achievement.

In 2006, Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn assumed responsibility for the Illinois' Learn and Serve America program and has partnered with the Illinois Resource Center (IRC) to provide training and technical assistance for recipients of the Illinois K-12 School-Based Learn and Serve grants.

These grants, which are determined by the Illinois State Board of Education and the Office of Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn, foster the growth of service learning - a curriculum-based pedagogical method that is rapidly gaining acceptance across the nation.

This program year the Lieutenant Governors Office has awarded 42 grants to local school districts. To view a listing of school districts participating in service-learning throughout the Land of Lincoln, visit our website at [www.ServeandLearn.org](http://www.ServeandLearn.org).

## Learn and Serve Statistics for 2008

- **Total Participants** 52, 341
  - Median number of Participants 250
  - Median number of Teachers 15
- **Total Service Hours** 657,477
  - Median number of hours 7,050
- **Ethnicity**
  - Hispanic 29.2%
  - Non-Hispanic 67.4%
- **Gender**
  - Male 44.25%
  - Female 47.3%



## Learn and Serve Projects

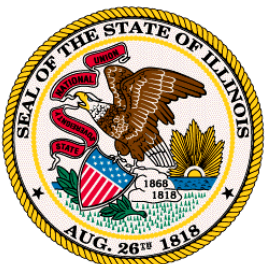
- Intergenerational work with senior citizens and nursing home residents.
- Work with the homeless.
- Historical preservation and local history.
- Parks and community recreational development and community beautification
- Prairie and stream bank restoration.
- Suburban/inner-city school partnerships.
- Recycling and environmental projects.
- Drug, violence and gang awareness.
- Support for integration of minority groups and immigrants into the community
- Peer tutoring and mentoring.

## Other Facts

- 32 percent of America's elementary and secondary schools have adopted service-learning programs.
- 45 percent of K-12 schools receiving Learn and Serve America funds have embraced service-learning as a part of their core curriculum.
- 35 states have adopted some form of service-learning policy -- either a mandatory, statewide policy or one granting districts the freedom to create their own.
- At least a quarter of all higher education institutions and more than half of all community colleges have adopted service-learning programs.
- 66 percent of higher education institutions that receive Learn and Serve America funds have embraced service-learning as a part of their core curriculum.
- 89 percent of Learn and Serve America grantees and sub-grantees meet a majority of the characteristics of high-quality service-learning programs.
- 51 percent of Learn and Serve America-funded programs report that activities related to service-learning have had a substantial positive impact on making service-learning a permanent part of their institution.
- 41 percent of the resources for Learn and Serve America are provided by sources out-side the Corporation for National and Community Service.
- The most common community-service areas for Learn and Serve America programs are education (40 percent), the environment (25 percent), and health and nutrition (24 percent).

## More Information

To learn more about Learn and Serve America, in Illinois, visit [www.ServeandLearn.org](http://www.ServeandLearn.org) or call (312) 814-5220.



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