

WHAT IS COMMUNITY NEED?

Volunteer Maryland (VM) is an AmeriCorps program of the Governor's Office. Potential VM partners are asked to articulate the critical need in the community or client population that will be addressed by direct service volunteers during the VM partnership year. To do so, agencies may summarize or quote relevant data or other research to support the community need statement. The following are brief examples of community need statements, adapted from prior VM sites, in the AmeriCorps priority issue areas: human needs, education, public safety/homeland security, and the environment. Please note that the direct service identified in the VM Service Site application must relate directly to the stated community need. For more information, please contact VM at 410-767-6203, or volmd@volunteermaryland.org.

ISSUE AREA	COMMUNITY NEED STATEMENT
<p>HUMAN NEEDS <i>(Hospice Program)</i></p>	<p>Over the last 30 years, Caroline County has seen a 50 percent increase in its population, yet remains a relatively poor county, with a median household income less than three-quarters of the size of the State median household income. Both the increase in population and low median household income have led to a high demand for hospice services. Between 2000 and 2004, the demand for services from the Caroline Hospice Foundation (CHF) doubled. Direct service volunteers will provide home visitation and support groups. (Source: US Census)</p>
<p>EDUCATION <i>(After-School Homework Club)</i></p>	<p>High Point is the most diverse high school in Maryland with over 66 countries and 44 languages represented in the student body. According to internal evaluations, 64 percent of tenth graders and 22 percent of ninth graders were reading at a fifth grade level or below when they approached VM for a partnership. Direct service volunteers will provide tutoring and helped students complete homework, prepare for functional tests, and increase academic skills. (Source: 2003 School Improvement Team Report)</p>
<p>PUBLIC SAFETY/HOMELAND SECURITY <i>(Citizen Education and Emergency Response Program)</i></p>	<p>Anne Arundel County is home to more than 10 percent of Maryland's citizens (population 510,000). Located between both the Chesapeake Bay and Washington, DC, the County faces a variety of environmental and other threats to its residents each year. However, a recent survey by Johns Hopkins University (July 2005) revealed that most Maryland citizens are unaware of the necessary safety precautions to prepare for and respond to an environmental or other emergency. At the County Office of Emergency Management, direct service volunteers will serve on the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). (Sources: US Census and JHU Press)</p>
<p>ENVIRONMENT <i>(Student Environmental Awareness Program)</i></p>	<p>In Queen Anne's County, nitrogen and phosphorus are the Chesapeake Bay's primary pollutants, and the Bay ecosystem has been inundated with one of the largest nutrient loads seen in 25 years. The public school system established a partnership with VM to manage environmental projects with high school students and local citizens. Direct service volunteers installed riparian buffer and native plants to protect the Bay from nitrogen and phosphorus runoff. (Sources: MD Department of Natural Resources and Chesapeake Bay Foundation)</p>