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Volunteer Mississippi appreciates your support of National Service Programs in our great state! We look forward to working with you and seizing opportunities for growth together.

So, what's going in March 2020?

EVENTS CANCELLED:

Due to the spread and effects of COVID-19, Volunteer Mississippi has cancelled or postponed all public events through the end of the State Fiscal Year (June 30). This includes Nonprofit & Philanthropy Leadership Forums, the Governor's Initiative for Volunteer Excellence (GIVE) Awards, the AmeriCorps Celebration of Service, and others. We hate to push pause on these treasured times together, but the health of Mississippi's finest is our top priority. Please know that we are working to reschedule everything possible, so be on the lookout for announcements regarding new dates and times!

GRANT CHANGE REQUESTS:

Now is the time to submit your Grant Change Requests! VM would love to have them reviewed, approved, and implemented by your next reimbursement request!

AMERICORPS MEMBER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (MAP):

Given the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, America's Service Commissions has opened a special enrollment for the [AmeriCorps Member Assistance Program](#), waiving its usual \$250 membership fee to make it easier to access. Programs will only be charged the per member fee based on the package selected. Consider this special option as a way to support your members AND

use any unexpended funds.

MANAGEMENT AND CONNECTION RESOURCES:

As discussed on our recent Programs Call, we'd like to highlight a couple of useful tools for managing and connecting with your members. [Asana](#) is a free online project/team management platform that allows for flexibility, focus, and connectivity. Also, [Basecamp](#) is a great online team/project management outlet that is used by the Commission and ASC to connect all of our counterparts around the country.

Speaking of Basecamp... ASC has created a Program Group on Basecamp for all of you! It will be a great place to share common documents, have discussions, and share ideas. Please visit the AmeriCorps Mississippi landing page [here](#) to get started! Ground rules on how we will use Basecamp to communicate with each other forthcoming.

EVALUATION AND DATA COLLECTION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

VM recently announced that Sue Hyatt of Big Purpose, Big Impact will guide you through one-on-one and group TTA. We will hold a Program Call during the first week of April to introduce you to Sue and walk through some of opportunities you'll have to work with her. Sue is a trailblazer for National Service and a wonderful resource for you and your programs. Should be a great chance to strengthen your programs!

CNCS GUIDANCE REGARDING COVID-19:

The Corporation has issued helpful [guidance](#) regarding members and support for programs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Changes are made frequently without notice, so check back early and often to keep apprised on how your programs can continue doing good things in this time of uncertainty.

REMINDERS:

April 15: Progress Reports Due
Stay safe, stay vigilant, stay well!

All queries and correspondence about AmeriCorps
should be directed to acms@ihl.state.ms.us.



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