



## CITIZEN CORPS

Citizen Corps was officially launched in 2002 during President George W. Bush’s State of the Union Address. Citizen Corps encourages citizens to embrace the personal responsibility to be prepared; to get training in first aid and emergency skills; and to volunteer to support local emergency responders, disaster relief, and community safety. Citizen Corps answers the essential questions “What can I do?” and “How can I help?” in a meaningful way by providing local opportunities for Americans of all abilities to prepare, train and volunteer for every type of natural and man-made hazard.

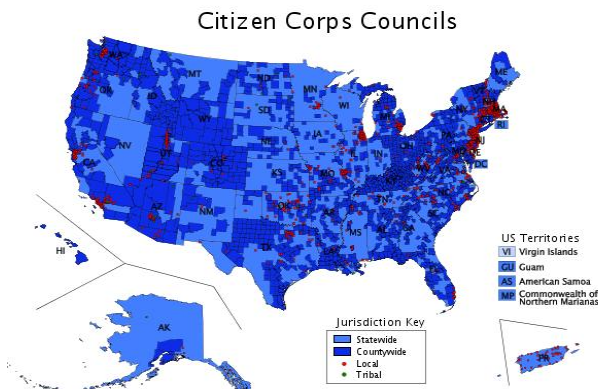


Citizen Corps is the Department’s grassroots initiative to actively involve all organizations and citizens in the effort to secure the homeland through planning, personal and community preparedness, training, and volunteer service. Citizen Corps plays a critical role in facilitating and fostering preparedness activities among State and local entities that are not traditionally involved in emergency management.

### Mission

The Citizen Corps mission is to bring government and community leaders from all sectors together to involve the full community in all-hazards emergency preparedness, planning, mitigation, response, and recovery.

### Citizen Corps National Strategy



Citizen Corps is administered nationally by the Department of Homeland Security through the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Community Preparedness Division, and is delivered through the National Preparedness Divisions of the Agency’s ten Regional Offices. Citizen Corps provides a national strategy and program support for state and local program implementation. In the six years since Citizen Corps was launched in 2002, over 2300 State, local, Tribal, and Territorial Councils have formed, encompassing 78 percent of the nation’s population.



### Citizen Corps Councils

Citizen Corps Councils bring members of the community together with emergency management and responders to support planning, outreach and education, and programs that train organizations and citizens to support emergency response. The Councils bring together all sectors (government/nongovernmental) of the community to collaborate and integrate all resources into Emergency Operation Plans, Hazard Mitigation Plans, and other planning initiatives. The Councils identify priorities and build on community strengths to develop action plans to involve the whole community. Additionally, Citizen Corps Councils focus on priorities and plans that include the public; including emergency communication, shelter and evacuation, public education, training, exercises, vulnerable populations, and Citizen Corps volunteer programs and training to support plans.

### Collaboration, Planning, Building Capacity & Resiliency



#### Outreach & Education



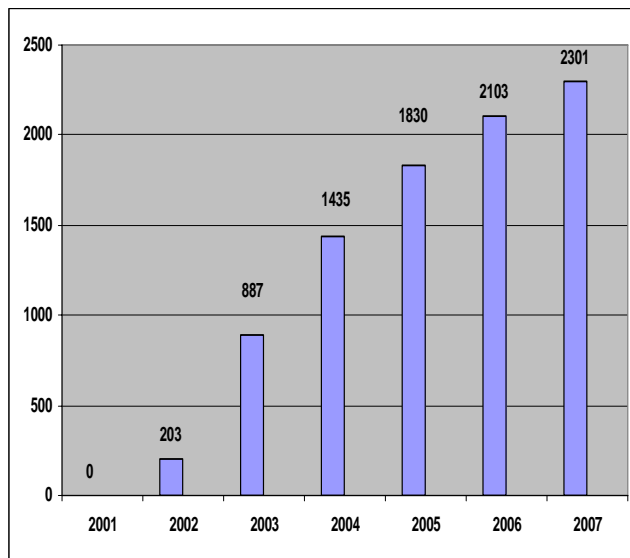
#### Training & Exercises



#### Volunteer Programs & Surge Support



### Citizen Corps Council Growth



### Citizen Corps Council Membership

- First responder / emergency management
  - Law enforcement, fire service, public health and medical, and public works
- Elected officials
- Volunteer community and non-profit organizations
- Business leaders, especially critical infrastructure
- Faith-based leaders
- School system representatives
- Transportation sector
- Medical facilities
- Large venue facilities
- Media executives
- Community/Neighborhood Networks
- Representatives from critical population sectors: persons with disabilities, language and cultural, economically disadvantaged, youth, seniors, and pet owners

### National Citizen Corps Council

The National Citizen Corps Council brings together more than 75 national non-governmental organizations and Federal agencies to collaborate across responder disciplines and non-governmental sectors to support Federal, State, and local preparedness.



### Citizen Corps Partnerships – Program Partners

Citizen Corps involves partnerships at all levels. Citizen Corps works with five national Program Partners through partnerships with other Federal agencies and national organizations. The five programs---Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Fire Corps, USA on Watch/Neighborhood Watch, and Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS)— provide national resources for training and exercising citizens at the State and local level.

	<b>Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS)</b> works to enhance the capacity of state and local law enforcement to utilize volunteers
	<b>Neighborhood Watch/USAonWatch</b> incorporates terrorism awareness education into its existing crime prevention mission
	The <b>Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)</b> program educates and trains citizens in basic disaster response skills
	The <b>Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Program</b> helps medical, public health, and other volunteers offer their expertise
	<b>Fire Corps</b> promotes the use of citizen advocates to provide support to fire and rescue departments

### Citizen Corps Partnerships – Affiliates

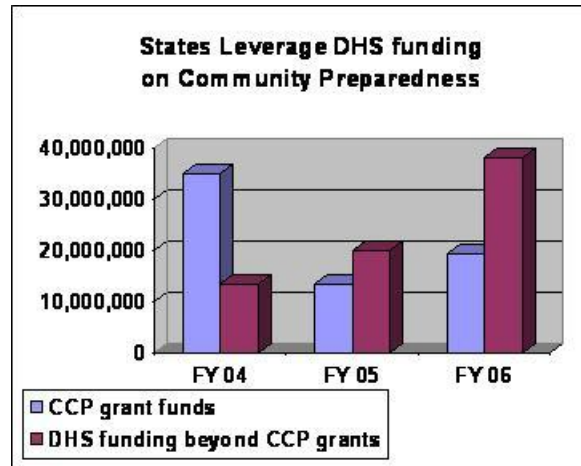
Citizen Corps Affiliate Programs and Organizations offer communities resources for public education, outreach and training; represent volunteers interested in helping to make their community safer; or offer volunteer service opportunities to support first responders, disaster relief activities, and community safety efforts. Citizen Corps currently works in partnership with 25 national Affiliates to promote community preparedness. Affiliates include major non-profit organizations and government agencies such as the American Red Cross, The American Legion, and the Home Safety Council and the Departments of Education, Commerce, and the Environmental Protection Agency.





### Citizen Corps Funding

Since Fiscal Year (FY) 2004, Community Preparedness and Citizen Corps has been integrated across Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) guidance. States allocated nearly \$140 million to citizen preparedness projects between FY 2004 - FY 2006 with about \$68 million awarded through the Citizen Corps Program and about \$71 million awarded through other HSGP funding streams. States used these funds to support a broad range of community preparedness activities that can include establishing a Citizen Corps Council, providing citizens with preparedness training, including CERT training, communicating citizen preparedness messages, and developing professional responder exercises that include a test of the citizen response role.



### Looking Forward

Citizen Corps has five key goals moving forward into 2008.

- Provide additional resources for Citizen Corps Councils
- Further Partnership Development and Strengthen Coordination
- Encourage Training and involvement in Exercises
- National Policy Integration / Development
- Communication and Outreach

Citizen and community outreach is a critical building-block in the foundation of national preparedness. Only by reaching out to citizen groups, volunteers, and the general public can the Nation truly be secured against all hazards. Programs that build community preparedness ensure that citizens will be ready to face the threats of terrorism and natural disasters.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov)