

SERVICE ✦ YEARSM

Maine Commission Briefing

Kristen Bennett,
Managing Director, Service Year Exchange

Introducing

Service Year Alliance*

A new organization designed to catalyze the power of service at scale.

Merged 3 organizations into 1



SERVICE + YEAR ALLIANCE*

A joint venture of Be The Change and
The Aspen Institute and Chaired by
General (Ret.) Stanley McChrystal

And formed strong partnership with
fourth Alliance founding partner



*working title only

Service Year Alliance

Our leadership and staff have deep experience in the service year field, having served or worked at:



Our Vision

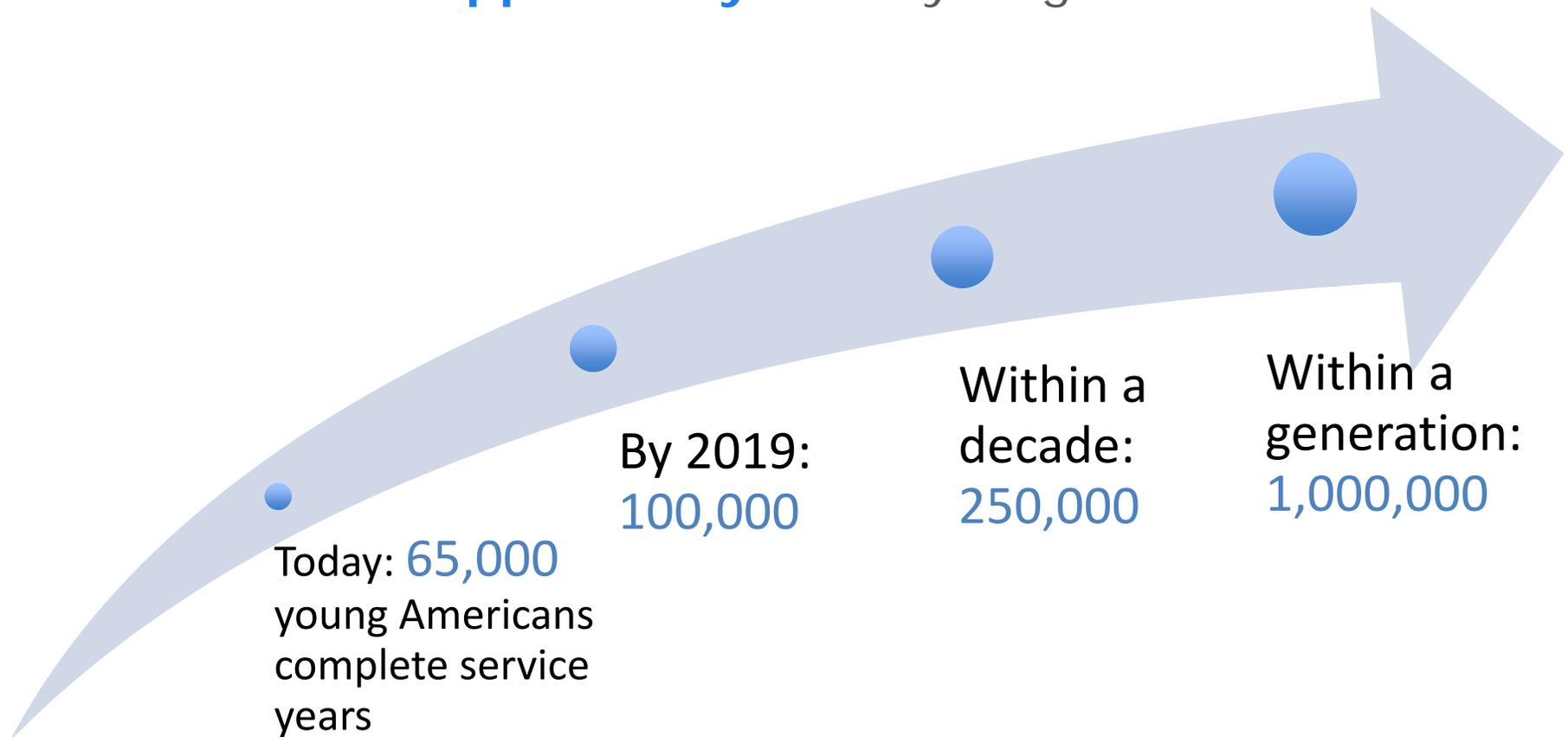
Bring young Americans from different backgrounds together for a **transformative service experience**, while directing **unprecedented human capital** to America's biggest problems

"Where did you do your service year?"



Our Mission

To make a year of service a **cultural expectation and common opportunity** for all young Americans



Defining “Service Year”

- Sustained, substantial service with a set term, supported with a modest living allowance or below-market salary and other benefits
- Organized to have an important community impact while making a lasting difference in the lives of those who serve

Service Year participant profiles:



Tufts senior **Tiffany Chen** thought about law school but knew she wasn't ready. When she heard about the chance

to provide one-on-one tutoring to high-school students through Match Corps, she jumped at the opportunity. She and the other tutors helped high-need students at the Match Charter School dramatically outperform other students in the state. “That year changed my life,” says Tiffany, now the director of Teacher Engagement at the New Teacher Project.



Fresh out of prison, former gang member, **Elisio Nunez**, wanted to start over. When a probation officer told him about the Urban

Corps of San Diego County, which would enable him to earn a high school diploma while serving his community, Elisio knew he had to apply. Two years later, he had a diploma, a supervisory job with a recycling program, takes night classes at San Diego City College, and volunteers as a counselor to help others trying to beat drug addiction.



A military spouse, **Shari Kotara**, was devastated after her husband was transferred to an unfamiliar rural area

with few jobs. Deeply unhappy, Shari volunteered on base but felt no connection to her new community. Looking for a way to engage, she found an AmeriCorps VISTA position at a local hunger program. Through her work, the program increased its funding by 13% in six months, making it possible for schools to send home more weekend meals for low-income children. No longer feeling disconnected, Shari notes, “I realized I had the power to create change.”

Why Now?

Demand

AMERICANS UNITE IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL SERVICE

83% of voters) BROAD SUPPORT ACROSS PARTY LINES: want Congress to maintain or increase federal investment in national service.

79% OF REPUBLICANS 90% OF DEMOCRATS 84% OF INDEPENDENTS

One in four 18 to 28 year olds say they “definitely would participate,” consistent across demographic groups -- Roll Global survey 2014

Evidence

THE ROLE OF NATIONAL SERVICE IN CLOSING THE GRADUATION GAP

THIS PAPER HIGHLIGHTS SELECTED PROGRAM EVIDENCE IN EIGHT AREAS:

- Ensuring young children are ready for kindergarten;
- Boosting early reading success;
- Supporting regular attendance, good behavior and strong course performance (the ABCs);
- Providing social and emotional support;
- Extending learning beyond the school walls and the school day;
- Fostering college and career aspirations;
- Creating a new pipeline of effective, diverse educators and advocates for high-need schools; and
- Reconnecting young people to education and employment pathways.

Ensuring young children are ready for kindergarten. Without early-learning support, low-income children are likely to start kindergarten as much as 60 percent behind their more affluent peers — a gap that can persist through adulthood.

Hampart trains college students and older community volunteers to build early literacy skills for preschool-age children in low-income neighborhoods. A 2011 randomized controlled trial showed that young children served by Hampart’s AmeriCorps members significantly outperformed a comparison group on standardized measures of reading, school readiness and socio-emotional skills. The study also found that Hampart-served children completed their preschool year at, or slightly above, the average performance of rising kindergartners in general. More recently, the Center for High Impact Philanthropy at the University of Pennsylvania featured Hampart in a toolkit for donors interested in investing in early childhood education. See links to several studies of Hampart’s impact on this page of their website.

HIPPYCorps (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters) blends an evidence-based family involvement and kindergarten readiness model with AmeriCorps’ structure. AmeriCorps members, all of whom are parents recruited from the lower-income communities HIPPY serves, use a peer-to-peer curriculum to work with individual families every week for up to three years to build parents’ capacity to provide early learning support for children ages three to five. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Home Visiting Evidence of Effectiveness program, conducted in collaboration with Mathematica Policy Research, has identified HIPPY as one of a handful of models that meet specific evidence-based criteria. Research has shown statistically significant effects on school readiness and school achievement, including results that persist beyond kindergarten. Read more about the research on HIPPY’s impact on the HIPPY USA website and on the Home Visiting Evidence of Effectiveness site.

These programs target specific educational outcomes by engaging full-time AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps VISTA members, part-time AmeriCorps members (including programs that engage adults, ages 55+), and community volunteers of all ages in high-need public schools, Head Start centers and youth-serving nonprofit organizations.

6

The Economics of Expanding National Service

Social Benefits National Service provides communities with a 4 to 1 return on investment.

Fiscal Benefits For every \$1 of taxpayer spending on national service, there are returns of over \$2 through lower government spending

Need

74% OF BLACK STUDENTS AND 80% OF LATINO STUDENTS WENT TO SCHOOLS THAT WERE MORE THAN HALF-MINORITY

5,527,000 YOUNG ADULTS ARE NOT IN SCHOOL OR WORKING

The Bipartisan Policy Center’s Commission on Political Reform recently made recommendations to improve all areas of civic life, including a one-year commitment to community and national service by our young people.

Why We Must—and How We Can—Overcome Our Broken Politics in Washington and Across America

CRISIS POINT

SENATOR TRENT LOTT SENATOR TOM DASCHLE

Timetable

Era 1: Organizing for Action – 2013 – 2015 (Completed)

Birth of the Alliance through merger

Laying groundwork for a united service year field and piloting key capabilities

65,000 positions

Era 2: Igniting Growth, Broadening the Field -- 2016 - 2019

Build the strongest possible foundation for transformative change, **2016 election**

Infrastructure, testing, learning, building Alliance to create the conditions for rapid growth in era 3

100,000+ positions

Era 3: Sustaining Growth, Achieving Transformation -- 2020 - 2026

Rapid growth and diversification based on era 2 successes

Filling gaps, setting standards, **2020 and 2024 elections**

250,000+ positions

Era 4: Capitalizing on Transformation (2027 and beyond)

Competition and community sustain quality

Tackling challenges at unprecedented scale - A cultural norm

1M+ plus positions

What will it take to achieve the vision?

Strategic shifts

Singular goal: Our North Star

Compelling strategies

Organizational capabilities

Strategic Shifts

1. From niche community to national movement: Service years move beyond small circle of active supporters to a movement fueled by widespread belief in power of service years to transform lives, communities, and country. Movement will connect Americans of all backgrounds and inspire demand -- to serve, host & fund corps members, and honor & reward those who serve.

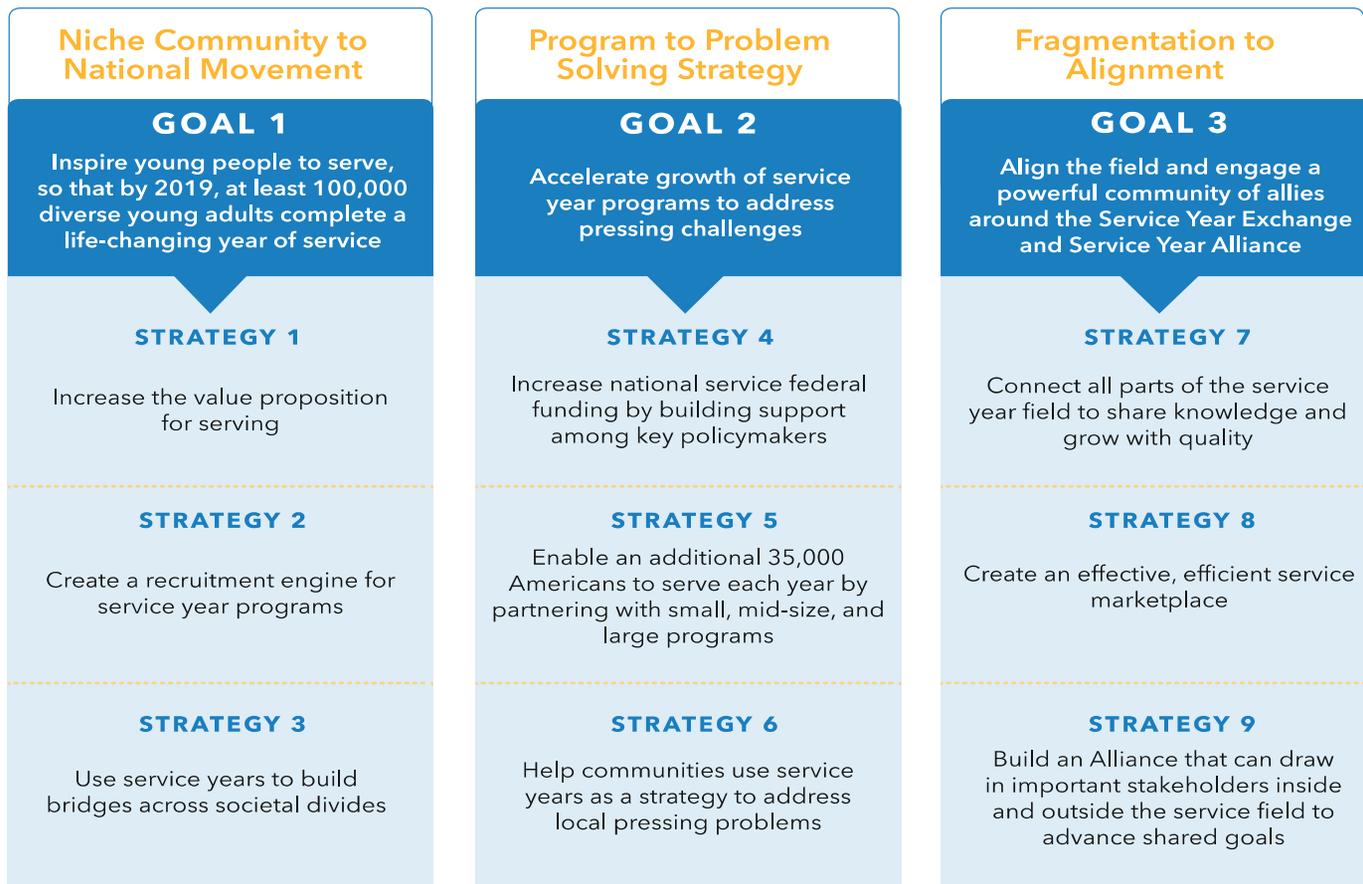
2. From program to problem solving strategy: Service years move from a small set of programs to a powerful problem-solving strategy – in education, conservation, health, aging with dignity, veterans reintegration. Builds on and grows existing programs such as AmeriCorps (Teach for America, City Year, Habitat for Humanity), Peace Corps, YouthBuild, The Mission Continues, and Jesuit Volunteer Corps and certifies new programs in higher education, nonprofits, professional corps, and agencies at all levels.

3. From fragmentation to alignment: Service years move from a fragmented field with high barriers to entry to a connected, engaged community in which new programs are nurtured, practitioners learn from one another, and people who want to serve can find positions. Those who serve earn college credit and credential of value to employers.

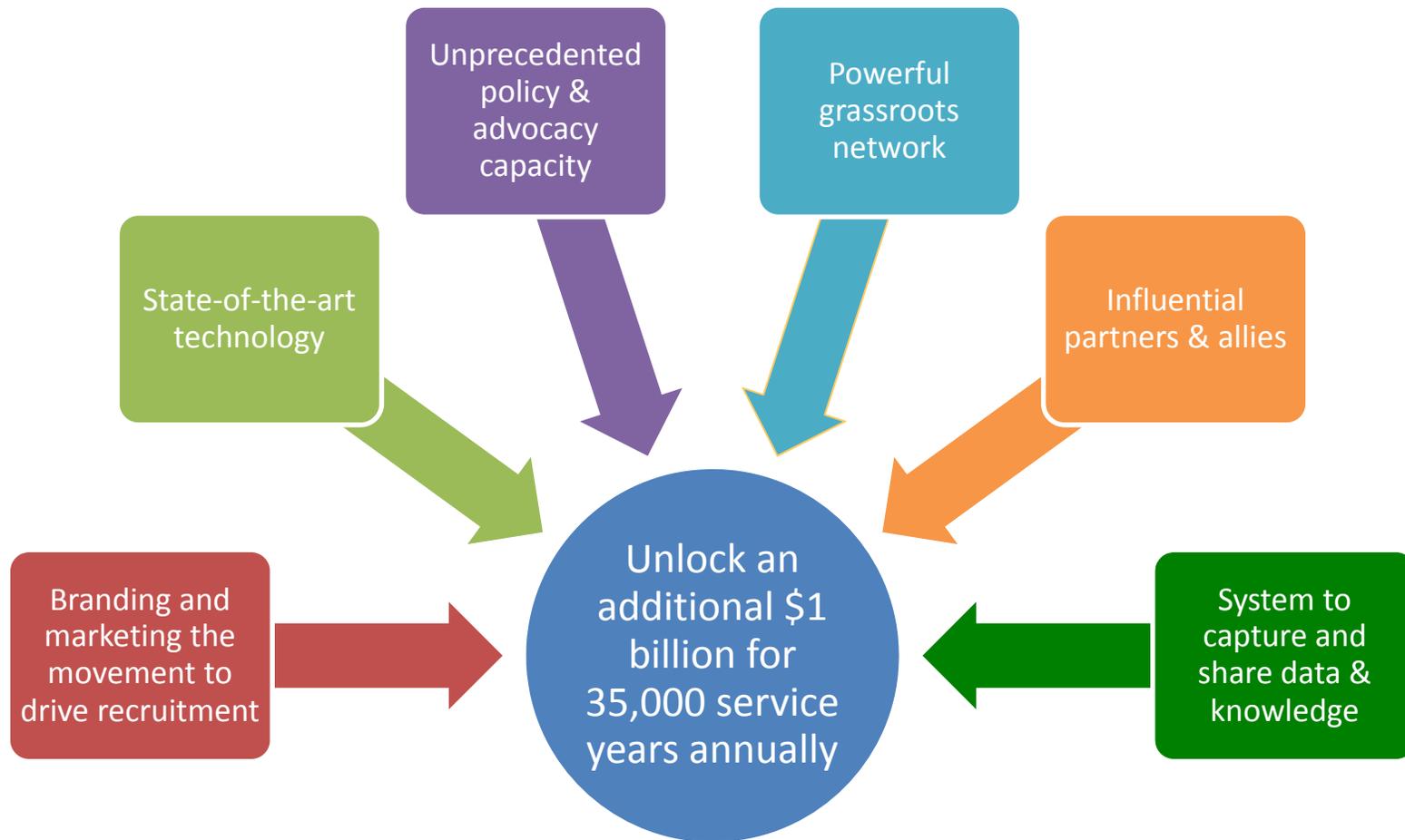
Our North Star

Every year, one million young Americans engage in a service year, solving important problems while transforming their own lives

STRATEGIC SHIFTS

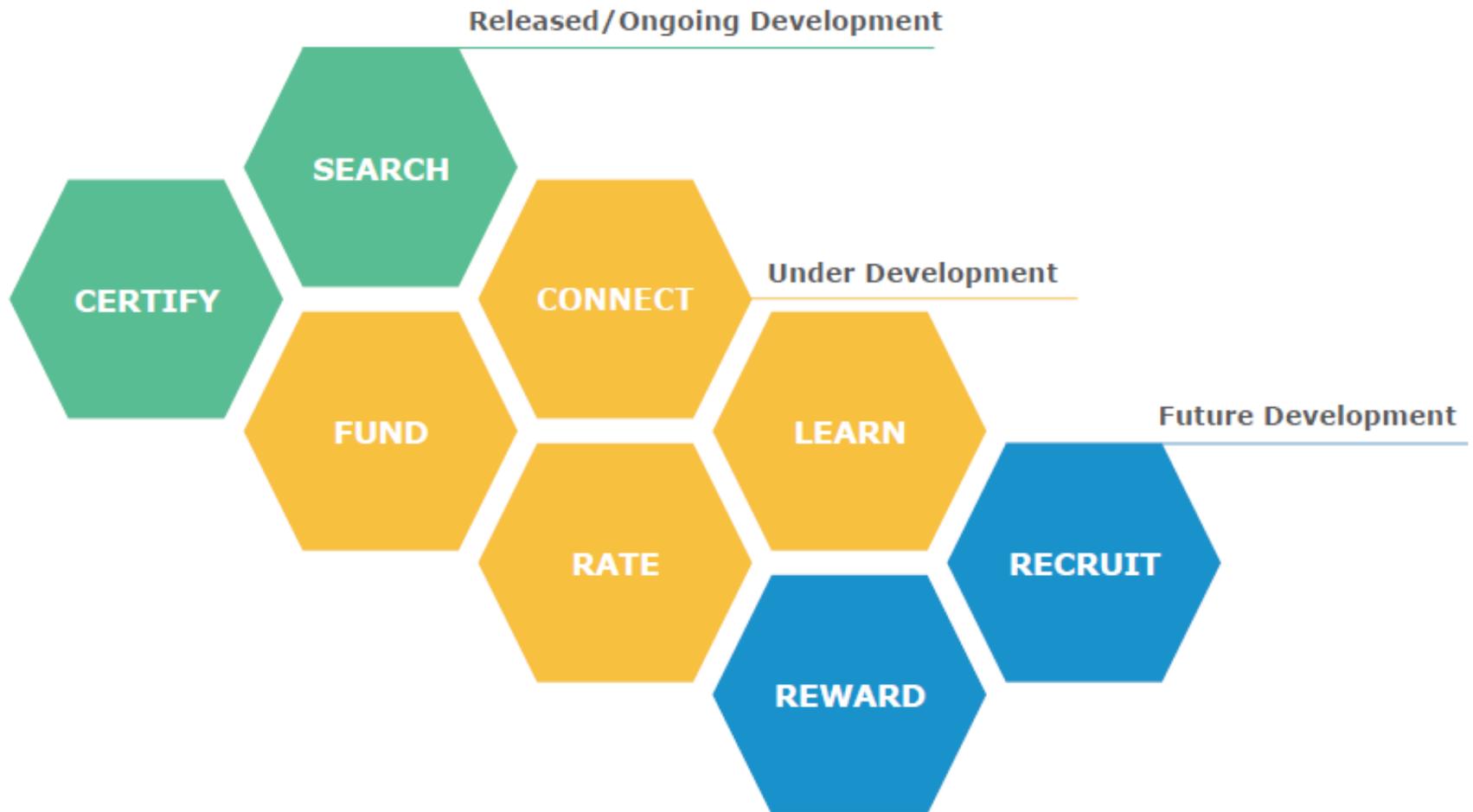


Organization Capabilities



Service Year Exchange

Service Year Exchange Development



Questions?

Thank you!

ServiceYr.org

kbennett@serviceyr.org