

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Fran Rudoff, KIDS Consortium

207-784-0956

frudoff@kidsconsortium.org

KIDS Consortium Awarded \$600,000 to advance ‘Green Schools’ based service-learning

Auburn, Maine – The Corporation for National and Community Service announced a \$600,000 grant to KIDS Consortium designed to engage students in service-learning projects that promote community service while enhancing students’ academic and civic skills.

Based in Auburn, Maine, KIDS (Kids Involved Doing Service-Learning) Consortium (www.kidsconsortium.org) helps transform classrooms and communities through an award-winning educational model that has touched more than a quarter-million students across New England and New York.

The grant supports a three-year partnership between KIDS Consortium and the Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance (MMSA) aimed at involving middle school students in service-learning projects focused on “Green Schools” as part of science and mathematics classes. Additional partners include Brandeis University as project evaluators, and educators in Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Vermont and Connecticut.

Through the grant, KIDS Consortium and MMSA will create a guide for educators about integrating high quality service-learning experiences with research-based teaching strategies for STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subject areas; offer professional development for educators throughout New England, New York and nationally; and support pilot projects in 8 local school districts. According to KIDS Consortium Executive Director, Fran Rudoff, “students will take the lead to design and carry out projects to make their schools and neighborhoods healthier and more environmentally sustainable. These projects not only engage students in learning and develop life-long civic skills, but also have the potential to reduce energy costs for communities.”

“We know that students who become involved in their communities through organized service-learning activities experience a range of benefits, from improved academic achievement to the development of an ethic of civic involvement,” said Nicola Goren, Acting CEO of the Corporation. “This grant will help meet important social needs and put thousands of students on a lifelong path of service.”

Founded in 1992, KIDS is a nonprofit organization that serves schools and community organizations in Maine and New England. The mission of KIDS Consortium is to prepare young people to be active and responsible citizens by training and supporting educators, community organizations, and youth in best practices for service-learning. Through service-learning, K-12 students identify, research and address real community challenges, using knowledge and skills learned in the classroom. To learn more about KIDS Consortium, service-learning, and Green Schools, visit www.kidsconsortium.org.

Learn and Serve America is the federal program that supports service-learning in schools, higher education institutions, and community-based organizations across the country. Learn and Serve America is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the federal agency that also oversees Senior Corps and AmeriCorps. The Corporation improves lives, strengthens communities, and fosters civic engagement through service and volunteering, engaging four million Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service. For more information, visit [NationalService.gov](http://www.nationalservice.gov) <<http://www.nationalservice.gov/>>.