



CivicSpark

Leveraging Service for Climate Action

Jan. 30, 2015



Local
Government
Commission



Service as a Smart Growth Strategy

- Designed to support local government program and policy activities
- Links emerging talent pool to programmatic needs
- AmeriCorps' provides national recognition and robust benefits for participants
- Creates overarching structure for recruitment, training, supervision

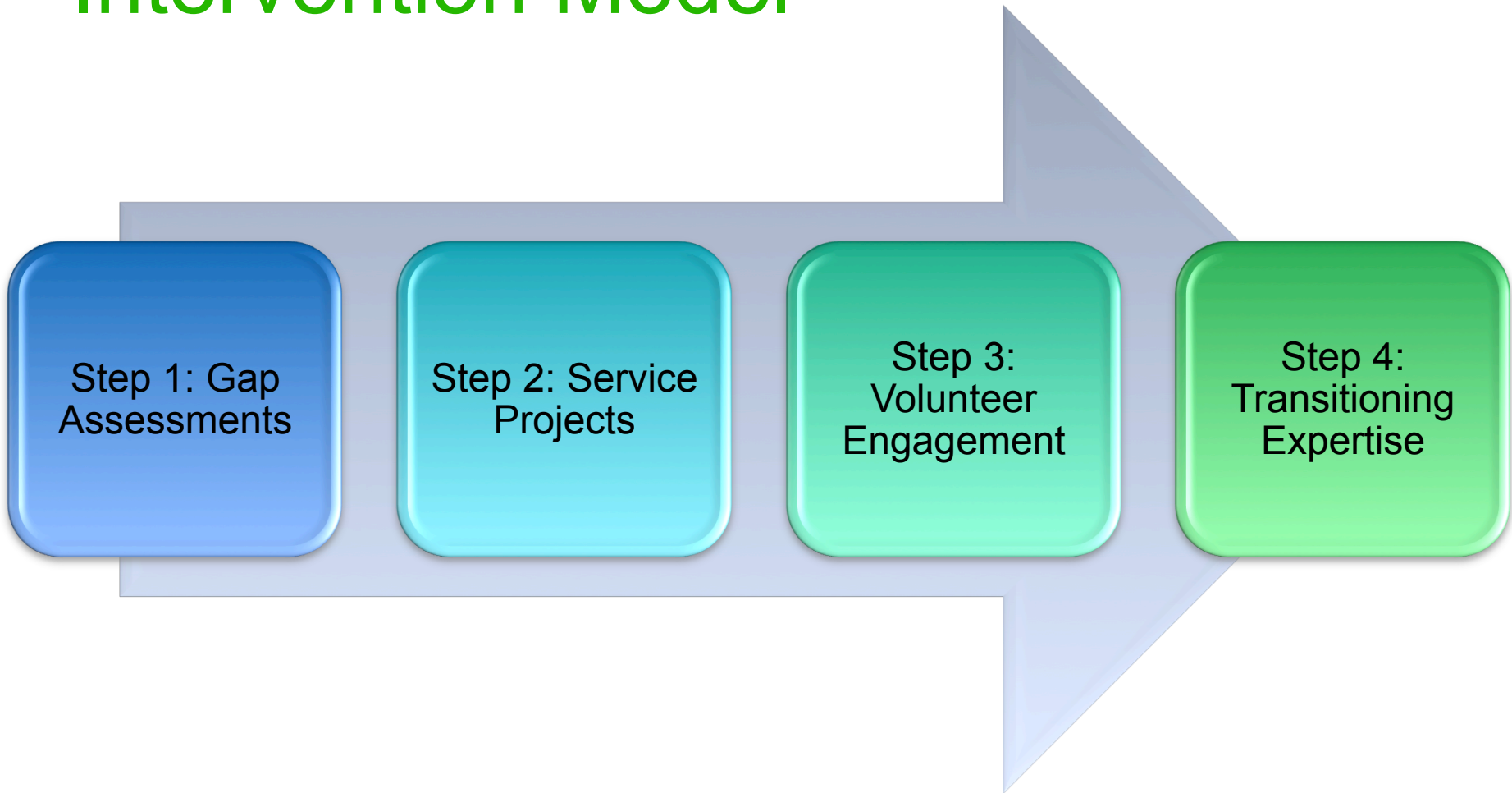


Making a Local Impact

- Member Commitment
 - 11-month service year
- LGC works with Local Governments to define projects
 - Meet communities where they are ready to take action
 - “Climate readiness Teams provide high-quality technical capacity-building support services to local governments through research, planning and project implementation activities.
- Impact is measured through
 - Staff Development
 - Capacity Building Projects
 - Transition of Knowledge



CivicSpark Four-Step Intervention Model



Partnerships increase effectiveness and support



Project Examples

- **iCommute San Diego**
 - Promote SANDAG iCommute program, which is a regional, County-wide program promoting ridesharing, public transit, and bicycling resources,
- **Ventura Climate Friendly Buildings**
 - Support the Ventura Better Business Challenge of reducing energy usage by 20% by the year 2020
- **San Gabriel Valley Point-of-Permit Energy Audit and Education**
 - Engage homeowners undertaking certain types of home renovation projects that require permits and to incorporate energy efficiency (EE) measures into their projects.
- **SLO Climate Action Support**
 - Work with SLO County and SLOAPCD on the implementation of Climate Action Plans for 7 local jurisdictions.
- **Urban Forestry in the Central Valley**
 - Increase urban forestry and forestry management capacity through technical support and training.



Structure supports Success

Key elements

- College graduates with local government and climate change experience
 - Specific training/prep on the tools they will most use
 - Ongoing technical training throughout the year
 - Continued capacity support through use of volunteers
 - Supervisory support through Encore Professionals
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- Early success signs
 - 250 applicants for 48 openings
 - 88 Local Governments being served through 30+ projects
 - Half of local governments are “High Need”
 - Over \$1,000,000 in local matching funds lined up
 - Over 10,000 hours of service already provided



Next Steps and Lessons Learned

■ Next Steps

- Look to refine and evolve the current program
- Replicate and expand where possible

■ Lessons Learned

- Avoid “one size fits all” approaches
- Strong programs need strong partnerships
- Local government is a great “site” for service
- AmeriCorps is a strong base model, but has challenges.



Questions?

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A program of the Local Government Commission



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