

Hi Chairman Durfee,

Thank you for providing time for our testimony this week in what was a very hectic day for your committee! We are incredibly grateful for your support and the thoughtful questions your committee colleagues asked. One point I wanted to follow up on is the question of public funds versus the # of participants and the # of service and training weeks. I created this graph to highlight that our public funds per training week rate has actually declined over the last three years.

	Public Investment	Participants	Weeks of participation	Per Week Rate of Investment	Total cost of Programming	Total additional fund raised by SLE partners (including AmeriCorps funding)
FY 2022	\$1,850,000	473	2951	\$626.91	\$4,914,426	\$3,064,426
FY 2023	\$1,800,000	531	4277	\$420.86	\$6,983,115	\$5,183,115
FY 2024 (Projected)	\$2,300,000	550	4708	\$488.53		
Growth %	24%	12%	44%	-22%	42%	69%

What this data also points to is an increase in length of engagement (folks are completing our programs and extending engagement for more training & service opportunities) and that we are bringing in growing federal and private philanthropy to support this expansion. As we mentioned in testimony, sustained public funding would improve our ability to attract private philanthropy and would give us the confidence to make significant investments in additional capacity to accelerate our growth year after year.

Without public funding our programs would not only decrease in size, but many would have to reinstate a tuition or cost for attendance. Because we are able to offer programming for free, and to pay folks to attend, we are able to work with Vermonters who may have financial barriers to involvement. The make-up of our programs would definitely change and the folks who could benefit most would be left behind.

Please let me know if you have any follow-up questions or need additional information from our collaborative. Thank you again for fitting us in!

With gratitude,
Kate

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