

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

24-Aug-1994 10:29am

TO: William A. Galston
FROM: Carol H. Rasco
 Economic and Domestic Policy
CC: Rosalyn A. Miller
SUBJECT: National Service

Rosalyn has given to you I assume by now a draft letter from Eli which he and Dick Riley propose go to heads of institutions around the time of launch of National Service program mid-September. Eli sent the draft over recently while you were out.....from the conversation I had with him I gathered that he and Riley had some brief discussion with President in passing on it. I told him I thought the idea of a letter was terrific, that I would ask you to work on it as soon as you were back...sorry I didn't get a chance to talk with you yesterday.

Would you please work with Eli's office directly on editing, any other details you feel important...certainly if you think the matter of sending a letter is not appropriate let me know. I did not even try to seriously review the content as I knew you would know the higher ed audience to whom it is to be sent better than I.

Thanks.

THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF DOMESTIC POLICY

CAROL H. RASCO
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

To: Roy ~~AA~~ _____

Draft response for POTUS
and forward to CHR by: _____

Draft response for CHR by: _____

Please reply directly to the writer
(copy to CHR) by: _____

Please advise by: _____

Let's discuss: _____

For your information: _____

Reply using form code: _____

File: _____

Send copy to (original to CHR): _____

Schedule?: Accept Pending Regret

Designee to attend: _____

Remarks: This needs to be handed
to Bill G. Tues. 9 a.m.
+ the 2 of us need
to talk while I'm
at Orlando airport.

ROUTING SLIP

AUG 16 RECD

To:

Date:

Coral Rasco

8/15

- Prepare response
- Please discuss with me
- For your information
- Prepare recommendation
- Please handle
- File appropriately

NOTE:

The enclosed draft letter, cleared by Terry Peterson for Dick Riley, would be a special way for the President to reach a key national service community... Ideally, it could be approved, & released, incidental to the September

From the Office of: 12 Launch. Co. Ltd
 ELI J. SEGAL you help me get it approved?
 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
 Corporation for National Service
 1100 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Rm. 10100
 Washington, D.C. 20525
 Tel: 202/606-5000, Ext. 160

DRAFT LETTER TO HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERS - primarily University Presidents

Dear President So-and-So:

I write to ask your help in inspiring an ethic of service across our nation.

The spirit of citizenship has long moved the leaders of America's colleges and universities. You know that the strength of our democracy depends on the education of our people--not only in the arts and sciences, but also in the arts of citizenship. Institutions of higher education have led the way in teaching that young Americans must enjoy educational opportunity and assume civic responsibility in order to lead our nation into the next century, and that these two goals are inextricably linked. School-based community service programs and service-learning courses are only two encouraging ways that colleges and universities have risen to the challenge of educating young people for citizenship.

But today I challenge you to do more. My domestic agenda expands opportunity and encourages responsibility, especially through AmeriCorps, the new national service program. Yet while AmeriCorps will do much to inspire a new ethic of citizenship, there will still be much more to do. I ask for your help in this work of civic education.

The challenges below are not new. Members of my Administration such as Richard Riley, the Secretary of Education, and Eli Segal, the President of the Corporation for National Service, have repeatedly sounded the themes. More importantly, many leaders from within the world of higher education have championed these goals. I ask you now to join these leaders as they work to inspire an ethic of service in higher education.

Here are seven challenges for higher education:

1. **Include community service as a significant criterion for college admission.** Service and liberal education require many of the same qualities, including perseverance, responsibility, and decency. By taking into account your applicants' records of service and participation in challenging high school courses, you will create a stronger class at your college or university. You will help those who have helped our nation. And you will send a clarion message to guidance counselors, parents, and students that high academic and civic standards count.
2. **Redirect your work-study money.** The Higher Education Act Amendments currently require that at least 5 percent of your work-study funds be available to eligible students who wish to perform community service. I ask you to go beyond legal compliance--to enable more of our young people to pay their way through school by serving in the broader community. It is time to move students out of the dining hall and the library, and into the grade school classrooms and community health centers. Not only will they give to those who most need help there; your students will enhance their own education in incomparable ways.
3. **Let every student serve.** Every student should have a structured opportunity to serve the community around the university. Students want to serve and need your assistance in finding structured opportunities in which they can apply their energy and talent.
4. **Bring service into the classroom.** Service should not just be an extracurricular activity. By bringing the community into the classroom and the classroom into the community, you enable your students to apply what they have learned to the real world. There is no better way to teach many subjects than the established methods of service-learning. The more our schools use them, the more our students will learn as future workers and as citizens.
5. **Reward faculty who engage in service.** In challenging students to service, don't

leave faculty behind. Together with your chief emphases on research and teaching, consider a new look at records of service in hiring, promotion and tenure. Teaching is a service profession, and those whose service is most dedicated have a strong claim to be rewarded for it.

6. **Smooth the path from school to service.** Too often, students who want to take public service jobs are unable to find them. Frequently these young people fail to find employment at all--or work in fields that fail to fulfill their desire to serve. Colleges and universities can connect graduates with graduates in service organizations. These networks will help your students become more successful alumni and more productive citizens.

7. **Support AmeriCorps.** By engaging in the AmeriCorps program, institutions of higher education can improve their service offerings, strengthen their ties to their communities, and enhance their students' civic ethic. There is much to be done. Colleges and universities can develop AmeriCorps programs to engage students in service and apply for support to the Corporation for National Service. You can encourage your students to join the AmeriCorps initiative. And, if truly energized, you can join a few pathfinders and match the AmeriCorps education award, dollar-for-dollar. Particularly at more costly, private institutions, that effort will mean dramatic new opportunities for young people to serve.

If you will take these steps, we can educate a new generation of Americans for citizenship. They will understand that America's strength lies in its people; that in order to preserve our rights we must exercise our responsibilities; and that we must each play a role in improving our country. If you will today take up the challenge of service at your college or university, we will enjoy stronger communities and a stronger community, tomorrow and in years to come.

Please write to Eli Segal at the Corporation for National Service with your ideas, your plans, and your concerns. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Bill Clinton

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

OUTLINE-OF-LEGISLATION

NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE TRUST ACT

The national service initiative is designed to tackle the nation's problems by mobilizing Americans of every background, and particularly young people, in service to our communities and country. The program extends support for service from the youngest elementary students to our oldest citizens, and includes everything from part-time volunteer activities to full-time public service jobs. The centerpiece of the effort to support service is a new program to offer educational awards to Americans who make a substantial commitment to service. In addition to this program, which builds on the youth corps and demonstration programs of the National and Community Service Act of 1990, the National Service Trust Act includes:

- o Extension and improvement of programs in the National and Community Service Act of 1990 that enhance elementary and secondary education through community service in schools, support after-school and summer programs for school-age youth, and fund service programs on college campuses.
- o Support for the Civilian Community Corps, to provide service opportunities in areas adversely affected by defense cutbacks.
- o Support for the Points of Light Foundation, to support volunteerism.
- o Extension and improvement of VISTA and the Older American Volunteer Programs authorized by the Domestic Volunteer Service Act.
- o Acceleration of implementation for the Stafford Loan Forgiveness program.

NATIONAL SERVICE TRUST ACT

Focus of Service

- o National service must address unmet educational, environmental, human, or public safety needs.
- o The Corporation and State Commissions must establish priorities among these needs that programs must address.
- o National service must improve the life of the participants, through citizenship education and training.
- o Participants may not displace or duplicate the functions of existing workers.

Corporation for National Service

Structure

- o The national service program will be administered by a government Corporation for National Service, created by combining two existing independent federal agencies, the Commission on National and Community Service and ACTION.
- o The Corporation will be responsible for administering all programs authorized under the National and Community Service Act and Domestic Volunteer Service Act, including VISTA and the Older American Volunteer Programs. The Corporation will also fund training and technical assistance, service clearinghouses and other activities.
- o The Corporation will have authority to combine the functions of the two sets of programs in order to reduce bureaucracy, but will maintain the distinct operational features of the VISTA and Older American Volunteer programs.
- o Current ACTION employees will transfer into the Corporation within the civil service system, but other employees will be governed by a more flexible, merit-based, competitive personnel system exempt from certain civil service requirements.
- o In order to build private and non-government support, the Corporation may solicit and accept private funds.

Governance

- o The Corporation will have a fifteen-member volunteer Board of Directors appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. It will be bipartisan, representing a broad range of viewpoints, and include persons experienced in national service and similar programs; experts in providing educational, environmental, human, or public safety service; and at least one person between the ages of 16 and 25. Board members will serve for a term of 5 years.

- o Eleven Cabinet secretaries will serve as non-voting ex-officio members.
- o The President of the United States will appoint the first Chairperson of the Board. The Board will appoint subsequent Chairpersons.
- o The Board will review and approve the Corporation strategic plan, grantmaking decisions, regulations and policies, and evaluation plan. It will also review and advise the Corporation President concerning overall policies of the Corporation, receive and act on reports of the Inspector General, make recommendations regarding research, ensure the effective dissemination of information, and advise the President of the United States concerning service.
- o The President of the United States will appoint the President of the Corporation.
- o The President of the Corporation will have control over personnel, prepare the strategic plan, prepare grant decisions, make grants, prepare regulations and implement them, prepare an evaluation plan, establish measurable performance goals for programs, consult with agencies, suspend payments in certain instances, prepare the annual report, and submit to Congress such reports as are required.

Oversight

- o An Inspector General will oversee programs to guard against fraud and abuse.
- o Programs must arrange for independent audits and evaluations, and may also be required to participate in national or State evaluations.
- o The President will establish measurable performance goals for all programs.

State Commissions

Structure

- o In order to receive a grant, each State must establish a commission on national service or comparable entity. The Corporation will provide funding for the State commission on a sliding matching scale, declining from 85 percent in year one to no more than 50 percent in year 4. The Corporation will provide to State Commissions not less than \$125,000 in the first year, and not less than \$175,000 in subsequent years. The Corporation will provide to State Commissions not more than \$750,000.
- o With the approval of the Corporation, States may utilize alternative administrative entities, as long as they involve diverse participation in policymaking.
- o Commissions will have 15 to 25 members appointed by the governors on a bipartisan basis. There must be at least one individual with expertise in training youth, one individual with experience promoting volunteerism among older adults, one representative of community-based agencies, the head of the State educational agency, a representative of local

governments, a representative of local labor organizations, a representative of business, a youth, and a representative of a national service program. Other members may include local educators, experts in the delivery of certain services, representatives of Indian tribes, and out-of-school youths.

o A representative of the Corporation will sit on each commission as an ex officio member (unless the State chooses otherwise) and act as liaison between the commission and the Corporation.

o State commissions will be responsible for States' strategic plans, State applications for funding, assistance providing health and child care, State recruiting and information systems, grant administration, and projects and training methods. State Commissions may not operate programs, though they may fund State agencies that do.

o State commissions must allocate at least 60 percent of their funds to non-State entities.

Allocation of Funds

o States submitting plans approved by the Corporation will receive one-third of funds according to a population-based formula and one-third on a competitive basis.

o One-third of funds will be allocated directly by the Corporation. Programs eligible for priority consideration include federal programs, national nonprofit organizations operating multiple programs or competitive grant programs, national service initiatives in more than one State and meeting priority needs, proposals to replicate successful programs in more than one State, professional corps, and innovative national service programs. In cases of programs of comparable quality, there is a general priority for non-profit organizations. States may also receive certain of these funds.

Programs

Goals

o The Corporation will establish measurable goals regarding the impact of the service on the community and on participants. Programs will also develop their own goals particular to their situation.

Eligibility

o Programs eligible for national service designation include diverse community corps, youth corps, specialized service programs focusing on a specific community need, individual placement programs, campus-based service programs, programs that train and place service-learning coordinators in schools or team leaders in corps programs, intergenerational programs, national service entrepreneurship programs, professional corps, youthbuild programs, safe schools programs, programs for rural communities, programs to fight hunger, and current national service demonstration programs.

- o Programs may be run by non-profit organizations, institutions of higher education, local governments, school districts, States, or federal agencies.
- o Programs may not provide direct benefits to for-profit businesses, labor unions, or partisan political organizations, or use program assistance for religious activities. Programs must comply with restrictions on political activity in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Selection

- o Selection criteria include quality (based on criteria developed in consultation with experts in the field), innovation, sustainability, and replicability of programs.
- o Past experience and management skills of program leadership, extent of building on existing programs, and recruitment from communities served and their involvement in program design, leadership and operation will also be taken into account.
- o Programs serving communities of greatest need will receive special priority. These include communities designated as economically disadvantaged, environmentally distressed, adversely affected by reductions in defense spending, adversely affected by Federal land management practices, or areas of high unemployment. Fifty percent of assistance should be distributed to these areas, with a priority for recruitment from such areas.

Funding

- o All participants will receive educational awards.
- o To develop programs, one-year planning grants will be available. To support national service participants, three-year renewable grants will be available for program expansion or replication.
- o Administrative costs will be limited to five percent of all grants other than planning grants.
- o Programs must pay 15 percent of the stipend and health care benefits in cash and 25 percent of other program costs receiving federal support. The 25 percent match may be in cash or in kind from any source other than programs funded under the National and Community Service or Domestic Volunteer Service Acts.
- o Federal funds must supplement, not supplant, State and local dollars.

Participants

Eligibility

- o Individuals may serve before, during, or after post-secondary education.

- o In general, participants may be age 17 or older. Youth corps participants may be age 16 or older.
- o Participants must be high school graduates or in most cases agree to achieve their GED.

Selection

- o Participants will be recruited and selected on a nondiscriminatory basis and without regard to political affiliation by local programs designated by States or the federal government.
- o National and State recruitment system will help interested individuals locate placements in local programs. Information about available positions will be widely disseminated through high schools, colleges and other placement offices. Recruitment efforts must pay special attention to the needs of disadvantaged youths. A special leadership corps may be recruited, trained, and placed to assist in the development of new national service programs.

Term of Service

- o To earn an educational award, a participant in a designated program may serve a term of service full-time over one-year or part-time over two years (three years in the case of students). The term of service is 1700 hours for full-time service and 900 hours for part-time service (with a correspondingly smaller award). An individual may serve up to two terms and earn up to two educational awards. The Corporation has authority to develop provisions to offer smaller awards for shorter periods of service.

Educational Awards

- o Educational awards of \$4,725 will be provided for a term of full-time service. Educational awards may be used to repay loans for higher education or to pay for higher education or training.
- o Educational awards will be federally funded and deposited into a national service trust on behalf of all participants accepted into the program. Organizations and individuals may donate funds to support national service participants in the donor's community.
- o Payments will be made directly to qualified post-secondary educational institutions, including two- and four-year colleges, training programs, and graduate or professional programs.
- o In the case of participants with outstanding loan obligations for qualified educational activities, awards will be paid directly to lenders.
- o Awards must be used within seven years of completion of a term of service.

Stipends

o Programs will set stipends within guidelines. Programs may provide stipends no less than the amount received by VISTA volunteers and no greater than twice that amount. Federal support will be limited to a match of 85 percent of the VISTA allowance, with programs paying any stipend costs above that amount.

o In the limited case of designated professional corps in areas of great need, such as teaching and public safety in underserved areas, participants may be paid a salary in excess of the guidelines and receive an educational award. However, no federal support will be available for a stipend, and professional corps will be selected on a case-by-case basis directly by the Corporation.

Health and Child Care

o All participants without access to health insurance will receive health coverage. Federal dollars will pay up to 85 percent of the cost of these benefits.

o Participants will receive child care assistance, if needed.

Serve-America

The proposal extends and expands the existing Serve-America program for school-age youth and Higher Education Innovative Projects for Community Service. Modifications to these programs are described below.

Service-Learning Program

Program Goals

- o To build a foundation for service among the nation's youth, inspiring them to serve and instilling in them the values and attitude to serve effectively after graduation.
- o To create opportunities for all American children to serve our country.

Types of Programs

- o Programs may be partnerships of local education agencies and community-based organizations.
- o Local educational agencies may receive planning grants to hire service-learning coordinators.

Types of Funding

- o School-based programs will be eligible for funding through State educational agencies, partly based on formula and partly through competition.
- o State educational agencies must develop State plans that indicate programs to be funded and detail 3-year strategies for service-learning in their States. The Corporation must approve State plans.
- o Programs may receive one-year planning grants for school-based programs. Subgranting to experienced institutions for school-based programs will also be allowed.
- o All local programs will be required to provide at least 10 percent of total program costs in the first year of funding, increasing to 50 percent in the fourth. Local programs may utilize other federal education funds to meet the match requirement.

Training and Technical Assistance

- o Clearinghouses will be expanded to further enable them to disseminate information and curriculum materials; train teachers, service sponsors and participants; and provide needs assessments or technical assistance.
- o States will also receive additional resources to train and educate State educational personnel.

Community-based Program for School-Age Youth

- o Community-based organizations working with school-age youth may receive grants from the State Commission for programs to involve such youth in community service.
- o National non-profit organizations may apply to the Corporation to make subgrants or run multi-state community-service programs for this population.

Higher Education Innovative Projects

- o Higher Education institutions, consortia of such institutions, or partnerships of higher education institutions and non-profit institutions may receive grants from the Corporation for student community-service programs or programs to train teachers in service-learning methods.
- o Funds may supplement College Work-Study funds being used for community service placements.

Extension of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973

The proposal extends and expands VISTA and Older American Volunteer Programs authorized by the Domestic Volunteer Service Act. Following a transition period, these programs will be administered by the Corporation for national service.

VISTA

- o Extends authority for the VISTA program and increases number of VISTA volunteers.
- o Authorizes new VISTA Summer Associate program.
- o Authorizes a University Year for VISTA program to encourage student volunteer efforts addressing the needs of low-income communities.
- o Removes restrictions limiting the flexibility to manage VISTA, while reaffirming commitment to recruiting a diverse group of VISTA volunteers including young and older adults.
- o Increases post-service stipends by \$30 for each month of service. Such stipends are not available if VISTA volunteer accepts an educational award under the national service trust.
- o Continues support for VISTA Literacy Corps.

Special Volunteer Programs

- o Provides broadened authority under the Special Volunteer Programs to supporting demonstrations and innovations, provide technical assistance, and promote other entrepreneurial activities. Eliminates specific authority for student community service and drug programs, which are covered under the broadened demonstration authority and under the National and Community Service Act.

Older American Volunteer Programs

- o Renames the Older American Volunteer Programs as National Senior Volunteer Corps and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program as the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP).
- o Lowers eligibility age for participation in the RSVP program to 55.
- o Clarifies that Foster Grandparents may work with children with special and exceptional needs in Head Start programs, schools, and day care centers.
- o Provides for a new demonstration authority to enrich and strengthen older American volunteer programs across the country.
- o Eliminates restrictions that limit the flexibility to administer the program.
- o Increases the stipend for low-income Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions once over the next five years to account for inflation.

Administration

- o Encourages relationships between ACTION and other federal agencies where ACTION volunteers might help further the purposes of other Federal programs.
- o Authorizes a Center for Research and Training on Volunteerism to strengthen volunteer programs across the country.
- o Provides a technical amendment to restore the crediting of VISTA service for federal pensions.



President Clinton and youth corps members gather on the South Lawn of the White House for the signing of national service legislation.

President Signs National Service Bill

WASHINGTON, Sept. 21 — Before an enthusiastic crowd of service, education, and congressional leaders, President Clinton signed into law the National and Community Service Trust Act to engage Americans in meeting critical needs through direct community-based service.

Promising that national service will "strengthen the cords that bind us together as a people," the President created AmeriCorps, a new program which will allow in its first year 20,000 young people to earn education benefits in exchange for grass-roots community service. With the enactment of this legislation, the nation will have the opportunity to marshal its best resources—Americans of all ages and backgrounds—to meet the challenge of rebuilding America through service.

The national service initiative was launched in the President's Inaugural Address, when he challenged "a new generation of young Americans to a season of service." In March, on the anniversary of the founding of the Peace Corps, the President unveiled his plan for national service and challenged the nation's youth to answer his call "to change America for ever and for the better." In May, the President proposed the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993, legislation to strengthen and expand service and educational opportunities for all Americans. The President also initiated a pilot program, the Summer of Service, which engaged 1,500 young people in meeting the critical needs of children through sixteen programs across the country. By the end of the summer, the legislation creating the new Corporation for National and Community Service and AmeriCorps had passed with broad bipartisan support.

The new law focuses national service efforts on the most critical issues facing communities across the nation, bringing energy and commitment to address education, human, public safety, and environmental needs. The Act also creates a new administrative entity to coordinate AmeriCorps, as well as existing community service programs involving children, college students, adults, and seniors. In the best sense of reinventing government, the new Corporation for National and Community Service will feature a bipartisan board of directors, and an entrepreneurial, non-civil service management team and workforce.

At the bill signing, the President expressed his hope that "national service will remain throughout the life of America not a series of promises, but a series of challenges, across all the generations and all walks of life to help push to rebuild our troubled but wonderful land."

AmeriCorps

A User's Guide

What is the Corporation for National and Community Service?

The Corporation is a new federal entity created by the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993. In conjunction with the White House Office of National Service, the Corporation combines the Commission on National and Community Service and ACTION, the federal domestic volunteer agency.

What kinds of national and community service programs will the Corporation support?

The programs of both the Commission and ACTION will be enhanced by the new Corporation. The Corporation will continue to support innovative programs in higher education, Serve-America and service-learning, the Civilian Community Corps and programs currently funded by ACTION, including VISTA and the National Senior Volunteer Corps. Current grantees, the youth corps and national service demonstration models, and subtitles of the National and Community Service Act, may continue to receive funding from the new Corporation. The Corporation will also administer AmeriCorps.

What is AmeriCorps?

AmeriCorps is the President's initiative to achieve direct results in addressing the nation's critical education, human, public safety, and environmental needs at the community level. The program provides meaningful opportunities for Americans of all ages and backgrounds to serve their country in organized efforts, fostering citizen responsibility, building community, and providing educational opportunity for those who make a substantial commitment to service.

What kinds of service does AmeriCorps support?

The Corporation will support programs that directly address needs in the areas of education, human, public safety, and the environment through service that provides a direct benefit to the community in which it is performed. National service programs must also have an impact on their participants, developing public-spirited, effective citizens with the skills needed for life-long contributions to solving the pressing problems facing our communities and our nation. National service participants may not displace existing workers nor duplicate their functions.

What kinds of organizations will be eligible to participate in AmeriCorps?

The National and Community Service Trust Act encourages grant applications from a wide range of programs — those that engage a handful of volunteers or multi-state networks of service organizations. Programs may be run by not-for-profit organizations, by local, state, and federal government entities, by Indian tribes, by institutions of higher education, by local school and police districts, and by partnerships among any of the above. Programs may not provide direct benefits to businesses, labor unions, or partisan political organizations. They may not use assistance to support religious activities or to engage participants in lobbying activities.

What types of programs are eligible for AmeriCorps grants?

Programs eligible for grants include a wide variety of community corps, youth corps, specialized service programs focusing on a specific community need, individual placement programs, campus-based service programs, programs that train and place service-learning coordinators in schools or team leaders in corps programs, intergenerational programs, national service entrepreneurship programs, professional corps, and the like.

What are the Corporation's criteria for selecting AmeriCorps programs?

The Corporation will develop and publish specific funding criteria in January 1994. Generally, national service programs must directly address the education, human, environment, and public safety needs of the community; must not duplicate or displace existing workers, must ensure that participants receive the proper training and support; and must show that they will apply measurable performance goals to their programs.

How will funds be allocated?

Of the funds that the Corporation allocates for AmeriCorps in fiscal year 1994, approximately \$51 million will be allocated to states that submit plans approved by the Corporation according to a population-based formula, and up to \$51 million will be awarded on a competitive basis. \$1.5 million will be set aside for Indian tribes, and another \$1.5 million will fund programs in United States territories and possessions. The remaining \$48 million in funds will be allocated directly by the Corporation. Additional funds will be used for training and technical assistance or competitively distributed as matching "challenge" grants.

What form will AmeriCorps grants take?

There will be non-renewable planning grants for a period of up to one year and renewable operating grants for up to three years.

What funds will the Corporation supply for AmeriCorps? What non-Corporation funds must programs supply?

Programs are encouraged to raise private funds. These matching requirements must be viewed as floors not ceilings. The Corporation will pay for 85 percent of stipends up to the VISTA subsistence allowance (roughly minimum wage), 85 percent of health care costs, 75 percent of other operating costs, 100 percent of a child care allowance, and the education award. Therefore, programs will pay at least 15 percent of stipends, 15 percent of health care, and 25 percent of other operating costs. Programs that pay stipends above the VISTA level must supply all funds in excess of that amount.

How will states be included in the AmeriCorps program?

Every state wishing to participate in national service initiatives must establish a commission on national and community service or a comparable entity for which the Corporation will provide partial funding. Governors will appoint members to the bipartisan commissions, which will include young people involved in service, educators, representatives of national service programs, older American volunteer programs, labor, and business as well as other experts in the field. States will draft three-year plans outlining their service proposals, which will be updated annually. During the first year of implementation, the governor may designate a transitional entity to perform the functions of the state commission for twenty-seven months after the date of the Act's enactment.

Will organizations receive AmeriCorps funds through a state commission or directly from the Corporation?

In general, local organizations will work with state commissions. National nonprofit, multi-state programs and professional corps programs may receive funds directly from the Corporation.

Who is eligible to serve in AmeriCorps?

Citizens and legal resident aliens aged seventeen years or older—sixteen in the case of programs targeted for out-of-school youths—may serve in AmeriCorps before, during, or after post-secondary education. In general, participants must be high school graduates or agree to achieve their GED prior to receiving education awards. While there is a focus on young people, the Corporation will encourage participation by Americans of all ages, genders, incomes, races, regions, and religions and include individuals with disabilities.

How will AmeriCorps participants be selected ?

Programs approved by the Corporation or a state commission will select service participants on a non-discriminatory and non-political basis. To ensure that knowledge of programs is widely available, the Corporation will develop national and state recruiting information systems. There will also be a national pool from which programs may draw potential participants.

How will AmeriCorps participants be compensated?

Participants will receive a stipend during their term of service. Full-time participants not otherwise covered will receive basic health insurance and may receive a child care allowance if they need it to participate. For one year of full-time or two years of part-time service in a designated national service program, participants will also receive \$4,725 as an education award and repayment of any interest on student loans during their service. These awards may be used to pay for higher education or for vocational training. Awards must be used within seven years of completion of service. For those participants who have outstanding loan obligations for qualified educational activities, the post-service educational awards may be paid directly to the lender.

How long is a term of service under AmeriCorps ?

The program requires a commitment intensive in hours but limited in years. Participants can perform a 1,700 hour full-time term over nine months to a year, or a part-time term of 900 hours over one to two years (or one to three years in the case of full-time college students).

When will the Corporation for National and Community Service begin processing applications for AmeriCorps programs?

The Corporation will be launched in October 1993. Regulations and appointments will be formalized during the remainder of the calendar year. The projected grant process will begin in early 1994, with programs selected for funding announced as early as the spring and summer of 1994. ♦

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AmeriCorps

IS COMING

URGENT!

Final Applications for AmeriCorps Grants • Learn and Serve America

The final applications for AmeriCorps grants and Learn and Serve America are now available from the Corporation for National Service. This publication includes information on the full range of procedures for applying for these two Corporation service programs.

AmeriCorps is the President's new national service program which engages the energy of the American people, especially its young people, in meeting the most critical education, public safety, human, and environmental needs of our communities. AmeriCorps offers opportunities for Americans age 17 or older to make a substantial commitment to serving their country and to earn money for college in return. Grants totalling up to \$153 million will be awarded to not-for-profit organizations, to local, State, and Federal agencies, to Indian tribes, to institutions of higher education, to local school and police districts, and to partnerships among any of the above. Other AmeriCorps programs include VISTA and the National Civilian Community Corps.

Learn and Serve America programs integrate service-learning into daily academic life for youth in schools, higher education institutions, and community-based programs. Service-learning is a method by which young people learn and develop through active participation in service that meets community needs and strengthen a commitment to service. The **School-Based** and **Community-Based Programs** support projects that engage school-age youth in service-learning activities and involve adult volunteers in the schools. In fiscal year 1994, \$30 million will be available for teacher training, for the placement of service-learning coordinators in schools, and for grants to local partnerships through State Educational Agencies, State Commissions, and grant-making entities. The **Higher Education Programs** will award approximately \$9 million to individual colleges and universities, consortia, or partnerships between higher education institutions and public or private nonprofits in order to develop high-quality programs that make service an integral part of students' educational experience.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

AmeriCorps Grants, National Direct
April 29, 1994 (Extended)
(national & multi-state)

AmeriCorps Grants, State
June 22, 1994 (Extended)

AmeriCorps Grants, Indian Tribes
& U.S. Territories
June 22, 1994

Learn and Serve America
School-based
April 22, 1994 (Extended)

Learn and Serve America
Community-based
May 27, 1994

Learn and Serve America
Higher Education
April 25, 1994 (Extended)

FOR INFORMATION ON:

- Where to apply for funds..... 2
- How to order applications..... 3
- State Contacts..... 4, 5, 6
- Telephone conference schedule for technical assistance..... 7
- Still need more information?..... 8

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First

Quarterly Report

For the period ending
December 22, 1993



The Corporation
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AMERICORPS NATIONAL SERVICE

APR 5 REC'D



Deadline: April 29

Catalog of Federal Domestic

Assistance Number: 94.006

OMB Number: 3045-0087

NATIONAL DIRECT APPLICATION

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Federal Register

Wednesday
March 23, 1994

Part II

Corporation for National and Community Service

45 CFR Parts 2510, 2513, et al.
Corporation Grant Programs and Support
and Investment Activities; Final Rule