

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3964

To amend the national service laws to prioritize national service programs and projects that are directly related to the response to and recovery from the COVID–19 public health emergency, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 16, 2020

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. REED, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. CASIDY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. KING, and Ms. COLLINS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend the national service laws to prioritize national service programs and projects that are directly related to the response to and recovery from the COVID–19 public health emergency, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Cultivating Oppor-
5 tunity and Response to the Pandemic through Service
6 Act” or the “CORPS Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The United States has a strong history of
4 citizen response to national calls to service in order
5 to help the Nation recover in times of crisis.

6 (2) More than 80 years ago, the Nation rose to
7 the challenge of the Great Depression with the cre-
8 ation of citizen service programs like the Civilian
9 Conservation Corps (referred to in this section as
10 the “CCC”) and the Works Progress Administration
11 (referred to in this section as the “WPA”).

12 (3) Millions of participants benefitted from paid
13 employment and opportunities to develop their skills
14 while constructing national parks and public lands
15 infrastructure and producing cultural works still en-
16 joyed today.

17 (4) Following decades of evolution, incor-
18 porating policies of both political parties, today’s na-
19 tional service programs carry on the legacy of the
20 CCC and WPA.

21 (5) Founded in 1990, the Corporation for Na-
22 tional and Community Service today coordinates na-
23 tional service by individuals in the United States
24 across every State and territory, partnering with
25 State-level commissions and supporting locally driv-

1 en services in partnership with nongovernmental or-
2 ganizations and State governments.

3 (6) National service programs provide public
4 health, education, employment training, and nutri-
5 tion services for which the Nation has a critical need
6 in the current crisis.

7 (7) The signature programs of the Corporation
8 for National and Community Service, which are the
9 AmeriCorps State and National, AmeriCorps Na-
10 tional Civilian Community Corps, AmeriCorps
11 VISTA, and National Senior Service Corps pro-
12 grams, can and should be expanded to meet current
13 needs.

14 (8) The novel coronavirus pandemic has in-
15 fected and killed individuals in every State and terri-
16 tory, causing more than 2,000,000 cases and
17 115,000 deaths so far.

18 (9) In response, States, tribal governments, and
19 cities across the country have closed down busi-
20 nesses, schools, and public events, leading to a dra-
21 matic drop in economic activity and a sharp pro-
22 jected decline in the United States economy.

23 (10) More than 40,000,000 applications for un-
24 employment benefits have been filed in recent weeks,

1 with weekly filings repeatedly exceeding historic
2 record levels.

3 (11) More than one in every 10 adults in the
4 United States has applied for unemployment insur-
5 ance since the crisis began.

6 (12) The pandemic and the associated economic
7 consequences have disproportionately impacted peo-
8 ple of color across many States.

9 (13) To recover, the Nation also needs mean-
10 ingful employment opportunities, as well as a signifi-
11 cant expansion of the human capital working to ad-
12 dress community needs around public health, behav-
13 ioral health, hunger, education, and conservation.

14 (14) Experience has demonstrated the cen-
15 trality of community participation in pandemic re-
16 sponse, to overcome stigma and structural barriers
17 and meet the full needs of all members of a diverse
18 community.

19 (15) As the Nation works to respond to and re-
20 cover from the current twin challenges of a public
21 health pandemic and an economic crisis, national
22 service presents a unique opportunity for flexible, lo-
23 cally driven responses to meet State and local public
24 health, employment, and recovery needs.

1 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

2 The purposes of this Act are—

3 (1) to provide for annual growth of 250,000
4 participants, over 3 years, in national service pro-
5 grams, such as the Public Land Corps (also known
6 as the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps)
7 programs and other AmeriCorps programs, that will
8 provide services in response to the pandemic and
9 economic crisis;

10 (2) to ensure that participant allowances cover
11 the reasonable cost of participation and provide par-
12 ticipants with economic and educational opportunity;

13 (3) to stabilize such national service programs
14 during economic crisis; and

15 (4) to support opportunities for all individuals
16 in the United States to engage in service.

17 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

18 (a) NCSA.—Section 101 of the National and Com-
19 munity Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12511) is amend-
20 ed—

21 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (13) through
22 (16), (17) through (35), and (36) through (49), as
23 paragraphs (14) through (17), (19) through (37),
24 and (39) through (52), respectively;

25 (2) by inserting after paragraph (12) the fol-
26 lowing:

1 “(13) COVID–19 DEFINITIONS.—

2 “(A) COVID–19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE
3 AND RECOVERY PERIOD.—The term ‘COVID–
4 19 emergency response and recovery period’
5 means the period beginning on the first day of
6 the COVID–19 public health emergency and
7 ending at the end of fiscal year 2023.

8 “(B) COVID–19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMER-
9 GENCY.—The term ‘COVID–19 public health
10 emergency’ means the public health emergency
11 declared by the Secretary of Health and
12 Human Services under section 319 of the Pub-
13 lic Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d) on
14 January 31, 2020, with respect to COVID–
15 19.”;

16 (3) by inserting after paragraph (17), as so re-
17 designated, the following:

18 “(18) HIGH-POVERTY AREA.—The term ‘high-
19 poverty area’ means a census tract defined as high-
20 poverty by the Bureau of the Census.”; and

21 (4) by inserting after paragraph (37), as so re-
22 designated, the following:

23 “(38) PUBLIC LAND CORPS.—The term ‘Public
24 Lands Corps’ means the Corps established in section

1 204 of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 (16
2 U.S.C. 1723).”.

3 (b) DVSA.—Section 421 of the Domestic Volunteer
4 Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 5061) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (19), by striking “and” after
6 the semicolon;

7 (2) in paragraph (20), by striking the period at
8 the end and inserting a semicolon; and

9 (3) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(21)(A) the term ‘COVID–19 emergency re-
11 sponse and recovery period’ means the period begin-
12 ning on the first day of the COVID–19 public health
13 emergency and ending at the end of fiscal year
14 2023; and

15 “(B) the term ‘COVID–19 public health emer-
16 gency’ means the public health emergency declared
17 by the Secretary of Health and Human Services
18 under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act
19 (42 U.S.C. 247d) on January 31, 2020, with respect
20 to COVID–19; and

21 “(22) the term ‘Public Lands Corps’ means the
22 Corps established in section 204 of the Public Lands
23 Corps Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 1723).”.

24 **SEC. 5. PRIORITIZING RESPONSE SERVICES.**

25 (a) AMERICORPS STATE AND NATIONAL.—

1 (1) NATIONAL SERVICE PRIORITIES.—Section
2 122(f) of the National and Community Service Act
3 of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12572(f)) is amended—

4 (A) in paragraph (1)—

5 (i) in subparagraph (A), by adding at
6 the end the following: “For fiscal years
7 2020 through 2023, the Corporation shall
8 include, in the national service priorities,
9 the priorities described in paragraph (5).”;
10 and

11 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by adding at
12 the end the following: “For fiscal years
13 2020 through 2023, each State shall in-
14 clude, in the State priorities, the priorities
15 described in section (5).”; and

16 (B) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(5) EMERGENCY PRIORITIES.—For fiscal years
18 2020 through 2023, the priorities established under
19 paragraph (1) for national service programs shall
20 provide that the Corporation and the States, as ap-
21 propriate, shall give priority to entities submitting
22 applications—

23 “(A) that propose activities directly related
24 to the response to and recovery from the

1 COVID–19 public health emergency, such as
2 the provision of—

3 “(i) public health services, including
4 support for isolation and quarantine activi-
5 ties;

6 “(ii) emergency logistics, such as the
7 setup of alternate care sites;

8 “(iii) work that furthers the capacity
9 of State (including territorial), tribal, and
10 local health departments and the rec-
11 ommendations of the Director of the Cen-
12 ters for Disease Control and Prevention;

13 “(iv) work that furthers the capacity
14 of nonprofit and community organizations
15 to respond to the immediate needs of indi-
16 viduals affected by COVID–19;

17 “(v) services that support economic
18 opportunity;

19 “(vi) education, including enrichment
20 and adult education and literacy activities;

21 “(vii) services to address housing and
22 food insecurity; and

23 “(viii) jobs for youth in preserving
24 and restoring nature;

25 “(B) who—

1 “(i) are—

2 “(I) current (as of the date of
3 the application submission) or former
4 recipients of financial assistance
5 under the program for which the ap-
6 plication is submitted; and

7 “(II) able to provide services di-
8 rectly related to the response and re-
9 covery described in subparagraph (A);
10 or

11 “(ii) are—

12 “(I) community-based organiza-
13 tions located in the rural or high-pov-
14 erty areas, or tribal communities, the
15 organizations propose to serve; and

16 “(II) able to provide services di-
17 rectly related to the response and re-
18 covery described in subparagraph (A);

19 “(C) to the maximum extent practicable—

20 “(i) if the entities are proposing pro-
21 grams that serve, or proposing to give pri-
22 ority for positions to applicants from, un-
23 derserved populations, such as individuals
24 described in section 129(a)(1)(B) of the
25 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

1 (29 U.S.C. 3164(a)(1)(B)), minority indi-
2 viduals, individuals who have had contact
3 with the juvenile justice system, Indians,
4 veterans, and individuals whose abilities
5 are not typical, such as individuals with in-
6 tellectual or developmental disabilities;

7 “(ii) especially if the entities propose
8 recruiting applicants for positions to serve
9 in the same metropolitan or micropolitan
10 statistical area or county as the area or
11 county, respectively, in which the appli-
12 cants attended a secondary school or insti-
13 tution of higher education; and

14 “(iii) especially if the entities propose
15 programs that serve populations in rural or
16 high-poverty areas, or tribal communities;
17 and

18 “(D) that propose to give priority for posi-
19 tions to applicants who—

20 “(i) were serving outside of the
21 United States in the Peace Corps, the J.
22 William Fulbright Educational Exchange
23 Program referenced in section 112 of the
24 Mutual Educational and Cultural Ex-
25 change Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2460), or

1 the program under this subtitle, subtitle E,
2 or part A of title I of the Domestic Volun-
3 teer Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4951
4 et seq.); but

5 “(ii) ended their terms of service
6 early, or returned to the United States be-
7 fore the end of their terms of service, due
8 to the COVID–19 public health emer-
9 gency.”.

10 (b) AMERICORPS NCCC.—Section 157 of the Na-
11 tional and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
12 12617) is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (b)(1), by adding at the end
14 the following:

15 “(C) SURGE CAPACITY AND PRIORITY
16 PROJECTS.—

17 “(i) SURGE CAPACITY PROJECTS.—
18 The Corporation and the Director of the
19 Centers for Disease Control and Preven-
20 tion shall develop, and the Corporation
21 shall approve, a proposal for public health
22 surge capacity projects. In carrying out the
23 projects, the Corporation and the Director
24 shall develop and deploy public health
25 surge capacity teams.

1 “(ii) PRIORITY PROJECTS.—For fiscal
 2 years 2020 through 2023, the Corporation
 3 shall give priority to entities submitting
 4 applications for projects under this subtitle
 5 in the same manner as the Corporation
 6 gives priority to entities submitting appli-
 7 cations for national service programs
 8 under section 122(f)(5).”; and

9 (2) in subsection (c)—

10 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “The
 11 campus” and inserting “Except as provided in
 12 paragraph (3), the campus”; and

13 (B) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(3) SURGE CAPACITY AND PRIORITY
 15 PROJECTS.—The Corporation shall assign the
 16 projects described in clauses (i) and (ii) of sub-
 17 section (b)(1)(C) to specified Corps campuses.”.

18 (c) AMERICORPS VISTA.—Section 109 of the Do-
 19 mestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4960)
 20 is amended by adding at the end the following: “For fiscal
 21 years 2020 through 2023, the Corporation shall give pri-
 22 ority to entities submitting applications for projects or
 23 programs under this part in the same manner as the Cor-
 24 poration gives priority to entities submitting applications
 25 for national service programs under section 122(f)(5) of

1 the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42
2 U.S.C. 12572(f)(5)).”.

3 **SEC. 6. STRENGTHENING OPPORTUNITY.**

4 (a) ALLOWANCES.—

5 (1) DOMESTIC VOLUNTEER SERVICE ACT OF
6 1973.—Section 105(b) of the Domestic Volunteer
7 Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4955(b)) is amended
8 by adding at the end the following:

9 “(4) Notwithstanding paragraph (2), during the
10 COVID–19 emergency response and recovery period,
11 the Director shall set the subsistence allowance for
12 volunteers under paragraph (1) for each fiscal year
13 so that—

14 “(A) the minimum allowance is not less
15 than an amount equal to 175 percent of such
16 poverty line (as defined in section 673(2) of the
17 Community Services Block Grant Act) for a
18 single individual as expected for each fiscal
19 year; and

20 “(B) the average subsistence allowance, ex-
21 cluding allowances for Hawaii, Guam, American
22 Samoa, and Alaska, is not less than 185 per-
23 cent of such poverty line.

24 “(5)(A) A stipend or allowance under this sec-
25 tion or an allowance under section 140 of the Na-

1 tional and Community Service Act of 1990 (42
2 U.S.C. 12594) shall not be increased as a result of
3 amendments made by the Cultivating Opportunity
4 and Response to the Pandemic through Service Act,
5 or any other amendment made to this section or
6 that section 140, respectively, unless the funds ap-
7 propriated for carrying out this part or subtitle C of
8 the National and Community Service Act of 1990
9 (42 U.S.C. 12571 et seq.), respectively, are suffi-
10 cient to maintain for the fiscal year involved a num-
11 ber of participants to serve under this part or that
12 subtitle C, respectively, that is at least equal to the
13 number of such participants so serving during the
14 preceding fiscal year.

15 “(B) In the event that sufficient appropriations
16 for any fiscal year (consistent with subparagraph
17 (A)) are not available to increase any stipend or al-
18 lowance under this section or allowance under sec-
19 tion 140 of the National and Community Service Act
20 of 1990 to the minimum amount specified in this
21 section or under that section 140, respectively, the
22 Director shall increase the stipend or allowance in-
23 volved to such amount as appropriations for such
24 year permit consistent with subparagraph (A).”.

1 (2) NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ACT
2 OF 1990.—Section 158 of the National and Commu-
3 nity Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12618) is
4 amended by adding at the end the following:

5 “(h) ADJUSTMENT TO MAXIMUM ALLOWANCE DUR-
6 ING COVID–19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY PERIOD.—
7 Notwithstanding the limitation on the allowance amount
8 specified in subsection (b), during the COVID–19 emer-
9 gency response and recovery period, the amount of the al-
10 lowance that the Director shall establish pursuant to that
11 subsection shall be any amount not in excess of the
12 amount equal to 175 percent of the poverty line that is
13 applicable to a family of 2 (as defined by the Office of
14 Management and Budget and revised annually in accord-
15 ance with section 673(2) of the Community Services Block
16 Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2))).”.

17 (b) NATIONAL SERVICE EDUCATIONAL AWARDS.—
18 Section 147 of the National and Community Service Act
19 of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12603) is amended by adding at the
20 end the following:

21 “(f) ADJUSTMENT TO EDUCATIONAL AWARD DUR-
22 ING THE COVID–19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection
24 (a), an individual described in section 146(a) who
25 successfully completes a required term of full-time

1 national service in an approved national service posi-
2 tion during the COVID–19 emergency response and
3 recovery period shall receive a national service edu-
4 cational award having a value equal to twice the
5 maximum amount of a Federal Pell Grant under
6 section 401 of the Higher Education Act of 1965
7 (20 U.S.C. 1070a), that a student eligible for such
8 Grant may receive in the aggregate (without regard
9 to whether the funds are provided through discre-
10 tionary or mandatory appropriations), for the award
11 year for which the national service position is ap-
12 proved by the Corporation.

13 “(2) LESS THAN FULL-TIME SERVICE.—Not-
14 withstanding subsections (b) and (c), an individual
15 described in section 146(a) who successfully com-
16 pletes a required term of part-time national service
17 in an approved national service position during the
18 COVID–19 response and recovery period, or who is
19 serving in an approved national service position and
20 is released, during that period, in accordance with
21 section 139(c)(1)(A) from completing the full-time
22 or part-time term of service agreed to by the indi-
23 vidual, shall receive that portion of the national serv-
24 ice educational award calculated under paragraph

1 (1) that corresponds to the quantity of the term of
 2 service actually completed by the individual.

3 “(3) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
 4 ‘institution of higher education’ has the meaning
 5 given the term in section 148(h).”.

6 (c) TAX PROVISIONS.—

7 (1) INCOME TAX EXCLUSION FOR LIVING AL-
 8 LOWANCE.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—Part III of subchapter
 10 B of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of
 11 1986 is amended by inserting after section
 12 139H the following new section:

13 **“SEC. 139I. LIVING ALLOWANCE FOR NATIONAL SERVICE**
 14 **PARTICIPANTS.**

15 “Gross income does not include the amount of any
 16 living allowance provided under section 105(b) of the Do-
 17 mestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4955(b))
 18 or section 140(a) or 158(b) of the National and Commu-
 19 nity Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12594(a),
 20 12618(b)).”.

21 (B) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of
 22 sections for part III of subchapter B of chapter
 23 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is
 24 amended by inserting after the item relating to
 25 section 139H the following new item:

“Sec. 139I. Living allowance for national service participants.”.

1 (C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments
2 made by this paragraph shall apply to taxable
3 years beginning after the date of the enactment
4 of this Act.

5 (2) EXCLUSION FROM GROSS INCOME OF NA-
6 TIONAL SERVICE EDUCATIONAL AWARDS.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—Section 117 of the In-
8 ternal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to quali-
9 fied scholarships) is amended by adding at the
10 end the following new subsection:

11 “(e) NATIONAL SERVICE EDUCATIONAL AWARDS.—
12 Gross income shall not include any payments from the Na-
13 tional Service Trust established under section 145 of the
14 National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
15 12601), including the national service educational award
16 described in subtitle D of title I of such Act (42 U.S.C.
17 12601 et seq.).”.

18 (B) EXCLUSION OF DISCHARGE OF STU-
19 DENT LOAN DEBT.—Subsection (f) of section
20 108 of such Code is amended by adding at the
21 end the following new paragraph:

22 “(6) PAYMENTS UNDER NATIONAL SERVICE
23 EDUCATIONAL AWARD PROGRAMS.—In the case of
24 an individual, gross income shall not include any
25 amount received as a national service educational

1 award under subtitle D of title I of the National and
2 Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12601
3 et seq.).”.

4 (C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments
5 made by this paragraph shall apply to taxable
6 years ending after the date of the enactment of
7 this Act.

8 **SEC. 7. INVITING PARTICIPATION.**

9 (a) COORDINATION WITH OTHER YOUTH PRO-
10 GRAMS.—Section 193A of the National and Community
11 Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12651d) is amended by
12 adding at the end the following:

13 “(j) COORDINATION WITH OTHER YOUTH PRO-
14 GRAMS.—

15 “(1) COVERED PROGRAMS.—The term ‘covered
16 program’ means—

17 “(A) the YouthBuild program carried out
18 by the Secretary of Labor under section 171 of
19 the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
20 (29 U.S.C. 3226);

21 “(B) the program of the Indian Youth
22 Service Corps under section 210 of the Public
23 Lands Corps Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 1727b);

24 “(C) a youth conservation corps program
25 under title I of the Act entitled ‘An Act to es-

1 tabish a pilot program in the Departments of
2 the Interior and Agriculture designated as the
3 Youth Conservation Corps, and for other pur-
4 poses’, approved August 13, 1970 (commonly
5 known as the ‘Youth Conservation Corps Act of
6 1970’; 16 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and

7 “(D) the National Guard Youth Challenge
8 Program under section 509 of title 32, United
9 States Code.

10 “(2) COORDINATION.—The Chief Executive Of-
11 ficer, in coordination with the Federal agency rep-
12 resentatives for covered programs, shall develop a
13 plan and make recommendations in the plan to im-
14 prove coordination between covered programs and
15 programs of the Corporation to meet the needs of
16 underserved youth, such as economically disadvan-
17 taged youth, minority youth, youth who left school
18 without a secondary school diploma, formerly incar-
19 cerated or court-involved youth, youth who are chil-
20 dren of an incarcerated parent, youth in foster care
21 (including youth aging out of foster care), migrant
22 youth, and other youth who are neither enrolled in
23 secondary or postsecondary school or participating in
24 the labor market.”.

1 (b) PLATFORM FOR NATIONAL SENIOR SERVICE
2 CORPS.—Title IV of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act
3 of 1973 is amended—

4 (1) by redesignating section 421 (42 U.S.C.
5 5061), amended by section 4(b), as section 401;

6 (2) by moving that section 401 so as to follow
7 the title heading for title IV; and

8 (3) by inserting after section 420 (42 U.S.C.
9 5059) the following:

10 **“SEC. 421. ONLINE SERVICE PLATFORM.**

11 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Chief Executive Officer
12 of the Corporation shall establish an online service plat-
13 form with a gateway to connect volunteers in the National
14 Senior Service Corps with service projects and enable the
15 volunteers to carry out distance volunteer services. The
16 platform shall be linked to and placed prominently on the
17 website of the Corporation. The Corporation may enter
18 into a contract with a public entity to create the platform.

19 “(b) TRAINING RESOURCES AND INFORMATION.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation shall pro-
21 vide training resources, information, and guidance
22 for the volunteers on the platform.

23 “(2) INFORMATION.—The Corporation shall
24 provide information to regional offices of the Cor-
25 poration about how to get volunteers in the National

1 Senior Service Corps connected to the platform
2 through the gateway.

3 “(3) GUIDANCE.—The Corporation shall issue
4 guidance for the regional offices about how to trans-
5 fer the programs of the National Senior Service
6 Corps to the platform.

7 “(4) OUTREACH.—The Corporation shall pro-
8 vide outreach services to promote the platform in-
9 cluding outreach to institutions of higher education,
10 the Department of Veterans Affairs for mentorship
11 projects, and State and local governments for com-
12 munity engagement projects.”.

13 (c) OUTREACH AND PROMOTION CAMPAIGN.—Sec-
14 tion 193A(g) of such Act is amended by adding at the
15 end the following:

16 “(4) OUTREACH AND PROMOTION CAMPAIGN.—
17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out public
18 awareness functions under this subsection, the
19 Corporation shall carry out an outreach and
20 promotion campaign to promote programs
21 under the national service laws with opportuni-
22 ties to respond to the COVID–19 public health
23 emergency, with the goal of maximizing aware-
24 ness of those programs among individuals ages
25 17 through 30.

1 “(B) REPORT.—The Corporation shall pre-
2 pare and submit to Congress a report that—

3 “(i) evaluates the outreach and pro-
4 motion campaign; and

5 “(ii) contains—

6 “(I) an analysis of the measures
7 and resources that would be required
8 for the Corporation effectively to no-
9 tify individuals who are ages 17
10 through 30 every 2 years of opportu-
11 nities under the national service laws
12 and steps to take to apply for those
13 opportunities;

14 “(II) a description of how the
15 Corporation would ensure those meas-
16 ures would enable the Corporation to
17 provide that notification to targeted
18 individuals from diverse geographic
19 areas, including individuals who are
20 ages 17 through 30 living in rural or
21 high-poverty areas, or tribal commu-
22 nities; and

23 “(III) a recommendation regard-
24 ing whether the Corporation should

1 make the notifications described in
2 subclause (I).”.

3 (d) VOLUNTEER GENERATION FUND.—Section
4 198P(d)(2) of the National and Community Service Act
5 of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12653p(d)(2)) is amended by adding
6 at the end the following: “With respect to grants made
7 with funds appropriated as an additional amount under
8 section 501(a)(4)(F), the minimum grant amount shall be
9 not less than \$250,000.”.

10 **SEC. 8. ENSURING AGILITY.**

11 (a) WAIVER OF MATCHING FUNDS REQUIRE-
12 MENTS.—Section 189A of the National and Community
13 Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12645d) is amended—

14 (1) in the section heading, by inserting “;
15 **MATCHING FUNDS DURING COVID-19 RE-**
16 **SPONSE AND RECOVERY PERIOD**” after “**COM-**
17 **MUNITIES**”; and

18 (2) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(c) COVID-19 RESPONSE.—Notwithstanding any
20 other provision of law, an entity that receives assistance
21 from the Corporation for any program under the national
22 service laws (including a State Commission and an entity
23 receiving subgrant funds) during the COVID-19 emer-
24 gency response and recovery period shall not be subject
25 to any requirements to provide matching funds for any

1 such program, and the Federal share of such assistance
2 for a recipient (including for a State Commission and a
3 subgrant recipient) may be 100 percent.”.

4 (b) PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 126 of the National
5 and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12576)
6 is amended by adding at the end the following:

7 “(d) DIRECT PLACEMENTS DURING THE COVID–19
8 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY PERIOD.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section
10 178(h), during the COVID–19 emergency response
11 and recovery period, the Corporation shall imple-
12 ment a pilot program allowing State Commissions to
13 directly place a portion of individuals who have ap-
14 proved national service positions in State national
15 service programs in a manner to be determined by
16 the Corporation.

17 “(2) PRIORITIES.—State Commissions partici-
18 pating in the pilot program shall, to the extent prac-
19 ticable, prioritize the placement of individuals in na-
20 tional service programs that serve rural or high-pov-
21 erty areas, or tribal communities, especially such
22 programs carried out by entities that have not pre-
23 viously been service sponsors for participants.

24 “(3) REPORT.—The Corporation shall prepare
25 and submit a report to Congress at the end of the

1 pilot program described in paragraph (1), containing
2 recommendations about whether and how to con-
3 tinue such a program of direct placements.”.

4 (c) NO SUMMER LIMITATION DURING COVID-19
5 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY PERIOD.—Section 104 of the
6 Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4954)
7 is amended by adding at the end the following:

8 “(f)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this
9 part, during the COVID-19 emergency response and re-
10 covery period, the Director may enroll full-time VISTA as-
11 sociates in a program, during any months of the year,
12 under such terms and conditions as the Director shall de-
13 termine to be appropriate. Such individuals shall be as-
14 signed to projects that address the needs of underserved
15 communities as a result of the COVID-19 public health
16 emergency.

17 “(2) In preparing reports relating to programs under
18 this Act, the Director shall report on participants, costs,
19 and accomplishments under the program under this sub-
20 section separately.

21 “(3) The limitation on funds appropriated for grants
22 and contracts, as contained in section 108, shall not apply
23 to the program under this subsection.”.

1 (d) VISTA LIMITATION APPLICABILITY.—Section
2 108 of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (42
3 U.S.C. 4958) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “Of funds ap-
5 propriated” and inserting “Subject to subsection (c),
6 of funds appropriated”; and

7 (2) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(c) RULE FOR COVID–19 RESPONSE AND RECOV-
9 ERY PERIOD.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), during the
10 COVID–19 emergency response and recovery period, in
11 order to address the needs of underserved communities re-
12 lated to the COVID–19 pandemic, of funds appropriated
13 for the purpose of this part under section 501, not more
14 than 75 percent may be obligated for the direct cost of
15 supporting volunteers in programs and projects (including
16 new programs and projects that begin after the date of
17 enactment of the Cultivating Opportunity and Response
18 to the Pandemic through Service Act) carried out pursu-
19 ant to this part, and such funds may be obligated regard-
20 less of when grant recipients commenced such programs
21 and projects.”.

22 (e) AUGMENTATION AND EXPANSION GRANTS.—
23 Title IV of the National and Community Service Act of
24 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12671) is amended—

1 (1) by striking the title IV title heading and all
 2 that follows through the section heading for section
 3 401 and inserting the following:

4 **“TITLE IV—RESPONSE**
 5 **PROJECTS**

6 **“SEC. 401. PROJECTS HONORING VICTIMS OF TERRORIST**
 7 **ATTACKS.”;**

8 and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following:

10 **“SEC. 402. COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RECOV-**
 11 **ERY PERIOD AUGMENTATION AND EXPAN-**
 12 **SION GRANTS.**

13 “During the COVID-19 emergency response and re-
 14 covery period, the Corporation may award noncompetitive
 15 augmentation and expansion grants, at such time and in
 16 such manner as the Corporation determines appropriate.”.

17 (f) TERM OF SERVICE DURING COVID-19 EMER-
 18 GENCY RESPONSE AND RECOVERY PERIOD.—Section 146
 19 of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42
 20 U.S.C. 12602) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 21 lowing:

22 “(g) TERM OF SERVICE DURING COVID-19 EMER-
 23 GENCY RESPONSE AND RECOVERY PERIOD.—Notwith-
 24 standing the aggregate value limit described in subsection
 25 (c), during the COVID-19 emergency response and recov-

1 ery period, a participant who received 2 national service
 2 educational awards for terms of service concluding before
 3 the end of fiscal year 2020 may, as determined by the
 4 Corporation, be eligible for an additional term of service
 5 and, on the successful completion of that term, a third
 6 national service educational award.”.

7 (g) INCREASE IN LIMITATION ON GRANT
 8 AMOUNTS.—

9 (1) INCREASE IN LIMITATION ON TOTAL GRANT
 10 AMOUNT DURING EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RE-
 11 COVERY PERIOD.—Section 189 of the National and
 12 Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12645c)
 13 is amended by adding at the end the following:

14 “(f) INCREASE IN LIMITATION ON TOTAL GRANT
 15 AMOUNT DURING COVID–19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE
 16 AND RECOVERY PERIOD.—Notwithstanding the limits de-
 17 scribed in subsections (a) and (e), during the COVID–19
 18 emergency response and recovery period, the amount of
 19 funds approved by the Corporation for a grant to operate
 20 a program authorized under the national service laws, for
 21 supporting individuals serving in approved national service
 22 positions, may not exceed, for each full-time equivalent po-
 23 sition—

24 “(1) an amount equal to the sum of—

25 “(A) \$7,500; and

1 “(B) the living allowance established under
 2 section 140(a) (including any adjustment at-
 3 tributable to section 105(b)(4) of the Domestic
 4 Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C.
 5 4955(b))); or

6 “(2) for a grant for a program meeting the re-
 7 quirements described in subsection (e), an amount
 8 equal to the sum of—

9 “(A) \$10,000; and

10 “(B) the living allowance established under
 11 section 140(a) (including any adjustment re-
 12 ferred to in paragraph (1)(B)).”.

13 (2) WAIVER AUTHORITY FOR INCREASED LIM-
 14 TATION.—Section 189(e)(1) of the National and
 15 Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
 16 12645c(e)(1)) is amended by striking “\$19,500”
 17 and inserting “an amount equal to the sum of
 18 \$10,000 and the living allowance established under
 19 section 140(a) (including any adjustment referred to
 20 in subsection (f)(1)(B))”.

21 (h) INCREASE IN LIMITATION ON TOTAL GRANT
 22 AMOUNT FOR EDUCATIONAL AWARD ONLY PROGRAM
 23 DURING COVID–19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RECOV-
 24 ERY PERIOD.—Section 129A of the National and Commu-

1 nity Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12581a) is amended
2 by adding at the end the following:

3 “(g) INCREASE IN LIMITATION ON TOTAL GRANT
4 AMOUNT FOR EDUCATIONAL AWARD ONLY PROGRAM
5 DURING COVID–19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RECOV-
6 ERY PERIOD.—Notwithstanding the limit described in
7 subsection (b), during the COVID–19 emergency response
8 and recovery period, the Corporation may provide the
9 operational support under this section for a program in
10 an amount that is not more than \$1,600 per individual
11 enrolled in an approved national service position, or not
12 more than \$2,000 per such individual if at least 50 per-
13 cent of the persons enrolled in the program are disadvan-
14 tagged youth.”.

15 (i) SEASONAL PROGRAM.—

16 (1) ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL CIVILIAN
17 COMMUNITY CORPS PROGRAM.—Section 152(b)(2) of
18 the National and Community Service Act of 1990
19 (42 U.S.C. 12612(b)(2)) is amended by striking
20 “summer” and inserting “seasonal”.

21 (2) SEASONAL NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAM.—
22 Section 154 of the National and Community Service
23 Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12614) is amended—

24 (A) in the section heading by striking
25 “**SUMMER**” and inserting “**SEASONAL**”;

1 (B) in subsection (a), by striking “sum-
2 mer” and inserting “seasonal”;

3 (C) in subsection (b), by striking “50 per-
4 cent of the participants in the summer” and in-
5 serting “35 percent of the participants in the
6 seasonal”; and

7 (D) by striking subsection (c) and insert-
8 ing the following:

9 “(c) SEASONAL PROGRAM.—Persons desiring to par-
10 ticipate in the seasonal national service program shall
11 enter into an agreement with the Director to participate
12 in the Corps for a period of not less than 3 months and
13 not more than 6 months, as specified by the Director.”.

14 (j) NATIONAL SENIOR SERVICE CORPS.—Part D of
15 title II of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (42
16 U.S.C. 5021 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
17 the following:

18 **“SEC. 229. COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RECOV-
19 ERY PERIOD.**

20 “(a) AGE REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding section
21 201(a), during the COVID-19 emergency response and
22 recovery period, in order to address the critical needs of
23 local communities across the country as a result of the
24 COVID-19 pandemic, individuals who are 45 years of age

1 or older may be enrolled as volunteers to provide services
2 under part A.

3 “(b) INCOME REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding
4 section 211(d), during the COVID–19 emergency response
5 and recovery period, the terms ‘low-income person’ and
6 ‘person of low income’ under such section shall mean any
7 person whose income is not more than 400 percent of the
8 poverty line defined in section 673(2) of the Community
9 Services Block Grant (42 U.S.C. 9902(2)) and adjusted
10 by the Director in the manner described in such section.”.

11 (k) FLEXIBILITY.—

12 (1) POLICY OF MAXIMIZING FLEXIBILITY.—It is
13 the sense of the Senate that, in carrying out activi-
14 ties under this Act, the Corporation for National
15 and Community Service should, consistent with the
16 Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C.
17 4950 et seq.) and the National and Community
18 Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12501), maximize
19 the flexibility of State Commissions (as defined in
20 section 101 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 12511)) to
21 award and amend grants, consistent with the pur-
22 poses of this Act, and to rapidly enroll new individ-
23 uals to serve in programs under the national service
24 laws.

1 (2) REPORT ON ACTIVITIES TO MAXIMIZE
2 FLEXIBILITY.—Not later than 120 days after the
3 date of enactment of this Act, and in consultation
4 with such State Commissions, the Chief Executive
5 Officer of the Corporation for National and Commu-
6 nity Service shall prepare and submit to the Com-
7 mittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
8 of the Senate and the Committee on Education and
9 Labor of the House of Representatives a report con-
10 taining recommendations on what additional actions
11 to maximize flexibility for such State Commissions
12 would strengthen the work of State Commissions
13 and their grantees.

14 (1) FURTHER EXPEDITING RAPID ENROLLMENT.—
15 Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this
16 Act, the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for
17 National and Community Service shall review the Cor-
18 poration's capacity and shall prepare and submit a report
19 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-
20 sions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and
21 Labor of the House of Representatives containing infor-
22 mation about whether a new unit within the Corporation
23 for National and Community Service should be established
24 to provide additional assistance or manage the enrollment
25 process to ensure compliance with sections 189D and 199I

1 of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42
2 U.S.C. 12645g; 12655i) for incoming participants in na-
3 tional service programs, particularly new national service
4 programs receiving program assistance for the first time.

5 **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

6 (a) AMERICORPS STATE AND NATIONAL; EDU-
7 CATIONAL AWARDS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 501(a)(2) of the Na-
9 tional and Community Service Act of 1990 (42
10 U.S.C. 12681(a)(2)) is amended by striking “fiscal
11 years 2010 through 2014” and all that follows and
12 inserting “fiscal year 2020, in addition to any
13 amount appropriated before the date of enactment of
14 the Cultivating Opportunity and Response to the
15 Pandemic through Service Act, additional amounts
16 of—

17 “(A) \$10,300,000,000, to provide financial
18 assistance under subtitle C of title I; and

19 “(B) \$3,659,000,000, to provide national
20 service educational awards under subtitle D of
21 title I for the total of the number of partici-
22 pants described in section 121(f)(1) for fiscal
23 years 2020 through 2023.”.

24 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
25 121(f)(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 12571(f)(1)) of

1 such Act is amended by striking subparagraphs (A),
2 (B), and (C) and inserting the following:

3 “(A) increase the number of positions to
4 250,000 per year by fiscal year 2023; and

5 “(B) ensure that the increase described in
6 subparagraph (A) is achieved through an appro-
7 priate balance of full- and part-time service po-
8 sitions;”.

9 (b) AMERICORPS NCCC.—Section 501(a)(3)(A) of
10 such Act (42 U.S.C. 12681(a)(3)(A)) is amended by strik-
11 ing “such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal
12 years 2010 through 2014.” and inserting “in addition to
13 any amount appropriated before the date of enactment of
14 the Cultivating Opportunity and Response to the Pan-
15 demic through Service Act an additional amount of
16 \$592,000,000 for fiscal year 2020.”.

17 (c) VOLUNTEER GENERATION FUND.—Section
18 501(a)(4) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 12681(a)(4)) is amend-
19 ed—

20 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “for each
21 of fiscal years 2010 through 2014” and inserting
22 “for fiscal year 2020”; and

23 (2) in subparagraph (F), by striking “section
24 198P—” and all that follows and inserting “in addi-
25 tion to any amount appropriated before the date of

1 enactment of the Cultivating Opportunity and Re-
2 sponse to the Pandemic through Service Act, an ad-
3 ditional amount of \$50,000,000 for fiscal year
4 2020.”.

5 (d) ADMINISTRATION BY THE CORPORATION AND
6 STATE COMMISSIONS.—Section 501(a)(5) of such Act (42
7 U.S.C. 12681(a)(5)) is amended—

8 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “such
9 sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years
10 2010 through 2014.” and inserting “in addition to
11 any amount appropriated before the date of enact-
12 ment of the Cultivating Opportunity and Response
13 to the Pandemic through Service Act, an additional
14 amount of \$754,000,000 for fiscal year 2020.”;

15 (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “for a fis-
16 cal year, a portion” and inserting “a portion (from
17 the amounts appropriated under subparagraph (A)
18 before the date of enactment of the Cultivating Op-
19 portunity and Response to the Pandemic through
20 Service Act, and an additional portion of
21 \$158,000,000,”; and

22 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
23 paragraph:

24 “(C) OUTREACH AND PROMOTION CAM-
25 PAIGN FOR COVID–19 RESPONSE OPPORTUNI-

1 TIES.—Of the amounts appropriated under sub-
2 paragraph (A), \$10,000,000 shall be made
3 available to carry out an outreach and pro-
4 motion campaign under section 193A(g)(4).”.

5 (e) AMERICORPS VISTA.—Section 501 of the Do-
6 mestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 5081)
7 is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking
9 “\$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2010 and such sums
10 as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years
11 2011 through 2014.” and inserting “, in addition to
12 any amount appropriated before the date of enact-
13 ment of the Cultivating Opportunity and Response
14 to the Pandemic through Service Act, an additional
15 amount of \$1,100,000,000 for fiscal year 2020.”;
16 and

17 (2) in subsection (d), by striking the period and
18 inserting “, except that any additional amount ap-
19 propriated under an amendment made by the Culti-
20 vating Opportunity and Response to the Pandemic
21 through Service Act shall remain available for obli-
22 gation through fiscal year 2023.”.

23 (f) NATIONAL SENIOR SERVICE CORPS.—Section
24 502 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5082) is amended by adding
25 at the end the following:

1 “(e) ONLINE SERVICE RESOURCES.—There are au-
 2 thORIZED to be appropriated, to develop online service re-
 3 sources to carry out parts A, B, C, and E of title II,
 4 \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2020.”.

5 **SEC. 10. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

6 (a) NCSA.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of
 7 the National Community Service Act of 1990 is amend-
 8 ed—

9 (1) by striking the item relating to section 154
 10 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 154. Seasonal national summer program.”;

11 (2) by striking the item relating to section
 12 189A and inserting the following:

“Sec. 189A. Matching requirements for severely economically distressed com-
 munities; matching funds during COVID-19 response and re-
 recovery period.”;

13 and

14 (3) by striking the item relating to the title
 15 heading for title IV and all that follows through the
 16 item relating to section 401 and inserting the fol-
 17 lowing:

“TITLE IV—RESPONSE PROJECTS

“Sec. 401. Projects honoring victims of terrorist attacks.

“Sec. 402. COVID-19 emergency response and recovery period augmentation
 and expansion grants.”.

18 (b) DVSA.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of
 19 the National Community Service Act of 1990 is amend-
 20 ed—

1 (1) in the items relating to part D of title II,
2 by adding at the end the following:

“Sec. 229. COVID–19 emergency response and recovery period.”;

3 (2) by inserting after the item relating to the
4 title heading for title IV the following:

“Sec. 401. Definitions.”;

5 and

6 (3) by striking the item relating to section 421
7 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 421. Online service platform.”.

○