

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

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

Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. WICKER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

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”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12 (8) The novel coronavirus pandemic has in-
13 fected and killed individuals in every State and terri-
14 tory, causing more than 1,500,000 cases and
15 100,000 deaths so far.

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

21 (10) More than 40,000,000 applications for un-
22 employment benefits have been filed in recent weeks,
23 with weekly filings repeatedly exceeding historic
24 record levels.

1 (11) More than 1 in every 10 adults in the
2 United States has applied for unemployment insur-
3 ance since the crisis began.

4 (12) Public health leaders agree that to safely
5 reopen the Nation and revive its economy, a massive
6 effort to test millions of individuals in the United
7 States and to trace contacts of those who are or may
8 be infected is needed.

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

20 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

21 The purposes of this Act are—

22 (1) to provide for annual growth of 250,000
23 participants, over 3 years, in national service pro-
24 grams, such as the Public Land Corps (also known
25 as the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps)

1 programs and other AmeriCorps programs, that will
2 provide services in response to the pandemic and
3 economic crisis;

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

7 (3) to stabilize such national service programs
8 during economic crisis; and

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

11 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

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

15 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (13) through
16 (35) and paragraphs (36) through (49) as para-
17 graphs (14) through (36) and (38) through (51), re-
18 spectively;

19 (2) by inserting after paragraph (12) the fol-
20 lowing:

21 “(13) COVID–19 DEFINITIONS.—

22 “(A) COVID–19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE
23 AND RECOVERY PERIOD.—The term ‘COVID–
24 19 emergency response and recovery period’
25 means the period beginning on the first day of

1 the COVID–19 public health emergency and
2 ending at the end of fiscal year 2023.

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

11 (3) by inserting after paragraph (36), as so re-
12 designated, the following:

13 “(37) PUBLIC LAND CORPS.—The term ‘Public
14 Lands Corps’ means the Corps established in section
15 204 of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 (16
16 U.S.C. 1723).”.

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

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

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

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

24 “(21)(A) the term ‘COVID–19 emergency re-
25 sponse and recovery period’ means the period begin-

1 ning on the first day of the COVID–19 public health
2 emergency and ending at the end of fiscal year
3 2023; and

4 “(B) the term ‘COVID–19 public health emer-
5 gency’ means the public health emergency declared
6 by the Secretary of Health and Human Services
7 under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act
8 (42 U.S.C. 247d) on January 31, 2020, with respect
9 to COVID–19; and

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

13 **SEC. 5. PRIORITIZING RESPONSE SERVICES.**

14 (a) AMERICORPS STATE AND NATIONAL.—

15 (1) NATIONAL SERVICE PRIORITIES.—Section
16 122(f) of the National and Community Service Act
17 of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12572(f)) is amended—

18 (A) in paragraph (1)—

19 (i) in subparagraph (A), by adding at
20 the end the following: “For fiscal years
21 2020 through 2023, the Corporation shall
22 include, in the national service priorities,
23 the priorities described in paragraph (5).”;
24 and

1 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by adding at
2 the end the following: “For fiscal years
3 2020 through 2023, each State shall in-
4 clude, in the State priorities, the priorities
5 described in section (5).”; and

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

7 “(5) EMERGENCY PRIORITIES.—For fiscal years
8 2020 through 2023, the priorities established under
9 paragraph (1) for national service programs shall
10 provide that the Corporation and the States, as ap-
11 propriate, shall give priority to entities submitting
12 applications—

13 “(A) that propose activities directly related
14 to the response to and recovery from the
15 COVID–19 public health emergency, such as
16 the provision of—

17 “(i) public health services, including
18 support for isolation and quarantine activi-
19 ties and contact tracing;

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

22 “(iii) work that furthers the capacity
23 of State (including territorial), tribal, and
24 local health departments and the rec-

1 ommendations of the Director of the Cen-
2 ters for Disease Control and Prevention;

3 “ (iv) work that furthers the capacity
4 of nonprofit and community organizations
5 to respond to the immediate needs of indi-
6 viduals affected by COVID–19;

7 “ (v) services that support economic
8 opportunity;

9 “ (vi) education, including enrichment
10 and adult education and literacy activities;

11 “ (vii) services to address housing and
12 food insecurity; and

13 “ (viii) jobs for youth in preserving
14 and restoring nature;

15 “(B) who—

16 “(i) are current (as of the date of the
17 application submission) or former recipi-
18 ents of financial assistance under the pro-
19 gram for which the application is sub-
20 mitted; and

21 “(ii) are able to provide services di-
22 rectly related to the response and recovery
23 described in subparagraph (A);

24 “(C) to the maximum extent practicable—

1 “(i) if the entities are proposing pro-
2 grams that serve, or proposing to give pri-
3 ority for positions to applicants from, un-
4 derserved populations, such as individuals
5 described in section 129(a)(1)(B) of the
6 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
7 (29 U.S.C. 3164(a)(1)(B)), minority indi-
8 viduals, individuals who have had contact
9 with the juvenile justice system, Indians,
10 veterans, and individuals whose abilities
11 are not typical, such as individuals with in-
12 tellectual or developmental disabilities;

13 “(ii) especially if the entities propose
14 recruiting applicants for positions to serve
15 in the same metropolitan or micropolitan
16 statistical area or county as the area or
17 county, respectively, in which the appli-
18 cants attended a secondary school or insti-
19 tution of higher education; and

20 “(iii) especially if the entities propose
21 programs that serve populations in rural
22 and underserved areas; and

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

1 “(i) were serving outside of the
2 United States in the Peace Corps, the J.
3 William Fulbright Educational Exchange
4 Program referenced in section 112 of the
5 Mutual Educational and Cultural Ex-
6 change Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2460), or
7 the program under this subtitle, subtitle E,
8 or part A of title I of the Domestic Volun-
9 teer Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4951
10 et seq.); but

11 “(ii) ended their terms of service
12 early, or returned to the United States be-
13 fore the end of their terms of service, due
14 to the COVID–19 public health emer-
15 gency.”.

16 (b) AMERICORPS NCCC.—Section 157 of the Na-
17 tional and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
18 12617) is amended—

19 (1) in subsection (b)(1), by adding at the end
20 the following:

21 “(C) SURGE CAPACITY AND PRIORITY
22 PROJECTS.—

23 “(i) SURGE CAPACITY PROJECTS.—
24 The Corporation and the Director of the
25 Centers for Disease Control and Preven-

1 tion shall develop, and the Corporation
2 shall approve, a proposal for public health
3 surge capacity projects. In carrying out the
4 projects, the Corporation and the Director
5 shall develop and deploy public health
6 surge capacity teams.

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

15 (2) in subsection (c)—

16 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “The
17 campus” and inserting “Except as provided in
18 paragraph (3), the campus”; and

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

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

24 (c) AMERICORPS VISTA.—Section 109 of the Do-
25 mestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4960)

1 is amended by adding at the end the following: “For fiscal
2 years 2020 through 2023, the Corporation shall give pri-
3 ority to entities submitting applications for projects or
4 programs under this part in the same manner as the Cor-
5 poration gives priority to entities submitting applications
6 for national service programs under section 122(f)(5) of
7 the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42
8 U.S.C. 12572(f)(5)).”.

9 **SEC. 6. STRENGTHENING OPPORTUNITY.**

10 (a) ALLOWANCES.—

11 (1) DOMESTIC VOLUNTEER SERVICE ACT OF
12 1973.—Section 105(b) of the Domestic Volunteer
13 Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4955(b)) is amended
14 by adding at the end the following:

15 “(4) Notwithstanding paragraph (2), during the
16 COVID–19 emergency response and recovery period,
17 the Director shall set the subsistence allowance for
18 volunteers under paragraph (1) for each fiscal year
19 so that—

20 “(A) the minimum allowance is not less
21 than an amount equal to 175 percent of such
22 poverty line (as defined in section 673(2) of the
23 Community Services Block Grant Act) for a
24 single individual as expected for each fiscal
25 year; and

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

5 “(5)(A) A stipend or allowance under this sec-
6 tion or an allowance under section 140 of the Na-
7 tional and Community Service Act of 1990 (42
8 U.S.C. 12594) shall not be increased as a result of
9 amendments made by the Cultivating Opportunity
10 and Response to the Pandemic through Service Act,
11 or any other amendment made to this section or
12 that section 140, respectively, unless the funds ap-
13 propriated for carrying out this part or subtitle C of
14 the National and Community Service Act of 1990
15 (42 U.S.C. 12571 et seq.), respectively, are suffi-
16 cient to maintain for the fiscal year involved a num-
17 ber of participants to serve under this part or that
18 subtitle C, respectively, that is at least equal to the
19 number of such participants so serving during the
20 preceding fiscal year.

21 “(B) In the event that sufficient appropriations
22 for any fiscal year (consistent with subparagraph
23 (A)) are not available to increase any stipend or al-
24 lowance under this section or allowance under sec-
25 tion 140 of the National and Community Service Act

1 of 1990 to the minimum amount specified in this
2 section or under that section 140, respectively, the
3 Director shall increase the stipend or allowance in-
4 volved to such amount as appropriations for such
5 year permit consistent with subparagraph (A).”.

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

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

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

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

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection
4 (a), an individual described in section 146(a) who
5 successfully completes a required term of full-time
6 national service in an approved national service posi-
7 tion during the COVID–19 emergency response and
8 recovery period shall receive a national service edu-
9 cational award having a value equal to twice the
10 maximum amount of a Federal Pell Grant under
11 section 401 of the Higher Education Act of 1965
12 (20 U.S.C. 1070a) that a student eligible for such
13 Grant may receive in the aggregate (without regard
14 to whether the funds are provided through discre-
15 tionary or mandatory appropriations), for the award
16 year for which the national service position is ap-
17 proved by the Corporation.

18 “(2) LESS THAN FULL-TIME SERVICE.—Not-
19 withstanding subsections (b) and (c), an individual
20 described in section 146(a) who successfully com-
21 pletes a required term of part-time national service
22 in an approved national service position during the
23 COVID–19 response and recovery period, or who is
24 serving in an approved national service position and
25 is released, during that period, in accordance with

1 section 139(c)(1)(A) from completing the full-time
2 or part-time term of service agreed to by the indi-
3 vidual, shall receive that portion of the national serv-
4 ice educational award calculated under paragraph
5 (1) that corresponds to the quantity of the term of
6 service actually completed by the individual.

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

10 (c) TAX PROVISIONS.—

11 (1) INCOME TAX EXCLUSION FOR LIVING AL-
12 LOWANCE.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—Part III of subchapter
14 B of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of
15 1986 is amended by inserting after section
16 139H the following new section:

17 **“SEC. 139I. LIVING ALLOWANCE FOR NATIONAL SERVICE**
18 **PARTICIPANTS.**

19 “Gross income does not include the amount of any
20 living allowance provided under section 105(b) of the Do-
21 mestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4955(b))
22 or section 140(a) or 158(b) of the National and Commu-
23 nity Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12594(a),
24 12618(b)).”.

1 (B) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of
2 sections for part III of subchapter B of chapter
3 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is
4 amended by inserting after the item relating to
5 section 139H the following new item:

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

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

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

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

16 “(e) NATIONAL SERVICE EDUCATIONAL AWARDS.—
17 Gross income shall not include any payments from the Na-
18 tional Service Trust established under section 145 of the
19 National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
20 12601), including the national service educational award
21 described in subtitle D of title I of such Act (42 U.S.C.
22 12601 et seq.).”.

23 (B) EXCLUSION OF DISCHARGE OF STU-
24 DENT LOAN DEBT.—Subsection (f) of section

1 108 of such Code is amended by adding at the
2 end the following new paragraph:

3 “(6) PAYMENTS UNDER NATIONAL SERVICE
4 EDUCATIONAL AWARD PROGRAMS.—In the case of
5 an individual, gross income shall not include any
6 amount received as a national service educational
7 award under subtitle D of title I of the National and
8 Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12601
9 et seq.).”.

10 (C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments
11 made by this paragraph shall apply to taxable
12 years ending after the date of the enactment of
13 this Act.

14 **SEC. 7. INVITING PARTICIPATION.**

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

19 “(j) COORDINATION WITH OTHER YOUTH PRO-
20 GRAMS.—

21 “(1) COVERED PROGRAMS.—The term ‘covered
22 program’ means—

23 “(A) the YouthBuild program carried out
24 by the Secretary of Labor under section 171 of

1 the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
2 (29 U.S.C. 3226);

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

6 “(C) a youth conservation corps program
7 under title I of the Act entitled ‘An Act to es-
8 tablish a pilot program in the Departments of
9 the Interior and Agriculture designated as the
10 Youth Conservation Corps, and for other pur-
11 poses’, approved August 13, 1970 (commonly
12 known as the ‘Youth Conservation Corps Act of
13 1970’; 16 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and

14 “(D) the National Guard Youth Challenge
15 Program under section 509 of title 32, United
16 States Code.

17 “(2) COORDINATION.—The Chief Executive Of-
18 ficer, in coordination with the Federal agency rep-
19 resentatives for covered programs, shall develop a
20 plan and make recommendations in the plan to im-
21 prove coordination between covered programs and
22 programs of the Corporation to meet the needs of
23 underserved youth, such as economically disadvan-
24 taged youth, minority youth, youth who left school
25 without a secondary school diploma, formerly incar-

1 cerated or court-involved youth, youth who are chil-
2 dren of an incarcerated parent, youth in foster care
3 (including youth aging out of foster care), migrant
4 youth, and other youth who are neither enrolled in
5 secondary or postsecondary school or participating in
6 the labor market.”.

7 (b) PLATFORM FOR NATIONAL SENIOR SERVICE
8 CORPS.—Title IV of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act
9 of 1973 is amended—

10 (1) by redesignating section 421 (42 U.S.C.
11 5061), amended by section 4(b), as section 401;

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

14 (3) by inserting after section 420 (42 U.S.C.
15 5059) the following:

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

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

25 “(b) TRAINING RESOURCES AND INFORMATION.—

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

4 “(2) INFORMATION.—The Corporation shall
5 provide information to regional offices of the Cor-
6 poration about how to get volunteers in the National
7 Senior Service Corps connected to the platform
8 through the gateway.

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

13 “(4) OUTREACH.—The Corporation shall pro-
14 vide outreach services to promote the platform in-
15 cluding outreach to institutions of higher education,
16 the Department of Veterans Affairs for mentorship
17 projects, and State and local governments for com-
18 munity engagement projects.”.

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

22 “(4) OUTREACH AND PROMOTION CAMPAIGN.—
23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out public
24 awareness functions under this subsection, the
25 Corporation shall carry out an outreach and

1 promotion campaign to promote programs
2 under the national service laws with opportuni-
3 ties to respond to the COVID–19 public health
4 emergency, with the goal of maximizing aware-
5 ness of those programs among individuals ages
6 17 through 30.

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

9 “(i) evaluates the outreach and pro-
10 motion campaign; and

11 “(ii) contains—

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

20 “(II) a description of how the
21 Corporation would ensure those meas-
22 ures would enable the Corporation to
23 provide that notification to targeted
24 individuals from diverse geographic
25 areas, including individuals who are

1 ages 17 through 30 living in rural
 2 areas and on Indian lands (as defined
 3 in section 3 of the Native American
 4 Business Development, Trade Pro-
 5 motion, and Tourism Act of 2000 (25
 6 U.S.C. 4302)); and

7 “(III) a recommendation regard-
 8 ing whether the Corporation should
 9 make the notifications described in
 10 subclause (I).”.

11 (d) VOLUNTEER GENERATION FUND.—Section
 12 198P(d)(2) of the National and Community Service Act
 13 of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12653p(d)(2)) is amended by adding
 14 at the end the following: “With respect to grants made
 15 with funds appropriated as an additional amount under
 16 section 501(a)(4)(F), the minimum grant amount shall be
 17 not less than \$250,000.”.

18 **SEC. 8. ENSURING AGILITY.**

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

22 (1) in the section heading, by inserting “;
 23 **MATCHING FUNDS DURING COVID-19 RE-**
 24 **SPONSE AND RECOVERY PERIOD**” after “**COM-**
 25 **MUNITIES**”; and

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

2 “(c) COVID–19 RESPONSE.—Notwithstanding any
3 other provision of law, an entity that receives assistance
4 from the Corporation for any program under the national
5 service laws (including a State Commission and an entity
6 receiving subgrant funds) during the COVID–19 emer-
7 gency response and recovery period shall not be subject
8 to any requirements to provide matching funds for any
9 such program, and the Federal share of such assistance
10 for a recipient (including for a State Commission and a
11 subgrant recipient) may be 100 percent.”.

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

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

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section
18 178(h), during the COVID–19 emergency response
19 and recovery period, the Corporation shall imple-
20 ment a pilot program allowing State Commissions to
21 directly place a portion of individuals who have ap-
22 proved national service positions in State national
23 service programs in a manner to be determined by
24 the Corporation.

1 “(2) PRIORITIES.—State Commissions partici-
2 pating in the pilot program shall, to the extent prac-
3 ticable, prioritize the placement of individuals in na-
4 tional service programs that serve rural and under-
5 served areas.

6 “(3) REPORT.—The Corporation shall prepare
7 and submit a report to Congress at the end of the
8 pilot program described in paragraph (1), containing
9 recommendations about whether and how to con-
10 tinue such a program of direct placements.”.

11 (c) NO SUMMER LIMITATION DURING COVID–19
12 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY PERIOD.—Section 104 of the
13 Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4954)
14 is amended by adding at the end the following:

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

24 “(2) In preparing reports relating to programs under
25 this Act, the Director shall report on participants, costs,

1 and accomplishments under the program under this sub-
2 section separately.

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

6 (d) VISTA LIMITATION APPLICABILITY.—Section
7 108 of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (42
8 U.S.C. 4958) is amended—

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

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

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

1 less of when grant recipients commenced such programs
2 and projects.”.

3 (e) AUGMENTATION AND EXPANSION GRANTS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Title IV of the National and
5 Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12671)
6 is amended—

7 (A) by striking the title IV title heading
8 and all that follows through the section heading
9 for section 401 and inserting the following:

10 **“TITLE IV—RESPONSE**
11 **PROJECTS**

12 **“SEC. 401. PROJECTS HONORING VICTIMS OF TERRORIST**
13 **ATTACKS.”;**

14 and

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

16 **“SEC. 402. COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RECOV-**
17 **ERY PERIOD AUGMENTATION AND EXPAN-**
18 **SION GRANTS.**

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

23 (2) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of con-
24 tents in section 1(b) of the National Community
25 Service Act of 1990 is amended by striking the item

1 relating to the title heading for title IV and all that
 2 follows through the item relating to section 401 and
 3 inserting the following:

“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.”.

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

9 “(g) TERM OF SERVICE DURING COVID–19 EMER-
 10 GENCY RESPONSE AND RECOVERY PERIOD.—Notwith-
 11 standing the aggregate value limit described in subsection
 12 (c), during the COVID–19 emergency response and recov-
 13 ery period, a participant who received 2 national service
 14 educational awards for terms of service concluding before
 15 the end of fiscal year 2020 may, as determined by the
 16 Corporation, be eligible for an additional term of service
 17 and, on the successful completion of that term, a third
 18 national service educational award.”.

19 (g) INCREASE IN LIMITATION ON GRANT
 20 AMOUNTS.—

21 (1) INCREASE IN LIMITATION ON TOTAL GRANT
 22 AMOUNT DURING EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RE-
 23 COVERY PERIOD.—Section 189 of the National and

1 Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12645c)
2 is amended by adding at the end the following:

3 “(f) INCREASE IN LIMITATION ON TOTAL GRANT
4 AMOUNT DURING COVID–19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE
5 AND RECOVERY PERIOD.—Notwithstanding the limits de-
6 scribed in subsections (a) and (e), during the COVID–19
7 emergency response and recovery period, the amount of
8 funds approved by the Corporation for a grant to operate
9 a program authorized under the national service laws, for
10 supporting individuals serving in approved national service
11 positions, may not exceed, for each full-time equivalent po-
12 sition—

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

14 “(A) \$7,500; and

15 “(B) the living allowance established under
16 section 140(a) (including any adjustment at-
17 tributable to section 105(b)(4) of the Domestic
18 Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C.
19 4955(b))); or

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

23 “(A) \$10,000; and

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

4 (2) WAIVER AUTHORITY FOR INCREASED LIM-
5 TATION.—Section 189(e)(1) of the National and
6 Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
7 12645c(e)(1)) is amended by striking “\$19,500”
8 and inserting “an amount equal to the sum of
9 \$10,000 and the living allowance established under
10 section 140(a) (including any adjustment referred to
11 in subsection (f)(1)(B))”.

12 (h) INCREASE IN LIMITATION ON TOTAL GRANT
13 AMOUNT FOR EDUCATIONAL AWARD ONLY PROGRAM
14 DURING COVID–19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RECOV-
15 ERY PERIOD.—Section 129A of the National and Commu-
16 nity Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12581a) is amended
17 by adding at the end the following:

18 “(g) INCREASE IN LIMITATION ON TOTAL GRANT
19 AMOUNT FOR EDUCATIONAL AWARD ONLY PROGRAM
20 DURING COVID–19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RECOV-
21 ERY PERIOD.—Notwithstanding the limit described in
22 subsection (b), during the COVID–19 emergency response
23 and recovery period, the Corporation may provide the
24 operational support under this section for a program in
25 an amount that is not more than \$1,600 per individual

1 enrolled in an approved national service position, or not
2 more than \$2,000 per such individual if at least 50 per-
3 cent of the persons enrolled in the program are disadvan-
4 tagged youth.”.

5 (i) SEASONAL PROGRAM.—

6 (1) ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL CIVILIAN
7 COMMUNITY CORPS PROGRAM.—Section 152(b)(2) of
8 the National and Community Service Act of 1990
9 (42 U.S.C. 12612(b)(2)) is amended by striking
10 “summer” and inserting “seasonal”.

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

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

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

18 (C) in subsection (b), by striking “50 per-
19 cent of the participants in the summer” and in-
20 serting “35 percent of the participants in the
21 seasonal”; and

22 (D) by striking subsection (c) and insert-
23 ing the following:

24 “(c) SEASONAL PROGRAM.—Persons desiring to par-
25 ticipate in the seasonal national service program shall

1 enter into an agreement with the Director to participate
2 in the Corps for a period of not less than 3 months and
3 not more than 6 months, as specified by the Director.”.

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

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

10 “(a) AGE REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding section
11 201(a), during the COVID-19 emergency response and
12 recovery period, in order to address the critical needs of
13 local communities across the country as a result of the
14 COVID-19 pandemic, individuals who are 45 years of age
15 or older may be enrolled as volunteers to provide services
16 under part A.

17 “(b) INCOME REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding
18 section 211(d), during the COVID-19 emergency response
19 and recovery period, the terms ‘low-income person’ and
20 ‘person of low income’ under such section shall mean any
21 person whose income is not more than 400 percent of the
22 poverty line defined in section 673(2) of the Community
23 Services Block Grant (42 U.S.C. 9902(2)) and adjusted
24 by the Director in the manner described in such section.”.

25 (k) FLEXIBILITY.—

1 (1) POLICY OF MAXIMIZING FLEXIBILITY.—It is
2 the sense of the Senate that, in carrying out activi-
3 ties under this Act, the Corporation for National
4 and Community Service should, consistent with the
5 Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C.
6 4950 et seq.) and the National and Community
7 Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12501), maximize
8 the flexibility of State Commissions (as defined in
9 section 101 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 12511)) to
10 award and amend grants, consistent with the pur-
11 poses of this Act, and to rapidly enroll new individ-
12 uals to serve in programs under the national service
13 laws.

14 (2) REPORT ON ACTIVITIES TO MAXIMIZE
15 FLEXIBILITY.—Not later than 120 days after the
16 date of enactment of this Act, and in consultation
17 with such State Commissions, the Chief Executive
18 Officer of the Corporation for National and Commu-
19 nity Service shall prepare and submit to the Com-
20 mittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
21 of the Senate and the Committee on Education and
22 Labor of the House of Representatives a report con-
23 taining recommendations on what additional actions
24 to maximize flexibility for such State Commissions

1 would strengthen the work of State Commissions
2 and their grantees.

3 (l) FURTHER EXPEDITING RAPID ENROLLMENT.—

4 Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this
5 Act, the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for
6 National and Community Service shall review the Cor-
7 poration’s capacity and shall prepare and submit a report
8 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-
9 sions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and
10 Labor of the House of Representatives containing infor-
11 mation about whether a new unit within the Corporation
12 for National and Community Service should be established
13 to provide additional assistance or manage the enrollment
14 process to ensure compliance with sections 189D and 199I
15 of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42
16 U.S.C. 12645g; 12655i) for incoming participants in na-
17 tional service programs, particularly new national service
18 programs receiving program assistance for the first time.

19 **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

20 (a) AMERICORPS STATE AND NATIONAL; EDU-
21 CATIONAL AWARDS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 501(a)(2) of the Na-
23 tional and Community Service Act of 1990 (42
24 U.S.C. 12681(a)(2)) is amended by striking “fiscal
25 years 2010 through 2014” and all that follows and

1 inserting “fiscal year 2020, in addition to any
2 amount appropriated before the date of enactment of
3 the Cultivating Opportunity and Response to the
4 Pandemic through Service Act, additional amounts
5 of—

6 “(A) \$11,900,000,000, to provide financial
7 assistance under subtitle C of title I; and

8 “(B) \$3,815,000,000, to provide national
9 service educational awards under subtitle D of
10 title I for the total of the number of partici-
11 pants described in section 121(f)(1) for fiscal
12 years 2020 through 2023.”.

13 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
14 121(f)(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 12571(f)(1)) of
15 such Act is amended by striking subparagraphs (A),
16 (B) and (C) and inserting the following:

17 “(A) increase the number of positions to
18 250,000 per year by fiscal year 2023; and

19 “(B) ensure that the increase described in
20 subparagraph (A) is achieved through an appro-
21 priate balance of full- and part-time service po-
22 sitions;”.

23 (b) AMERICORPS NCCC.—Section 501(a)(3)(A) of
24 such Act (42 U.S.C. 12681(a)(3)(A)) is amended by strik-
25 ing “such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal

1 years 2010 through 2014.” and inserting “in addition to
2 any amount appropriated before the date of enactment of
3 the Cultivating Opportunity and Response to the Pan-
4 demic through Service Act an additional amount of
5 \$857,000,000 for fiscal year 2020.”.

6 (c) VOLUNTEER GENERATION FUND.—Section
7 501(a)(4) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 12681(a)(4)) is amend-
8 ed—

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

12 (2) in subparagraph (F), by striking “section
13 198P—” and all that follows and inserting “in addi-
14 tion to any amount appropriated before the date of
15 enactment of the Cultivating Opportunity and Re-
16 sponse to the Pandemic through Service Act, an ad-
17 ditional amount of \$50,000,000 for fiscal year
18 2020.”.

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

22 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “such
23 sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years
24 2010 through 2014.” and inserting “in addition to
25 any amount appropriated before the date of enact-

1 ment of the Cultivating Opportunity and Response
2 to the Pandemic through Service Act, an additional
3 amount of \$1,187,000,000 for fiscal year 2020.”;

4 (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “for a fis-
5 cal year, a portion” and inserting “a portion (from
6 the amounts appropriated under subparagraph (A)
7 before the date of enactment of the Cultivating Op-
8 portunity and Response to the Pandemic through
9 Service Act, and an additional portion of
10 \$593,000,000,”; and

11 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
12 paragraph:

13 “(C) OUTREACH AND PROMOTION CAM-
14 PAIGN FOR COVID–19 RESPONSE OPPORTUNI-
15 TIES.—Of the amounts appropriated under sub-
16 paragraph (A), \$10,000,000 shall be made
17 available to carry out an outreach and pro-
18 motion campaign under section 193A(g)(4).”.

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

22 (1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking
23 “\$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2010 and such sums
24 as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years
25 2011 through 2014.” and inserting “, in addition to

1 any amount appropriated before the date of enact-
2 ment of the Cultivating Opportunity and Response
3 to the Pandemic through Service Act, an additional
4 amount of \$1,100,000,000 for fiscal year 2020.”;
5 and

6 (2) in subsection (d), by striking the period and
7 inserting “, except that any additional amount ap-
8 propriated under an amendment made by the Culti-
9 vating Opportunity and Response to the Pandemic
10 through Service Act shall remain available for obli-
11 gation through fiscal year 2023.”.

12 (f) NATIONAL SENIOR SERVICE CORPS.—Section
13 502 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5082) is amended by adding
14 at the end the following:

15 “(e) ONLINE SERVICE RESOURCES.—There are au-
16 thorized to be appropriated, to develop online service re-
17 sources to carry out parts A, B, C, and E of title II,
18 \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2020.”.