

\$160 M = House
\$470 M = Senate

Getting Things Done

There are serious issues facing communities today. It is best to think of AmeriCorps as a banker investing in our most precious resources in our cities and towns: the energy and idealism of our well trained and well motivated young people. AmeriCorps is making a real impact by helping communities meet education, public safety, human, and environmental challenges through direct and demonstrable service -- all without wasting taxpayer dollars or the time of the participants.

Education

In Simpson County, Kentucky, 20 AmeriCorps Members are teaching reading skills to nearly half of the county's second grade students and involving their parents in school-related activities. Because of the tutoring sessions and individual education plans developed and implemented by AmeriCorps Members and classroom teachers, the average spelling test scores have improved 22 percentage points, students have shown marked improvement in sight words, students are demonstrating improved self-esteem by their willingness to "become risk takers," and home visits by AmeriCorps members have been 100% successful.

Public Safety

In Kansas City, Missouri, AmeriCorps Members work with the Kansas City Police Department to help mobilize the community, identify drug houses, recruit neighborhood block captains, and work with new community policing officers. As a direct result of their work last summer, 12 crack houses were closed, and Kansas City Police Chief Steve Bishop points to a 15% decline in reported crime in the affected neighborhood.

Human Needs

In one summer in Texas, 89 AmeriCorps Members helped immunize 104,000 infants, saving taxpayers money more than \$5.34 in future medical costs for every \$1 spent, and recruited more than 57,000 new WIC participants.

Environment (Neighborhood)

In Boston, AmeriCorps members are working with Green Spaces/Healthy Places project to focus on open space revitalization, resource conservation, and air quality. The team has mapped 60 lots in the area, cleared two lots of illegal dumping materials and trash, developed a community garden on one of the lots, involved community residents in the development of the garden, distributed over 500 energy efficient light bulbs and water-saving information to residents, and developed an environmental service club for 6 to 12-year-olds.

Environment (Natural)

In Bozeman, Montana, 32 AmeriCorps Members have built and cleared 119 miles of natural trails, prevented the erosion of 2,700 feet of trout stream, and planted 3,000 trees. Last summer, AmeriCorps Members were trained by the National Forest Service to help fight fires in eastern Montana and Idaho, saving taxpayers millions of dollars by catching forest fires earlier.

Strengthening Communities

While we rightly celebrate the ways we differ, we also need to remember the values we share. AmeriCorps unites individuals from all different backgrounds -- and institutions of all different kinds -- in common efforts to improve our communities.

In and along the Columbia River in the Upper Northwest, 72 Members from the Nez Pierce, Yakama, Warm Springs, Umatilla, and Shoshone-Bannock tribes are restoring the habitat in rivers, streams, and watersheds; fencing and replanting vegetation; and engaging in debris removal. This AmeriCorps program represents the first time youth from these five historically antagonistic tribes have worked together on a joint project. They learned to rely on one another regardless of tribal affiliation, and that the best way to judge people is not through stereotypes handed down through the generations, but through mutual trust and understanding.

Encouraging Responsibility

Through service and civic education, AmeriCorps enables members to see themselves as problem-solvers, not just problems; to become leaders, not just followers; and to act on their responsibilities, as well as their rights.

In Galveston, 90 AmeriCorps members are participating in a unique maritime education and environmental service program for 17-to-20 year old high school dropouts. The Department of the Navy, in partnership with Texas A&M University at Galveston, developed the Corps to restore endangered species' habitats and refurbish historic ships, landmarks, and houses, while simultaneously redirecting the lives of once at-risk youth. This nine month, co-ed, residential education and training program offers Corpsmembers the chance to earn a high school diploma or GED (35 of whom had already done so by early February) and a basic Seaman's License, the first step to entry-level employment in the maritime business. They are also learning about deck operations, firefighting, survival and safety skills, hazardous materials and oil spill response.

Expanding Opportunity

AmeriCorps helps those who help America. Members receive and enhance job skills and gain invaluable experience -- and an educational benefit of up to \$4,725 for schooling and job training.

This summer in New York City, 100 AmeriCorps Members worked with the NYPD to police the public recreation areas and parks. Because of their involvement, this was the first summer in years without a sexual assault at the facilities. All 100 AmeriCorps Members have re-enrolled in the year-long program and intend to use their training from sworn police officers, mentoring from CUNY professors, and educational stipend to become police officers.

SEASONS OF SERVICE

"I challenge a new generation of young Americans to a season of service... There is so much to be done — enough, indeed, for millions of others who are still young in spirit to give of themselves in service, too."

President Bill Clinton, Inaugural Address

The President's national service legislation created the new Corporation for National and Community Service. Formed in conjunction with the White House Office of National Service, built upon the foundation of the former Commission on National and Community Service and ACTION, and incorporating the new National Civilian Community Corps, the Corporation is positioned to revitalize service in every region and community across the country.

The Corporation supports a range of national and community service programs, providing opportunities for participants to serve full-time and part-time, as volunteers or as stipended participants, and as individuals or as a part of a team. From our youngest citizens engaged in service-learning activities in grades K-12, to our older Americans assisting those in need in their communities, the Corporation provides "seasons of service" for all Americans.

AmeriCorps is the President's national service vision of directly and demonstrably addressing the nation's education, human, public safety, and environmental needs at the community level. AmeriCorps offers opportunities for Americans age 17 or older to make a substantial commitment to serve their country and to earn education awards for college or vocational training in return. Up to 20,000 Americans of all backgrounds will serve full-time or part-time in the program's first year, beginning in the fall of 1994.

National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) is included in AmeriCorps, and engages more than 1,000 young people in service. The NCCC is a national residential service option in which participants are housed and trained together on military bases and are deployed as teams to community service sites. The NCCC combines the best of our military tradition with the best practices of local community service corps, providing participants with opportunities to solve real community needs while developing their own leadership skills and receiving invaluable training for future careers.

Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) is an important component of AmeriCorps. VISTA is a full-time, year-long program for men and women age 18 and older who commit themselves to increasing the capability of low-income people to improve the conditions of their own lives. VISTA volunteers serve in rural or urban areas or on Indian reservations, sharing their skills and experience in fields such as employment training, literacy, housing, health education, and neighborhood revitalization. Approximately 4000 VISTA volunteers are currently serving, joining more than 100,000 alumni who have previously served their country through VISTA.

Learn and Serve America programs are school-based, and integrate service into daily academic life. Service-learning is a method by which young people learn and develop through active participation in service experiences that meet community needs, and foster a lifetime commitment to service.

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Learn and Serve America
National Senior Service Corps

The **K-12 Program** supports school and community-based organizations that engage school-aged youth in service. Over 275,000 students in all fifty states participate in service activities which are integrated into their curriculum, providing structured time for the students to think, talk, or write about their service experiences.

The **Higher Education Program** aims to make service an integral part of the education and life experiences of college students. The program supports high-quality service-learning initiatives at colleges and universities across the nation, at both undergraduate and graduate levels. These efforts address needs in the national priorities while enhancing students' academic and civic learning. Many initiatives are based at a single campus; some are coordinated through statewide consortia; and others are national in scope. While program designs vary, they all seek to integrate service with academic study or with other structured opportunities for reflection. As essential parts of the college experience, these efforts will create a new generation of leaders committed to service.

School and Community-based Programs support schools and nonprofit organizations that engage school-aged youth in active learning through service. By the fall of 1994, over 300,000 youth in all fifty states will participate in programs which will provide opportunities for them to analyze classroom learning and community issues, and apply their new knowledge and skills to meaningful service activities. As a central element of the learning experiences of young people, service-learning will enhance academic achievement and foster personal growth while empowering youth to make a difference in communities across the country.

National Senior Service Corps utilizes the skills, talents, and experiences of older Americans in addressing urgent issues facing the nation. Together these programs involve over 470,000 volunteers who serve in 1,223 local projects and devote an annual total of over 111 million hours of service to their local communities.

The **Foster Grandparent Program** offers low-income seniors aged 60 and over the opportunity to serve one-on-one with children and young people who have special needs, including teen parents, boarder babies and those who are abused and neglected. Over 23,000 Foster Grandparents serve twenty hours a week in volunteer stations such as hospitals, public schools, day care centers and correctional institutions.

The **Senior Companion Program** volunteers are low-income men and women age 60 and over. Senior Companions provide individualized support and assistance to other adults, primarily the homebound elderly. Their services help the homebound achieve and maintain their highest level of independent living. Approximately 13,000 Senior Companions provide disability assistance, home management assistance, and social and recreational companionship to approximately 32,000 individuals each year.

The **Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)** is a network of 430,000 Americans, age 55 and up, who perform a wide range of volunteer services that meet real community needs and effectively use their skills, interests, and experience. RSVP is the Corporation's largest service program, providing communities with volunteers diverse in experience, interest, income, and education, and ready to take on the challenges facing the country.



AmeriCorps National Service

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AMERICORPS NATIONAL PRIORITIES

AmeriCorps is the new national service movement which will engage Americans of all ages and backgrounds, especially young people, in full or part-time service that gets things done in communities across the nation. AmeriCorps Members will perform service that will have a direct and demonstrable impact in four critical issue areas: education, public safety, human needs, and the environment.

By the end of the year, up to 20,000 AmeriCorps participants will be getting things done by meeting the critical needs within these national priorities:

EDUCATION

School Readiness: furthering early childhood development

Getting Things Done:

- Improving the quality and availability of child development programs by working in day care and Head Start centers and preschool programs
- Teaching literacy and other basic skills to parents of young children so that they can help their children learn
- Helping teen parents stay in school by providing needed services such as child care

School Success: aiding the educational achievement of school-aged youth and adults who lack basic education skills

Getting Things Done:

- Working in schools with high concentrations of low-income students
- Mentoring, tutoring, and providing after-school and summer learning opportunities
- Coordinating service-learning activities for K-12 students

PUBLIC SAFETY

Crime Prevention: reducing the incidence of violence

Getting Things Done:

- Reducing crimes against youth by making schools safe, creating safe havens, providing training in conflict resolution, and involving youth in prevention efforts
- Providing substance abuse counseling and education
- Developing specific crime prevention strategies targeted at key locations such as playgrounds, public transportation points, and other public gathering places

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Crime Control: improving criminal justice services, law enforcement, and victim services

Getting Things Done:

- Enhancing community policing efforts by working with local law enforcement
- Reducing specific crime problems such as drug dealing, domestic violence, crimes motivated by bias, crimes against senior citizens, and child abuse
- Improving services available for victims of crime and strengthening innovative criminal justice programs such as neighborhood courts and community restitution

HUMAN NEEDS

Health: providing independent living assistance, home-and community-based health care

Getting Things Done:

- Providing independent living assistance and health care to the homebound elderly, people with disabilities, and people living with AIDS
- Improving the health of low-income communities by offering preventive health services through community health clinics
- Offering prenatal care, parenting education, and health care to families of young children through home visits

Home: rebuilding neighborhoods and helping people who are homeless

Getting Things Done:

- Helping people who are homeless by providing shelter support, assisting in moving into permanent housing, and related services
- Renovating and rehabilitating low-income housing
- Helping individuals move from public assistance and into self-sufficiency by providing job training, literacy tutoring, and other services

ENVIRONMENT

- **Neighborhood Environment: reducing community environmental hazards**

Getting Things Done:

- Revitalizing neighborhoods by creating and maintaining recreation areas, green spaces, and community gardens
- Eliminating environmental risks through education, testing, and cleanup
- Reducing waste through energy efficiency efforts, recycling, and other conservation measures

- **Natural Environment: conserving, restoring, and sustaining natural habitats**

Getting Things Done:

- Conserving and restoring public lands, forests, rivers, streams and wetlands
- Making parks more accessible through trail maintenance, infrastructure improvements
- Sampling, mapping, monitoring, and recording air and water quality and status of groundwater, land, plan, and animal resources

Office of Federal Partnerships and Special Programs

The Office of Federal Partnerships is responsible for relationships between the Corporation, Cabinet departments and independent agencies. The staff also works closely with several offices in the White House that are responsible for the development of policy initiatives. Staff have worked with several Cabinet agencies to incorporate national service as an integral part of the implementation of programs that a) fit within the Corporation's national priorities, and which b) take advantage of other federal funds to cover a significant portion of program costs.

The programs listed below are in various stages of development. None of the programs has yet been finalized or announced. To find out more information about a specific initiative, please contact the staff person listed.

1. **COPS:** The COPS program was authorized as part of the Crime Act of 1994. In FY95, the COPS program has \$1.3 billion for new police. Of this, 85% must be used for salaries and benefits for new officers. The remaining 15% can be used for other purposes to enhance community policing. Bob Hussey on the OFP staff has developed the proposal to the Justice Department that national service be a permissible use of the 15% funds. If our proposal to Justice is successful, a police department, sheriff's department, city or county government, non-profit or community organization that wants to add a national service component would pay the program and participant costs from their COPS funds, and the Corporation would provide educational awards. (Bob Hussey: 606-5000, ext. 499)

2. **Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities:** The President has announced the designation of 9 Empowerment Zones, 2 Supplemental Empowerment Zones, 4 Enhanced Enterprise Communities, and 91 Enterprise Communities. These communities will receive between \$125 and \$3 million in social service block grants and tax exempt bond financing for business investment. Applications from EZs and ECs will be given a preference for FY95 AmeriCorps funding for new programs. Tim Silard is coordinating our efforts with HUD and USDA regarding the Corporation's involvement in these projects. We anticipate having a signature project in Atlanta and working with other interested communities to help them incorporate national service into their implementation plans. The Corporation has existing AmeriCorps*USA and AmeriCorps*VISTA programs in all 15 EZs and enhanced ECs. In many of the 15 communities, we also have Learn and Service America, HOPE VI, and Senior Volunteer Programs. (Tim Silard: 606-5000, ext. 218)

3. **Supportive Housing Program:** The Supportive Housing Program is a flexible program through which competitively awarded grants from the Department of Housing and Urban Development enable communities to tailor funds for activities designed to meet needs of homeless people. Funds will be spent to tackle homelessness, ranging from outreach efforts to homeless on the streets to a full

range of youth and adult services, job training and construction of permanent housing. \$298.2 million in SHP grants is available in FY95. HUD has set aside \$3.4 million to pay for AmeriCorps program costs. SHP applicants wishing to include an AmeriCorps*USA component obtained a commitment from a potential AmeriCorps*USA sponsor to submit an application to the state commission for educational awards for those AmeriCorps members who will work on SHP projects. If both the SHP applicant and the AmeriCorps*USA applicant are selected for awards under their respective programs, the SHP grantee will contact HUD to receive a supplemental grant to cover the AmeriCorps program and participant costs. Steve Selby will be the contact for this program. (Steve Selby: 606-5000, ext. 480)

4. **Childhood Immunization Initiative:** In FY95, the Childhood Immunization Initiative was authorized to award \$359 million to states to increase immunization rates of two year olds by 90% for the most critical preventable diseases by 1996. Cecilia Calvo in the OFP has worked closely with the Centers for Disease Control to identify opportunities for all of the Corporation programs to be part of the delivery system for CII. (Cecilia Calvo, 606-5000, ext. 341)

5. **Defense Conversion:** One of the geographic priorities for 1995 AmeriCorps funding gives special consideration to communities affected by defense conversion. Steve Selby at OFP is looking at ways to encourage national service as a model for conversion of facilities and retraining of personnel in these communities. The Departments of Defense, Commerce and Labor currently have funds for these activities. (Steve Selby: 606-5000, ext. 480)

6. **Victims Assistance:** Bob Hussey has just begun conversations with the Violence Against Women Office at the Justice Department about a potential partnership centered around the Violence Against Women Act. In FY95, \$12.6 million in formula grant funds will be awarded to the states to help prevent domestic violence and assist women who are victimized by it. (Bob Hussey: 606-5000, ext. 499)

The Office of Federal Partnerships and Special Programs works closely with other program offices of the Corporation that have developed partnerships with federal agencies, including several programs initiated by VISTA with HUD (Innovative Housing Initiative, Multi-Family Housing), and the Hope VI program.



AmeriCorps

Overview

What is AmeriCorps?

AmeriCorps is a new national initiative that involves people of all ages and backgrounds in strengthening America's communities through service. Currently, over 20,000 AmeriCorps Members serve full or part-time in more than 350 AmeriCorps programs nationwide. In exchange for service, Members receive education awards.

AmeriCorps programs are as diverse as the communities they serve, but they are united by a common mission:

- * *Getting Things Done* to help communities meet their education, public safety, human and environmental needs.
- * *Strengthening Communities* by bringing together people from all backgrounds to solve problems at the local level.
- * *Encouraging Responsibility* through service and civic education.
- * *Expanding Opportunity* by helping to make postsecondary education more affordable.

How does AmeriCorps benefit communities?

AmeriCorps service produces direct and demonstrable results in American communities. AmeriCorps Members tutor and mentor at-risk youth, organize neighborhood watch associations, provide assistance to crime victims and prevent crime through conflict resolution training. They build affordable housing, help seniors live independently, and immunize children against preventable diseases. They clean up city streets, restore national parks, and provide relief to areas hardest hit by natural disasters.

Beyond the tangible benefits, AmeriCorps helps strengthen communities by bringing together a wide range of community members in both planning and implementing programs: city, state and federal leaders; local businesses and nonprofit organizations; and citizens of all ages and backgrounds.

How are AmeriCorps funds distributed?

Two thirds of AmeriCorps funds go directly to State Commissions on National Service, which select local programs. The Corporation distributes the remainder of AmeriCorps funds to national programs and special initiatives through a competitive grants process. AmeriCorps programs are required to demonstrate local support by raising matching funds from businesses and other local sources.

How do organizations apply for AmeriCorps help?

Eligible organizations include those run by nonprofit organizations; institutions of higher education; school and police districts; local, state and federal governments, and Indian tribes. Interested applicants should contact their State Commission on National Service for application information and materials. For state commission phone listings contact the Corporation for National Service at (202) 606-5000. Application deadlines are in spring.

How do Members afford to do full-time service for a full year?

Full-time AmeriCorps Members earn a modest living allowance roughly equal to minimum wage and a post-service award of \$4,725 to help pay for higher education or vocational training. Some receive child care and health benefits. Part-time Members receive prorated benefits.

Who can be an AmeriCorps Member?

AmeriCorps Members must be citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. and at least 17 years of age. To request an application, call 1-800-94-ACORPS (1-800-942-2677) TDD# 1-800-835-3722.

What is the Corporation for National Service?

The federally-funded Corporation for National Service offers opportunities for Americans of all ages and backgrounds to make their communities smarter, safer, healthier, and stronger through service. In addition to AmeriCorps, the Corporation oversees Learn and Serve America programs for students and the National Senior Service Corps for Americans age 55 and older.

AmeriCorps Shows Results in Communities Across the Country

Not even a year old and AmeriCorps is fulfilling its promise to achieve "direct and demonstrable results" in communities nationwide. What kind of results?

"Results that show what America's youth can accomplish when given opportunities to make a difference in their communities," says Eli Segal, CEO of the Corporation for National Service, which oversees AmeriCorps.

For example, last summer one 88-member AmeriCorps team helped immunize 104,000 infants throughout Texas, saving taxpayers more than \$5 for every \$1 spent. Another group worked with the

local police department to close down 12 crack houses in Kansas City, MO, while AmeriCorps Members in New York City teamed up with the NYPD; the recreation areas and public pools they patrolled remained assault free for the first summer in years.

Since December, AmeriCorps Members in rural Kentucky have raised the reading levels of half a county's second graders from two years behind to one year ahead of standards, while Members in Washington state have been so successful in their environmental services that salmon are running in the Columbia River's tributaries for the first time in a generation.



AmeriCorps information: 1 - 800 - 94 - ACORPS



AmeriCorps

The Basics

A simple idea based on common sense and American values.

- AmeriCorps lets citizens who take responsibility earn opportunity -- that's the American way. Because AmeriCorps Members earn a modest living allowance and a tuition award, they are able to serve their communities full time while saving for a college education.
- 20,000 AmeriCorps Members are meeting critical local needs in education, public safety, human services, and the environment.
- The average cost-per-member to the government is less than \$20,000, including the education award.
- Every AmeriCorps Member is bringing about concrete improvements in the communities in which they work, providing services not otherwise accomplished by volunteers or employees.
- America's most respected organizations (including Habitat for Humanity, the YMCA, many United Ways, the National Council of Churches, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the American Red Cross, and hundreds of others) have recognized that the focused efforts of full-time, trained and committed AmeriCorps Members help them accomplish more -- and let them deploy part-time, sporadic volunteers more effectively.
- Americans know why national service is smart for the country:

Direct service helps communities in tangible ways: improved math scores among youth, restored natural resources, safer streets, immunized infants; the list is endless.

Education awards help young people pay for college... an education award is not a grant, entitlement, or gift from the government. It is the result of an AmeriCorps Member earning it by working full time for a full year in his or her community.

Skills learned and civic ethic developed through service generates life-long dedication to service among Members and benefits the country with a productive, better educated citizenry.

- AmeriCorps is a new federalist model: local control, national support:

States are worried about unfunded federal mandates. AmeriCorps is a funded non-mandate. States are not required to participate, but those that do receive support for the national service initiatives they decide make the most sense.

AmeriCorps is a partnership with states. Two-thirds of AmeriCorps funds go directly to states to support locally designed and operated programs. Decisions are made at the state and local level — where the real needs of the community are known best.

A Los Angeles Times poll released 1/23 shows that 6 in 10 conservatives support AmeriCorps, and a Gallup Poll shows overall support of AmeriCorps at 91%.



AmeriCorps and Federal Agencies

AmeriCorps -- the new national service initiative signed into law by President Clinton in September, 1993 -- will establish a "domestic Peace Corps" involving thousands of young Americans who will work through AmeriCorps programs to perform critical service in urban and rural communities nationwide.

AmeriCorps programs -- selected through an ongoing national competition by the Corporation for National Service -- will comprise the **AmeriCorps National Service Network**. The first wave of AmeriCorps programs, announced by the White House on June 20, include national nonprofit organizations, multi-city and multi-state partnerships, schools and universities, inter-denominational coalitions, private sector alliances, and **15 federal agencies**.

The 15 federal agencies selected to operate AmeriCorps programs will involve approximately 2500 AmeriCorps Members working within the critical AmeriCorps National Service Priority Areas of Education, Public Safety, Human Needs, and the Environment.

Department of Agriculture

AmeriCorps Members: 1,200 Sites: 35

The Department of Agriculture's AmeriCorps program will support initiatives in three areas: anti-hunger, rural development, and public land restoration. Through the first initiative, AmeriCorps Members will increase public awareness of food stamp and school breakfast programs, lead nutrition campaigns, and create urban gardens and farmers' markets in low-income communities. The anti-hunger initiative is a collaboration among the Department of Agriculture, local hunger agencies, and youth corps and will operate in Los Angeles, CA; Washington, DC; Milwaukee, WI; the delta area in Mississippi, and across the state of Vermont.

Through the Rural Development Project, AmeriCorps Members will help communities protect watersheds, assess water quality, provide disaster relief, improve housing and more. The rural development sites include: Maine, Vermont, northwestern New York, South Carolina, and select areas of Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Through USDA's third initiative, focused on public lands, AmeriCorps Members will rehabilitate park facilities, blaze trails, lead environmental education seminars, and conduct other projects specific to each of the following sites: western Kansas, western Oklahoma, Texas (coast region), Atlanta, GA; Boston, MA; East St. Louis, IL; New Jersey (statewide), Washington, D.C.; Chicago, IL; Portland, OR; San Bernadino, CA; Six Rivers National Forest, CA; Olympic National Forest, WA; Rogue River National Forest, OR; Arizona (national forests statewide); Bienville National Forest, MS; Green Mountain National Forest, VT; White Mountain National Forest, NH; and flood regions in the midwest.

Contact: Joel Berg 202-720-6350.

Department of Energy

AmeriCorps Members: 72 Sites: One multi-state site

The Department of Energy is forming the AmeriCorps Salmon Corps, which will help restore the salmon habitat throughout the Columbia River Basin in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. Most of the AmeriCorps Members will represent the local Native American population. The Salmon Corps is a collaborative effort among the Earth Conservation Corps, Intertribal Fish Commission, and the Department of Energy. Contact: Howlie Davis 202-586-7970.

Environmental Protection Agency

AmeriCorps Members: 135 Sites: 10

EPA's AmeriCorps program will focus on public awareness and risk reduction initiatives related to environmental degradation in low-income communities. AmeriCorps Members' activities will include radon testing, lead poisoning prevention, river clean up, ground water management, and more. EPA AmeriCorps Members will work in San Francisco, CA; Newark, NJ; Atlanta, GA; Pierce County WA; El Paso, TX; statewide Alaska; Washington, DC; Boston, MA; Providence RI; and Oregon (statewide). Contact: Helga Butler 202-260-4179

Department of Health and Human Services

AmeriCorps Members: 230 Sites: 7

The Health and Human Services programs focus on human needs, through community health outreach initiatives, and education, through assistance to Head Start centers. In health outreach, AmeriCorps Members will work in child immunization and prenatal care programs for people without access to primary care providers. In education, AmeriCorps Members will work in Head Start centers, assisting with tutoring, meal planning, and parent outreach. A third program, run by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, will involve AmeriCorps Members providing personal assistance services to people with disabilities. Health outreach sites: Chicago, IL; Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, PA. Contact: John Wescott 301-443-6880. Head Start sites: Rosebud, SD; Flathead Reservation, MT; Wauchula, Bowling Green, Indiantown, Okeechobee, FL; Fort Totten, ND. Contact: Gail Collins 202-205-8347. Personal assistance services sites: AL, GA, PA (statewide). Contact: Bob Williams 202-690-7025

Department of Housing and Urban Development

AmeriCorps Members: 100 Sites: To be determined

The Department of Housing and Urban Development is designing an AmeriCorps initiative to assist in its HOPE 6 Urban Revitalization Demonstration Program, which involves public housing residents in improving their housing conditions through community service initiatives. AmeriCorps Members will be recruited from housing developments and will work in those communities in restoration and conservation projects. AmeriCorps Members will receive tutoring, mentoring, and counseling support during their term of service. Contact: Kevin Marchman 202-401-8812.

Department of the Interior

AmeriCorps Members: 530

Sites: 6

The Department of the Interior's AmeriCorps program will involve young people in conservation and restoration of public lands, wetlands, forests and rivers; monitoring air and water quality; and surveying endangered species and vegetation areas. DOI's initiative is a collaboration among the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and Bureaus of Land Management and Reclamation, as well as local environmental organizations. DOI Sites: Everglades, FL; Alamo, TX; Metropolitan Water District of Southern California; Fort Ord, CA; Denver, CO. **Contact: Sue Kemnitzer 202-208-4009**

National Institute for Literacy

AmeriCorps Members: 83

Sites: 4

The National Institute for Literacy, an independent Federal agency administered by the Secretaries of Education, Labor, and Health and Human Services, has created the Literacy AmeriCorps Program. The Institute is working in partnership with local literacy groups to recruit and train AmeriCorps Members to assist in family literacy programs. The wide variety of activities aim to improve reading and writing skills of mothers on welfare, populations for whom English is a second language, and families who are homeless. Sites: Pittsburgh, PA; Seattle, WA; Houston, TX; and select areas of Louisiana. **Contact: Carolyn Staley 202-632-1500**

Department of Justice

AmeriCorps Members: 210

Sites: 7

The Department of Justice and the Department of Education have designed an AmeriCorps program to address public safety. Programs will follow the "weed and seed" strategy for public safety, which calls for increased law enforcement, community policing, economic revitalization, and substance abuse prevention, intervention and treatment. AmeriCorps Members will work with police officers, educators, and community officials in dozens of initiatives including community policing, home security, victims assistance, neighborhood revitalization, drug prevention, conflict resolution and more. DOJ Sites: Trenton, NJ; Philadelphia, PA; San Antonio and Fort Worth, TX; Seattle, WA; Madison, WI. **Contact: Kathleen Kennedy Townsend 202-307-5933**

Department of Labor

AmeriCorps Members: 56

Sites: 8

The Department of Labor's AmeriCorps program will involve members in "Youth Fair Chance" initiatives across the country. These programs will provide opportunities for young people of low-income communities to serve as mentors and tutors for other youth in their neighborhoods. Their wide range of activities will include increasing school attendance, reducing gang activity, assisting in college preparation, and increasing drug prevention and treatment efforts. DOL Sites: TBA **Contact: David Lah 202-219-5782**

Legal Services Corporation

AmeriCorps Members: 54

Sites: To be determined

The Legal Services Corporation will bring together lawyers, paralegals, social workers, and educators in forming the National Service Legal Corps. The NSLC will work in legal services offices across the country on such issues as housing, child care, and domestic violence. The Legal Services Corporation will administer this program in collaboration with NAPIL, the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, the Project Advisory Group, and local legal service groups to provide NSLC training and evaluation. **Contact: Leslie Russell 202-336-8824**

Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation

AmeriCorps Members: 30

Sites: To be determined

The Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation's AmeriCorps program will form the NeighborWorks Community Corps, through which AmeriCorps Members will help in community restoration projects across the country. Activities will include workshops on purchasing affordable homes, property maintenance training, and neighborhood restoration. **Contact: Ronald Walker 202-376-3216**

National Endowment for the Arts

AmeriCorps Members: 60

Sites: 3

The National Endowment for the Arts' AmeriCorps grant will help young writers use their literary talents to benefit other youths. In partnership with the Associated Writing Program, the NEA will help AmeriCorps Members lead reading and writing workshops for hundreds of elementary students in low-income area schools and young people in homeless shelters and youth centers. NEA AmeriCorps Sites: San Francisco, CA; Bronx, NY; Washington, DC. **Contact: A.B. Spellman 202-682-5421**

Department of the Navy

AmeriCorps Members: 133

Sites: 1

In Collaboration with Texas A&M University, the National Guard, and the Department of Defense Civil Military Cooperation Directorate, the Navy Department has designed a residential program called the AmeriCorps Seaborne Conservation Corps. AmeriCorps Members will be based on ship while addressing environmental needs in Galveston Bay. Following nine months of service, AmeriCorps Members will be placed in community apprenticeships where they will be able to use the marine industry skills they acquired through this project toward securing full-time employment. Site: Galveston, TX.

Contact: Colonel Jack Davis 703-740-4403**Department of Transportation**

AmeriCorps Members: 60

Sites: 3

In partnership with local youth corps, the Department of Transportation's AmeriCorps program will work on transportation issues in Olympia, WA; Baltimore, MD; and Washington, D.C. AmeriCorps Members will make transportation facilities more accessible for seniors and people with disabilities, turn abandoned railroad areas into recreational grounds, and increase awareness of public transportation benefits. **Contact: Timothy Belz 202-366-1111**

Department of Veterans Affairs

AmeriCorps Members: To be determined

Sites: 2

The Department of Veterans Affairs has formed a partnership with the National Coalition for the Homeless to create an AmeriCorps program focused on the needs of veterans who are homeless. AmeriCorps Members will help in obtaining needed medical care, accessing drug abuse prevention and treatment, and receipt of vocational training for homeless veterans. Members also will renovate two Houston homes and a ranch to house homeless veterans. Sites: Los Angeles, CA; Houston, TX. **Contact: Marcelle Habibion 202-273-5058**

Eli J. Segal

AmeriCorps: Making a Difference

The House Appropriations Committee proposed last week to renege on a bipartisan commitment to thousands of Americans, by retroactively slashing funds already authorized and appropriated for AmeriCorps members by more than one-third in the current fiscal year. Working families with college-age members willing to serve their communities full-time for a full year—and who are counting on the new AmeriCorps program to help them afford college education—will be especially hard hit if the congressional commitment is not kept.

A year and a half ago, a bipartisan Congress mandated a three-year phase-in of AmeriCorps. Six months into its first operational year—with 20,000 citizens working in communities across America, without the benefit of any congressional hearings to consider the benefits of the work they are doing—House appropriators would now turn the phase-in into a phase-out.

AmeriCorps is a funded non-man-date—a decentralized approach that moves most of the decision making and responsibility to the states that elect to compete for AmeriCorps members,

along with the funds to carry out the mission. Fewer than 200 people in Washington oversee 20,000 members on 1,100 projects in communities across America. That's why rescission would have such a devastating effect—any cuts made on Capitol Hill would directly cut the number of members who are working in the field. One thousand members would be sent home immediately, and 15,000 fewer young people would have the opportunity to begin service in September.

The public-private partnership of AmeriCorps would be undermined if the "public" reneged on its commitment. Programs are required to raise 25 percent of operating costs and 15 percent of the living allowances from private sources. Private investment in AmeriCorps has been remarkable; in its first year of operation, the corporation has received hundreds of commitments from companies such as General Electric, American Express, IBM and a myriad foundations. Our business partners make investments based on stable growth, fulfilled commitments and real results. They might understandably be

wary of a partner tossed by political currents.

AmeriCorps should not be penalized for rewarding results. The Corporation for National Service makes its grants after a tough evaluation process—that's why AmeriCorps awards funded in FY 1995 are not made until late in the fiscal year. AmeriCorps funds programs that work well and get things done and eliminates those that don't. AmeriCorps members and communities should not be made the victims of this "smart government" approach.

AmeriCorps may be new, but members are already meeting challenges in public safety, education, environment and human needs:

■ The New York Police Department reports that recreation areas policed by its AmeriCorps members in the 1994 pilot were free of assaults for the first time in memory.

■ AmeriCorps members in Kansas City have shut down 12 crack houses and reclaimed a neighborhood's only park from gangs.

■ In rural Simpson County, Ky., AmeriCorps members tutoring half of the

county's second-graders are raising reading scores from two grades behind grade level to one grade above in one year of service.

■ AmeriCorps members have also been on the front lines in natural disasters, from the floods in California, Houston and the Mississippi River Valley to the Idaho forest fires and the California earthquake. FEMA official Richard Krimm wrote: "They have helped literally thousands of victims pick up the pieces of their lives."

Moreover, AmeriCorps members are still there, long after the waves of initial volunteers have had to return to their jobs. That's why many of our nation's premier charities compete for AmeriCorps members. From the YMCA to the Multiple Sclerosis Society, from the Red Cross to the Children's Health Fund, from Notre Dame to the National Council of Churches, they know that the focused efforts of full-time, trained and committed AmeriCorps members help them accomplish more—and deploy part-time, sporadic volunteers more effectively.

A perfect case in point: In Miami, 26

AmeriCorps members working with Habitat for Humanity have learned all facets of home construction and have trained, supervised and worked beside 2,700 temporary (and uncompensated) volunteers they've attracted since October. As a consequence, the AmeriCorps team is nearly halfway to its goal of building 90 homes in Miami this year, and members are teaching working families how to make the transition from renting to homeownership. Habitat's Jerry Bass says, "We could not do this job without them."

We do not maintain that AmeriCorps will end crime or illiteracy, pollution or hunger, but AmeriCorps members are making a real difference every day in communities across America. We should strive to match their commitment to making our country even better instead of letting them twist in the political winds. They have earned a chance to be America's next generation of heroes.

The writer is assistant to the president for national service and chief executive officer of Corporation for National Service.

The Washington Post

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1995

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E. J. Dionne Jr.

Back to Citizenship

House Speaker Newt Gingrich performed a huge service for President Clinton last week. No, this isn't about that book deal. It's about Gingrich's attack on Clinton's national service program. By forcing the president to defend national service, Gingrich has given him a chance to shift the political debate from a moldy contest over "more" or "less" government to one about prior questions: What should government do in the first place, and what obligations do democratic citizens have toward each other?

The service program is certainly worth defending in its own right, and the best arguments for it have been made over the years by conservatives. It's true, as conservatives have said, that bureaucratic charity is not the preferred solution to social problems. Far better to have citizens engaged in helping each other, person-to-person, and to do so through local, voluntarily established institutions.

One of the most useful pieces of work done by conservative intellectuals over the last two decades was a 1977 essay, "To Empower People," by sociologist Peter Berger and the Rev. Richard John Neuhaus. They argued that if government relentlessly took over all charitable functions, it would endanger soci-

ety's "mediating structures"—the institutions created by families, communities and churches—that nurture individual virtue and "mediate" between government and the individual. Government, they argued, should make strengthening these institutions a central goal.

That, roughly, is what the service program does. The volunteers for AmeriCorps, as the main service agency is called, do not work for a federal bureaucracy. They work for already established local institutions that are trying to solve problems: preventing crime, teaching literacy, immunizing kids against disease, helping the homebound elderly, curbing teen pregnancy. The main function of the program's Washington arm, the Corporation for National and Community Service, is to monitor the programs—not for their adherence to bureaucratic rules but simply to make sure they're doing broadly what they claim to be doing.

Why spend any federal money on this sort of thing? Because the voluntary sector needs strengthening, and because federal money spent supplementing voluntary activities has a big payoff. A lot of volunteer organizations are having trouble finding people. Many parents—both parents—necessarily spend so much time working and then raising

their kids that they don't have a lot of time left over. Eli Segal, who heads the service program, sees it as "an effective way of filling in the holes" in the voluntary sector and a recognition of "the chords that bind us together as a people."

This last point is why the broader argument raised by the service program is so important. The idea of democratic citizenship inherent in the program is the one idea capable of answering the problems of two other ideas that are gaining currency in American politics: radical individualism and extreme multiculturalism.

Both ideas start at reasonable places. Almost all of us are individualists in that we value autonomy and freedom. But radical individualism suggests that we are completely free agents, thus denying the reality that our freedom depends on preserving a community that is civil, just, tolerant and nurturing of the other values on which freedom depends. Apart from such a community, freedom withers.

Multiculturalists started out with the fair argument that too little attention was paid to the contributions, ideas and interests of groups other than affluent white males—women, African Americans, Hispanics, working class people

and others. But pushed to the extreme, multiculturalists argued that the only forms of solidarity that counted were those within these particular groups.

Those who value the idea of democratic citizenship argue, against the radical individualists, that preserving freedom is a cooperative enterprise that carries burdens of responsibility. We can't just walk away from social problems. Against extreme multiculturalism, advocates of democratic citizenship argue that our sense of solidarity needs to transcend all our particularisms. Whites need to vindicate the rights of blacks, blacks the rights of whites, men those of women and women those of men.

The Clinton administration has been obsessed with its failure to "communicate" its achievements to the American people. This is the wrong obsession. It implies that the American people are too dumb or too bamboozled by Republican propaganda to "understand" all that the president has been doing.

What the administration should worry about instead is that it is losing the political argument. Americans have surveyed what they see as a series of messes—crime, family breakup, stagnating living standards for many in the middle—and a majority has decided (tentatively) that the best way to deal

with all of them may be for government to do little more than throw the book at criminals. This is not the product of selfishness but a retreat from government that is seen as ineffective, intrusive in the wrong places and insufficiently concerned with nurturing civic responsibility.

There is a corresponding retreat into enclaves. Suburbanites, to pick one example, are tempted to give up on the inner cities, figuring they have enough problems of their own. Think of it as the suburban (or male or white) answer to multiculturalism.

Clinton and the Democrats won't win the argument unless they reverse these trends. One worthy way of doing so is to preach the rewards—and the obligations—of democratic citizenship. A government based on this idea does not pretend to have all the answers. Still less does it claim the right to replace the civic institutions of a free people with its own. But neither is it an indifferent government, because it recognizes that government either strengthens or saps the ability of citizens to live together, solve problems and accept their moral obligations to each other. In this telling, government is not some alien structure out there. It becomes the realm of us all.