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# National Service — Now

The New York Times  
2/28/93

By Bill Clinton

WASHINGTON

**A** pathy is dead. Of everything I've learned in my first few weeks in the White House, that's the thing that's made me the happiest. Whether or not the people I've met outside the capital support the changes I have proposed, they're all saying they're ready to rebuild our country.

But they know, as I do, that no economic plan can do it alone. A plan can make vaccines available to children, but alone it will not administer the shots to all of them. It can put security guards in the schools, but alone it will not take gangs off the streets. And it can provide more aid for college, but alone it will not make the costs of college less daunting for the middle class.

That's why I believe we need national service — now.

If Congress acts quickly enough, just months from now more than 1,000 young people will start serving our country in a special summer effort. In four years, the successors to these pioneers will multiply a hundredfold. Imagine: an army of 100,000 young people restoring urban and rural communities and giving their labor in return for education and training.

National service is an idea as old as America. Time and again, our people have found new ways to honor citizenship and match the needs of changing times.

Lincoln's Homestead Act rewarded those who had the courage to settle the frontier with the land to raise a family. Franklin D. Roosevelt's Social Security Act insured that Americans who work a lifetime can grow old with dignity. Harry S. Truman's G.I. Bill rewarded the service of my father's generation, transforming youthful veterans into an army of educated civilians that led our nation into a new era.

For my generation, the reality of national service was born 32 years ago tomorrow, when President John F. Kennedy created the Peace Corps. At its peak, the Peace Corps enrolled only 16,000 volunteers yet it changed the way a generation of Americans look at themselves and the world.

Today, the spirit of our people once again can meet head-on the troubles of our times.

The task is as complex as our chal-

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lenge is great. We must combine the intensity of the post-World War II years with the idealism of the early 1960's — and help young people afford a college education or job training.

In 1993, we'll restore the spirit of service by asking our people to serve here at home. We won't refight the wars we won, but we'll tackle the growing domestic dangers that threaten our future.

Our new initiative will embody the same principles as the old G.I. Bill. It will challenge our people to serve our country and do the work that should — and must — be done. It will give those who serve the honor and rewards they deserve. It will invest in the future of the quiet heroes who invest in the future of others.

The national service legislation that I will send to Congress shortly will give our people the chance to serve in two basic ways:

First, it will make it easier for young people to hold low-paying public service jobs and still pay off their student loans.

Under our program, Americans will be able to borrow the money they need for college and pay it back as a small percentage of their income over time. By giving graduates the chance to repay loans on an affordable, reasonable schedule, this "income-contingent" program will allow our people to do the work that our communities really need.

Second, our legislation will create new opportunities for Americans to serve our country for a year or two — and receive financial support for education or training in return.

We'll offer people of different ages and educational levels different ways to serve. And to focus our energies and get the most for our money, we'll direct special attention to a few areas:

• We'll ask thousands of young people to serve in our schools — some as teachers, others as youth mentors, reading specialists and math tutors. They'll join the effort to insure that our schools offer the best education in the world.

• We'll send people into medical clinics to help immunize the nation's 2-year-olds. Some participants will be qualified to give the shots, but thousands of others can provide essential support, contacting parents and following up to make sure children get the shots they need.

• We'll help police forces across the country through a new Police Corps trained to walk beats. We'll also organize others in our communities to keep kids out of gangs and off drugs.

• We'll put still others to work controlling pollution and recycling waste, to help insure that we pass on to our children a nation that is clean and safe for years to come.

Our national service program will offer more than benefits to individuals. We'll help pay operating costs for community groups with proved track records, providing the support they'll need to grow. And we'll let entrepreneurs compete for venture capital to develop new service programs.

While the Federal Government will provide the seed money for national service, we are determined that the participants — the individuals who serve and the groups that sponsor their service — will guide the process. Spending tens of millions of tax dollars to build a massive bureaucracy

would be self-defeating; it would squash the spirit of innovation that national service demands.

By design, our national service program will not happen overnight. Instead, it will grow year by year, with funding reaching \$3 billion in 1997. And as I've said many times, I believe it will be the best money we ever spend.

If Congress gives us the chance, this summer we'll create an eight-week leadership training program. We'll recruit more than 1,000 young people for special projects to meet the needs of children at risk — and to train the first class of full-year participants.

In the first full year of our initiative, we'll launch our flexible loan program and aim to put tens of thousands of people to work. By 1997, more than 100,000 citizens could be serving our country, getting education and training benefits in return. And hundreds of thousands more people could be doing invaluable work because college loans no longer block the way.

But the best planning and the most ambitious design won't make this vision of national service a reality. That responsibility ultimately rests with the American people.

I am convinced that after 12 years of drifting apart instead of working together we are ready to meet the challenge. From a 14-year-old boy in North Dakota who sent us \$1,000 to help pay off the deficit, to a 92-year-old widower in Kansas who followed his example, people are demonstrating that they want to give something back to their nation.

National service will exercise our talents and rebuild our communities. It will harness the energy of our youth and attack the problems of our time. It will bring together men and women of every age and race and lift up our nation's spirit. And for all of us, it will rekindle the excitement of being Americans. □

SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1993 A21

*Colman McCarthy*

## Clinton's Call to Service

No speech in the Clinton campaign was more inspirational than the candidate's remarks at the University of Notre Dame last September. As president, Clinton didn't match it until his March 1 speech at Rutgers University. At both campuses, he issued calls for national service for college students.

At Notre Dame: "If we are truly to practice what we preach, Americans of every faith and viewpoint should come together to promote the common good." It was similar at Rutgers: "National service is nothing less than the American way to change America."

Clinton's effort to rally the young to altruism has created a debate that pits idealism against realism, as if the two are forever locked in conflict. Where's the money, ask realists, for the tuition-for-service program that Clinton is proposing: \$389 million in scholarships for 25,000 students the first year and \$3.4 billion for 100,000 by 1997. Realists say that Clinton's sweet talk ignores sour facts: There's no money for a new social program.

From that negative, despairing argument, Clinton is supposed to get the message: Don't even try. That means don't lead, just preside. The past 12 years witnessed two presidents in the White House. Most first-year college students today were in kindergarten when Ronald Reagan was elected and in fourth grade when reelected. They came into adolescence under a politician who tried nothing by way of linking government with national service. Instead of selflessness to others, he extolled self-enrichment.

Evidence suggests that the young weren't seduced either by Reagan's message of contempt for government or his disdain for altruism. The 1980s saw a surge in campus community-service programs, such as the ones Clinton praised at Notre Dame and Rutgers. Amnesty International chapters increased on campuses, as did those of Oxfam USA. Applications to Peace Corps remained high, as they did for such private domestic programs as the Jesuit Volunteer Corps and

Yet Clinton's philosophy of service represents intellectual newness to many in high school and college. John F. Kennedy's appeals to national service are seen as historical relics, known from books but not live on MTV as are Clinton's. It wasn't a politician's celebrityhood that created support for the president at Notre Dame and Rutgers. Students saw in him someone with a positive message—put community interest above self-interest—that many professors and counselors at their schools had been exposing them to all along: If you can't teach the illiterate, comfort the sick and handicapped, or mend whatever and whoever is broken during your college years, you're receiving a limited education.

Clinton deserves to be honored for taking a risk that he'll be able to raise the money for his program of national service. Critics in Congress with no greater agenda than carping about ideas they were too dull-witted or timid to propose themselves now lie in wait for the president when he comes in with specifics. They will say Clinton's ideas are dangerous because they are romantic and utopian, a charge that ignores the thought of James Madison in 1788: "No theoretical checks—no form of government, can render us secure. To suppose that any form of government will secure liberty or happiness without any virtue in the people is a chimerical idea."

Some critics charge that Clinton is into bribery: tuition money for service. While the details are being worked out on how much money for what service, who complains that the U.S. Army entices recruits with as much as \$20,000 toward a college education. Why isn't it bribery when ROTC programs pay students to shine their boots occasionally and take gut courses in military lore. Nor is much alarm expressed over the most lavish enticement of all: a free ride at the military academies in exchange for a few years in uniform after graduation.

Clinton's Rutgers speech marked the 32nd anniversary of the Peace Corps. Kennedy's spirited message was repeated by Clinton: "Answer the call to service." In "The Bold Experiment," a history of the Peace Corps by Gerard Rice, one of those who responded to Kennedy's call explained why: "I'd never done anything political, patriotic or unselfish because nobody ever asked me to. Kennedy asked."

So has Clinton.

**BACKGROUNDER ON  
PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL SERVICE INITIATIVE**

Timing. The President will submit his legislation to Congress soon -- certainly this spring. We are still working out the details because we want to get it right.

Two parts. The legislation has two parts. One part will create opportunities for young people to serve our country and help pay for college in return. The other part will enable young people to pay back their student loans as a small percentage of their income over time, so they can take essential community jobs and still pay off their loans.

Funding. The President has requested \$7.4 for national service over the next four years. The funding level rises each year, to \$3.4 billion in 1997, because this initiative aims to support the growing work of America's communities -- not overwhelm it. Funding starts at \$400 million in appropriations and \$100 million in outlays next year.

Number of Participants. The numbers will reflect the enthusiasm of the American people and the ingenuity of our communities in developing solid ways to put our people's energy to work. By 1997, we believe there could be more than 100,000 young people paying for post-secondary education by serving their country, and hundreds of thousands more serving because loans no longer block the way.

Eligibility and benefits. Students before, during and after college will be eligible to serve for a year or two. In return, they will get a small stipend, health and child care benefits where necessary, and an educational benefit to pay for college or job training.

Activities. The program aims to meet unmet needs in critical areas. It is not job training. Possible tasks include: teaching or serving as a teachers aid or mentor; working as a police officer or desk aide; providing health care or doing linked outreach and administrative; recycling or controlling pollution.

Administration. The program will be non-bureaucratic, using venture capital to support entrepreneurs and public-private partnerships to support growing programs. States will be given the opportunity to design national service plans to meet their particular needs. Within guidelines to prevent fraud and ensure that important work gets done, local organizations will be given the opportunity to design and implement solutions to local needs.

Nondisplacement. The legislation will include strict nondisplacement and nonduplication provisions. National service will only meet needs that are not otherwise being met.

## **BACKGROUNDER ON PRESIDENT'S SUMMER OF SERVICE PROGRAM**

Overview. At 4 to 10 sites around the country, the Summer of Service will involve 1,000 diverse young people in a program to help children at-risk and provide leadership training.

Funding. The program will be funded with a \$15 million appropriation in the FY 93 stimulus package.

Goals. The program has two major goals: To show what national service can accomplish, meeting critical needs and bringing people together; and to develop a leadership corps for future years of national service through the President's initiative. National service was such a priority of the President, he didn't want to let it wait a year.

Targeted needs. The programs in the Summer of Service aim to help children-at-risk in the areas of education, health, crime prevention, and environmental protection. Some participants will tutor; some will help provide shots; some will develop recreational centers; some will counsel youths to keep them out of gangs. The possibilities are as diverse as our problems, but the goal is always the same: tangible, meaningful change to help children-at-risk.

Participation. At least 1,000 young people will participate in the program at a select number of sites around the country. Participants will be a diverse group -- including high school dropouts and college graduates -- but they all must bring leadership qualities to the program.

Leadership training. For several days at the beginning of the summer and several at the end, the young people will gather to share their experiences and complete an intensive leadership program.

SEA Change Awards. Service Entrepreneurial Awards will be available to a few participants (25) with ideas to start new service programs. All participants who are interested in continuing to work through the next year will receive placement assistance.

Administration. The Commission on National and Community Service will administer a competitive process to determine what programs participate. The Commission is working quickly to ensure that programs are developed quickly and efficiently to succeed for this summer.

**NATIONAL SERVICE  
GENERAL TALKING POINTS**

**National Service as a challenge to young people:**

- \* America has serious problems. If young people don't solve them, nobody will. That's why we are challenging America's youth to a season of service. You can create America's future -- and change your own. The country belongs to you if you will seize this opportunity.
- \* Government leaves off somewhere. It can make immunizations available, but it can't make kids show up for shots. It can put more money into Head Start, but it can't teach all the kids who need to join. It can spend more on police organizations, but it can't mobilize communities to protect themselves. And it can raise penalties for pollution, but it can't force people to recycle.
- \* Young people have a unique ability to fulfill these needs. You have the energy. You have the ideas. You have the determination. Bill Clinton wants to give you the tools to make it happen.
- \* I know that today, with COOL, I am preaching to the choir. You are doing it already. Some of you are teaching children to read. Some are providing shelter to the needy. Some are doing environmental audits. And some are giving kids the medical care they desperately need.
- \* And all of you aren't just doing; you're leading. You're showing the way for the rest of America.
- \* You are the forefront of the movement that Bill Clinton supports. You are the young people who are "changing America forever, and for the better," as Bill Clinton urged in his Rutgers speech.
- \* So today I am just saying: Keep doing what you are doing -- but do it more. Double your efforts. Get your friends involved. Get your teachers or your parents to work with you. Go get businesses to pay for what you are doing. Because this season of service will be led by youth -- but it has to be joined by everyone.
- \* I am here to tell you: The President is with you and behind you -- we won't get ahead of you -- but we believe in everything you stand for, and we want to help.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary  
(New Brunswick, New Jersey)

For Immediate Release

March 1, 1993

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
IN NATIONAL SERVICE ADDRESS

Rutgers University  
New Brunswick, New Jersey

1:15 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. (Applause.) Thank you. Thank you, Nakia Tomlinson for that fine introduction. I wish I could take you with me everywhere. We'd make a great duo there. Let's give her another hand. I thought she was great. (Applause.)

I'd like to thank President Frank Lawrence for his Francis Lawrence -- for his fine speech. Does anybody call him Frank? I should have asked. (Laughter.) I want to compliment Professor Benjamin Barber for his leadership and service here. (Applause.) And I want to thank all of you here in the Rutgers community for coming out for what I hope will be a truly historic moment in our nation's history. (Applause.)

In addition to the people who have been introduced here, there are a host of mayors and members of the Assembly and county officials here from your state. We have two former governors, both of whom I served with -- Brendan Byrne and Tom Kean who are out there. I'm glad to see them. (Applause.) My friends. We have a distinguished array of members of the House from New Jersey -- Hero Klein, Bob Manendez, Frank Pallone, Donald Payne -- (applause).

But you have some members of the Congress from all over America here and I want to introduce them, too, because they have taken a lot of trouble to come to Rutgers and because without them and without the people who represent you, the proposal I make today has no hope of passage.

Many members of the Congress for years have believed we ought to do more in national service and some of them are here today. I'd like to begin by introducing your Senator Bill Bradley, who's behind me. (Applause.) I must say, when I walked into this arena, I turned around and asked Bill Bradley if he'd ever shot any baskets in here. I'd be intimidated to be the opposing team in here. (Applause.) Senator Bradley sponsored legislation to establish neighborhood corps and self-reliance

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scholarships, things that are forbearers of the proposal I came to make.

I'd like to recognize the presence on the platform of Senator Ted Kennedy from Massachusetts -- (applause) -- who chairs the Senate Committee on Human Resources and Education, which sheperded the pilot national and community service bill through the Congress in the last session, along with his counterpart who is out here in the audience somewhere. I'd like to ask him to stand up. The Chairman of the House Committee, Congressman Bill Ford, who came all the way from Michigan to be with us. Congressman, would you stand up. (Applause.)

I'd like to recognize in the audience the presence of Senator Chris Dodd from Connecticut, who was one of the first Peace Corps volunteers in the United States. (Applause.)

The member of Congress who introduced many, many years ago, the first piece of national service legislation ever introduced, the Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Clairborne Pell from Rhode Island is here. (Applause.)

I'd also like to introduce the only person in this audience, at least of our crowd, who doesn't have to look up to Senator Bradley, Senator Jay Rockefeller from West Virginia, an early VISTA volunteer in the United States. (Applause.)

And finally I would like to recognize two other people, one, a member of the United States Senate and one a distinguished American citizen, the first boss of the Peace Corps, Sargent Shriver, who's up here with me. (Applause.) And his deputy, Senator Harris Wofford, from Pennsylvania. (Applause.) And Mrs. Wofford, I'm glad to see you. (Applause.)

Now, I was involved before I became President in a group called the Democratic Leadership Council, and we made one of the central parts of our platform to reclaim a new majority of Americans for our party the establishment of a system of national service to help people to finance education. And one of our founding members and guiding lights is here, Representative Dave McCurdy from Oklahoma. I'd like for him to stand up. (Applause.)

Let me make this last point, if I might, by way of beginning. None of these things happen at the national level. We empower them to happen and then people have to do things here at the grassroots. And I want to say a special word of thanks to your Governor for supporting the New Jersey Youth Corps and several other projects like it around the state, because if nobody's here to believe in this, it can't happen. And I thank Governor Florio for his support for these things. (Applause.)

I came here to ask all of you to join me in a great national adventure, for in the next few weeks I will ask the

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United States Congress to join me in creating a new system of voluntary national service -- something that I believe in the next few years will change America forever and for the better.

My parents' generation won new dignity working their way out of the great Depression through programs that provided them the opportunity to serve and to survive. Brave men and women in my own generation waged and won peaceful revolutions, here at home for civil rights and human rights, and began service around the world in the Peace Corps and here at home in Vista. Now, Americans of every generation face profound challenges in meeting the needs that have been neglected for too long in this country -- from city streets plagued by crime and drugs to classrooms where girls and boys must learn the skills they need for tomorrow, to hospital wards where patients need more care. All across America we have problems that demand our common attention.

For those who answer the call and meet these challenges, I propose that our country honor your service with new opportunities for education. National service will be America at its best -- building community, offering opportunity, and rewarding responsibility. National service is a challenge for Americans from every background and walk of life, and it values something far more than money. National service is nothing less than the American way to change America. (Applause.)

It is rooted in the concept of community: the simple idea that none of us on our own will ever have as much to cherish about our own lives if we are out here all alone as we will if we work together. That somehow a society really is an organism in which the whole can be greater than the sum of its parts. And every one of us, no matter how many privileges with which we are born, can still be enriched by the contributions of the least of us. And that we will never fulfill our individual capacities until, as Americans, we can all be what God meant for us to be. (Applause.)

If that is so -- if that is true, my fellow Americans, and if you believe it, it must therefore follow that each of us has an obligation to serve. For it is perfectly clear that all of us cannot be what we ought to be until those of us who can help others -- and that is nearly all of us -- are doing something to help others live up to their potential. The concept of community and the idea of service are as old as our history. They began the moment America was literally invented.

Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence, "With a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortune, and our sacred honor." In the midst of the Civil War, President Lincoln signed into law two visionary programs that helped our people come together again and build America up. The

Morrill Act helped states create new land grant colleges. This is a land grant university. The university in my home state was the first land grant college west of the Mississippi River.

In these places, young people learn to make American agriculture and industry the best in the world. The legacy of the Morrill Act is not only our great colleges and universities like Rutgers, but the American tradition that merit and not money should give people a chance for a higher education. (Applause.)

Mr. Lincoln also signed the Homestead Act that offered 100 acres of land for families who had the courage to settle the frontier and farm the wilderness. Its legacy is a nation that stretches from coast to coast. Now we must create a new legacy that gives a new generation of Americans the right and the power to explore the frontiers of science and technology and space. The frontiers of the limitations of our knowledge must be pushed back so that we can do what we need to do. And education is the way to do it, just as surely as it was more than 100 years ago.

Seven decades after the Civil War in the midst of the Great Depression, President Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps, which gave 2.5 million young people the opportunity to support themselves while working in disaster relief and maintaining forests, beaches, rivers, and parks. Its legacy is not only the restoration of our natural environment, but the restoration of our national spirit. Along with the Works Progress Administration -- the WPA -- the Civilian Conservation Corps symbolized government's effort to provide a nation in depression with the opportunity to work, to build the American community through service. And all over America today, you can see projects -- even today in the 1990s -- built by your parents or your grandparents with the WPA plaque on it -- the CCC plaque on it -- the idea that people should be asked to serve and rewarded for doing it.

In the midst of World War II, President Roosevelt proposed the GI Bill of Rights, which offered returning veterans the opportunity for education in respect to their service to our country in the war. Thanks to the GI Bill, which became a living reality in President Truman's time, more than eight million veterans got advanced education. And half a century later, the enduring legacy of the GI Bill is the strongest economy in the world and the broadest, biggest middle class that any nation has ever enjoyed.

For many in my own generation, the summons to citizenship and service came on this day 32 years ago, when President Kennedy created the Peace Corps with Sargent Shriver and Harris Wofford and other dedicated Americans when President Kennedy created the Peace Corps. With Sargent Shriver and Harris Wofford and other dedicated Americans, he enabled thousands of young men and women to serve on the leading edge of the new

frontier, helping people all over the world to become what they ought to be, and bringing them the message by their very lives that America was a great country that stood for good values and human progress.

At its height, the Peace Corps enrolled 16,000 young men and women. Its legacy is not simply goodwill and good works in countries all across the globe, but a profound and lasting change in the way Americans think about their own country and the world.

Shortly after the Peace Corps, Congress, under President Johnson, created the volunteers and service to America. Senator Jay Rockefeller, whom I introduced a moment ago, and many thousands of other Americans went to the hills and hollows of poor places, like West Virginia and Arkansas and Mississippi, to lift up Americans through their service.

The lesson of our whole history is that honoring service and rewarding responsibility is the best investment America can make. And I have seen it today. Across this great land, through the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, which took the children who lived in the neighborhoods where the riots occurred and gave them a chance to get out into nature and to clean up their own neighborhoods and to lift themselves and their friends in the effort; in Boston with the City Year program -- with all these programs represented here in this room today, the spirit of service is sweeping this country and giving us a chance to put the quilt of America together in a way that makes a strength out of diversity; that lifts us up out of our problems; and that keeps our people looking toward a better and brighter future. (Applause.)

National service recognizes a simple but powerful truth -- that we make progress not by governmental action alone, but we do best when the people and their government work at the grassroots in genuine partnership. The idea of national service permeates many other aspects of the programs I have sought to bring to America. The economic plan that I announced to Congress, for example, will offer every child the chance for a healthy start through immunization and basic health care and Head Start. (Applause.) But still it depends on parents doing the best they can as parents and children making the most of their opportunities.

The plan can help to rebuild our cities and our small communities through physical investments that will put people to work. But Americans still must work to restore the social fabric that has been torn in too many communities. Unless people know we can work together in our schools and our offices, in our factories, unless they believe we can walk the streets safely together, and unless we do that together, governmental action alone is doomed to fail. (Applause.)

The national service plan I propose will be built on the same principles as the old GI Bill -- when people give something of invaluable merit to their country, they ought to be rewarded with the opportunity to further their education. National service will challenge our people to do the work that should and indeed must be done and cannot be done unless the American people voluntarily give themselves up to that work. It will invest in the future of every person who serves.

And as we rekindle the spirit of national service, I know it won't disappoint many of the students here to know that we also have to reform the whole system of student loans. (Applause.) We should begin by making it easier for young people to pay back their student loans and enabling them to hold jobs -- (applause) -- enabling them to hold jobs that may accomplish much, but pay little.

Today, when students borrow money for an education, the repayment plan they make is based largely on how much they have to repay, without regard to what the jobs they take themselves pay. It is a powerful incentive, therefore, for young college graduates to do just the reverse of what we might want them to do; to take a job that pays more even it is less rewarding because that is the job that will make the repayment of the loans possible. It is also, unfortunately, a powerful incentive for some not to make the payments at all, which is unforgivable.

So what we seek to do is to enable the American students to borrow the money they need for college and pay it back as a small percentage of their own income over time. This is especially important after a decade in which the cost of a college education has gone up even more rapidly than the cost of health care. (Applause.) Making a major contribution to one of the more disturbing statistics in America today, which is that the college dropout rate in this country is now 2.5 times the high school dropout rate. We can do better than that through national service and adequate financing. (Applause.)

The present system is unacceptable, not only for students, but for the taxpayers as well. It's complicated and it's expensive. It costs the taxpayers of our country about \$4 billion every year to finance the student loan program because of loan defaults and the cost of administering the program. And I believe we can do better.

Beyond reforming this system for financing higher education, the national service program more importantly will create new opportunities for Americans to work off outstanding loans or to build up credits for future education and training opportunities.

We'll ask young people all across this country and some who aren't so young who want to further their college

education to serve in our schools as teachers or tutors in reading and mathematics. We'll ask you to help our police forces across the nation, training members for a new police corps that will walk beats and work with neighborhoods and build the kind of communities ties that will prevent crime from happening in the first place so that our police officers won't have to spend all their time chasing criminals. (Applause.)

We'll ask young people to work, to help control pollution and recycle waste, to paint darkened buildings and clean up neighborhoods. (Applause.) To work with senior citizens and combat homelessness and help children in trouble get out of it and build a better life. (Applause.)

And these are just a few of the things that you will be able to, for most of the decisions about what you can do will be made by people like those in this room, people who run the programs represented by all of those wearing these different kinds of tee-shirts. We don't seek a national bureaucracy. I have spoken often about how we need to reinvent the government to make it more efficient and less bureaucratic, to make it more responsive to people at the grassroots level.

And I want national service to do just that. I want it to empower young people and their communities, not to empower yet another government bureaucracy in Washington. This is going to be your program at your level with your people. (Applause.)

And as you well know, that's what's happening all across America today. People are already serving their neighbors in their neighborhoods. Just this morning, I was inspired to see and to speak with students from Rutgers serving their community, from mentoring young people as Big Sisters, to helping older people learn new skills.

I met a lady today who has 13 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren who dropped out of school the year before I was born -- is about to become a high school graduate shortly because of the efforts of this program. (Applause.) Is she back there? Stand up. (Applause.)

I'm impressed by the spirit behind the Rutgers civic education and community service program: the understanding that community service enriches education, that students should not only take the lessons they learn in class out into the community, but bring the lessons they learn in the community back into the classroom. (Applause.)

And that spirit, during this academic year alone, more than 800 students from Rutgers are contributing more than 60,000 hours of community service -- in New Brunswick, in Camden, in Newark, throughout this state. (Applause.)

This morning I also met with members of the New Jersey Youth Corps. Here they are. (Applause.) Stand up. (Applause.) Young people who are looking for a second chance at school, and who when coming back to finish their high school degrees, also serve in their communities. Through this program, more than 6,500 young adults have contributed over 900,000 hours of service to the state of New Jersey. (Applause.)

They've done everything from paint senior citizens' homes, to tutor and mentor children in after-school programs. For the future of our state and nation, we need more young people like those in the New Jersey Youth Corps who exemplify the spirit of service.

That spirit also moves people all across the nation. In my state, there's a young woman named Antoinette Jackson, who's a senior in a small community called Gauld, Arkansas. She's a member of the Delta Service Corps. The rural Mississippi Delta is still the poorest place in America. And in that area, she works with a "Lend a Hand" program which runs a thrift shop to provide hungry and homeless people with food and clothing. And in return, the Delta Four is going to help her attend college so that she can make an even greater contribution. (Applause.)

The spirit of service also moves a young man I met about a year ago named Stephen Spalos, who works with a City Year program in Boston. At age 23, he's had some hard times in his life. But as he puts it, City Year gave him a place and the tools to be able to start over. He works as a team leader, a mentor, a tutor, a project manager for a bunch of young people who restore senior citizens' homes.

Last year when I visited his project, he literally took his sweatshirt off his back and gave it to me so that I would never forget the kids at City Year. And I still wear it when I go jogging, always remembering what they're doing in Boston to help those kids. (Applause.)

The spirit of service moves Orah Fireman, a graduate of Wesleyan College. As a sophomore in high school, she worked with disadvantaged children in upstate New York. That experience changed her life. And during her high school and college years, she continued to work with children. And now that she is out of college, she has begun what will probably be a lifetime of service by working at a school for emotionally disturbed children in Boston. She wants other people to have the opportunity to serve, and she wrote this: Service work teaches responsibility and compassion. It fights alienation by proving to young people that they can make a difference. There is no lesson more important than that.

Well, there are stories like this in this room and all across America. And we're going to create thousands of more of them through national service. We'll work with groups with

proven track records to serve their community, giving them the support they need. And if you have more good ideas, if you're entrepreneurs of national service, we'll let you compete for our form of venture capital -- develop new programs to serve your neighbors. That's how we want the national service program to grow every year -- rewarding results, building on success, and bubbling up from the grassroots energy and compassion and intellect of America.

I don't want service to wait while this potential is wasted. That's why I want to make this summer a summer of service, when young people can not only serve their communities, but build a foundation for a new national effort. I've asked Congress to invest in and I'm asking young people to participate in a special effort in national service and leadership training just this summer. We are going to recruit about 1,000 young people from every background -- from high school dropouts to college graduates, to send to an intensive leadership training program for national service at the beginning of the summer.

Then we'll ask them to work on one of our country's most urgent problems, helping our children who are in danger of losing their God-given potential. Some of them will tutor. Some will work on programs to immunize young children from preventable childhood diseases. Some will help to develop and run recreational centers or reclaim urban parks from dealers and debris. Some will counsel people a few years younger than themselves to keep them out of gangs and into good activities. And everyone will learn about serving our country and helping our communities.

At the end of this summer, we'll bring all these people together for several days of debriefing and training, and then they'll all join in a youth service summit. I will attend the meeting and I expect to listen a lot more than I talk. I'll ask leaders from Congress, from business, labor, religious, and community groups to attend the youth service summit, too. We'll give those who serve the honor they deserve, and we'll learn a lot more about how to build this national service program. And from the thousand pioneers of this summer, I want the national service to grow 100-fold in the next four years. (Applause.)

But even when hundreds of thousands are serving, I want to maintain the pioneer spirit of this first few months, because national service can make America new again. It can help solve our problems, educate our people, and build our communities back together. So if anybody here would like to be one of those 1,000 -- or if anybody who is listening to this speech by radio or television or reads about it and would like to be one of those 1,000, drop me a card at the White House and just mark it national service. We're going to pick them. And I can't promise you'll be selected, but I promise you'll be considered. I want to engage the energies of America in this effort. (Applause.)

I also want to say that you shouldn't wait for the summer or for a new program. We need to begin now. We are going to be looking for the kinds of ideas that we ought to be funding. This is Monday. I ask you by Friday -- every one of you -- to think about what you think you can do and what we should do to be agents of renewal; to talk with your parents, your clergy, your friends, your teachers, to join the effort to renew our community and to rebuild our country; and to write to me about what you are doing. It's time for millions of us to change our country block by block, neighborhood by neighborhood -- time to return to our roots an excitement, an idealism, and an energy. (Applause.)

I have to tell you that there are some among us who do not believe that young Americans will answer a call to action, who believe that our people now measure their success merely in the accumulation of material things. They believe this call to service will go unanswered. But I believe they are dead wrong. (Applause.)

And so, especially to the young Americans here, I ask you to prove that those who doubt you are wrong about your generation. And today I ask all of you who are young in spirit -- whether you are a 10-year-old in a service program in our schools who reads to still younger children, or a 72-year-old who has become a foster grandparent -- I ask you all to believe that you can contribute to your community and your country. And in so doing, you will find the best in yourself.

You will learn the lessons about your life that you might not ever learn any other way. You will learn again that each of us has the spark of potential to accomplish something truly and enduringly unique. You will experience the satisfaction of making a connection in a way with another person that you could do in no other way. You will learn that the joy of mastering a new skill or discovering a new insight is exceeded only by the joy of helping someone else do the same thing. You will know the satisfaction of being valued not for what you own or what you earn or what position you hold, but just because of what you have given to someone else. (Applause.) You will understand in personal ways the wisdom of the words spoken years ago by Martin Luther King who said "Everybody can be great because everybody can serve." (Applause.)

I ask you all, my fellow Americans, to support our proposal for national service and to live a proposal for national service; to learn the meaning of America at its best, and to recreate for others America at its best. We are not just another country. We have always been a special kind of community, linked by a web of rights and responsibilities, and bound together, not by bloodlines, but by beliefs. At an age in time when people all across the world are being literally torn apart by racial hatreds, by ethnic hatreds, by religious divisions, we are a nation, with all of our problems, where people can come together across racial and religious lines and hold hands and work together, not just to endure our differences, but to celebrate

them. I ask you to make America celebrate that again.  
(Applause.)

I ask you, in closing, to commit yourselves to this season of service because America needs it. We need every one of you to live up to the fullest of your potential, and we need you to reach those who are not here and who will never hear this talk, and who will never have the future they could otherwise have if not for something that you could do. The great challenge of your generation is to prove that every person here in this great land can live up to the fullest of their God-given capacity. . If we do it, the 21st century will be the American century. The American Dream will be kept alive if you will today answer the call to service.

Thank you, and God bless you all. (Applause.)

END

1:50 P.M. EST

## **INFORMATION ON THE PRESIDENT'S "SUMMER OF SERVICE" PROJECT:**

- o **Project Overview:** With national service a high priority for the President, he will be organizing a summer project even as his proposed legislation will be making its way through Congress. The project will focus on 4 to 10 communities around the country, involving a diverse group of more than 1,000 young people involved in special efforts to help children at risk.
- o **Funding:** The project will be funded with a portion of a \$15 million appropriation in the FY 93 stimulus package. (Additional challenge-grant funding for service corps; for expanding teacher training in service learning; and for re-establishing VISTA's Summer Associates program are also included in the package.)
- o **Objectives:** The program has two major goals: To show what national service can accomplish, meeting critical needs and bringing people together; and to develop a leadership corps for future years of national service. National service is such a priority of the President, he wouldn't let it wait for the full program to pass Congress.
- o **Targeted Needs:** The programs in the "Summer of Service" will focus on **children-at-risk** in the areas of education, health, crime prevention, and environmental protection. For example, some participants will tutor; some will help bring families into medical clinics; some will develop recreational centers; some will counsel youths to keep them out of gangs.
- o **Leadership Training:** The summer project will be designed to develop the leadership skills of the young participants. For several days at the beginning and end of the summer, the participants will gather to share their experiences and complete intensive leadership training.
- o **Post-program/Ongoing Benefits:** All participants interested in continuing to serve through the next year will receive placement assistance. Participants with ideas to design their own programs to fight community problems will be able to receive modest Service Entrepreneurial Awards for Change (SEA Change) to realize their plans.
- o **Administration:** The Commission on National and Community Service will administer a competitive process to determine what programs participate. The programs will select the participants. The Commission is working quickly to ensure that programs are developed rapidly and effectively to succeed for this summer.

## **INFORMATION ON THE PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL SERVICE INITIATIVE:**

o **Timing:** The President will submit legislation for his national service program to Congress this spring.

o **Two Components of the Program:** The President's program will have two primary components: 1) The program will create national service opportunities for young people to serve their country and receive money for college or training in return; 2) The program will enable all young people to go to college or receive training to pay back their student loans as a small percentage of their income over time ("income contingent" loans) -- enabling them to hold essential public service jobs that accomplish much but sometimes pay relatively little.

### **Details on The First Component:**

o **Funding:** The President has requested \$7.4 billion over the next four years for his national service program. The funding level will rise each year, to \$3.4 billion in 1997. Funding starts at \$400 million for the first year.

o **Number of Participants:** The number of participants for the first year is estimated at 25,000. By 1997, it is expected that more than 100,000 young people will be paying for their education or training by serving their country and communities.

o **Eligibility and Benefits:** Students before, during and after college will be eligible to serve for a year or two, and in return receive a small stipend, health and child care benefits where necessary, and an educational benefit to pay for college or job training (or discharge loans incurred for those purposes).

o **Focus of Service Activities:** The program objectives will be to meet unmet needs in critical areas. For example, young people will be able to serve as teachers in schools where children need extra help; in clinics in areas where people need medical care; in the police force, keeping criminals off the streets and kids out of gangs; and in an environmental corps, recycling waste and fighting pollution.

o **Administration:** The program will be non-bureaucratic, using venture capital to support entrepreneurs and public-private partnerships to support growing programs. States and local organizations will be given the opportunity to design innovative ways to meet identified national priorities.

o **Nondisplacement:** The legislation will include strict nondisplacement and nonduplication provisions. National service will only meet needs that are not otherwise being met.

# National Service — Now

By Bill Clinton

WASHINGTON

**A** pathy is dead. Of everything I've learned in my first few weeks in the White House, that's the thing that's made me the happiest. Whether or not the people I've met outside the capital support the changes I have proposed, they're all saying they're ready to rebuild our country.

But they know, as I do, that no economic plan can do it alone. A plan can make vaccines available to children, but alone it will not administer the shots to all of them. It can put security guards in the schools, but alone it will not take gangs off the streets. And it can provide more aid for college, but alone it will not make the costs of college less daunting for the middle class.

That's why I believe we need national service — now.

If Congress acts quickly enough, just months from now more than 1,000 young people will start serving our country in a special summer effort. In four years, the successors to these pioneers will multiply a hundredfold. Imagine: an army of 100,000 young people restoring urban and rural communities and giving their labor in return for education and training.

National service is an idea as old as America. Time and again, our people have found new ways to honor citizenship and match the needs of changing times.

Lincoln's Homestead Act rewarded those who had the courage to settle the frontier with the land to raise a family. Franklin D. Roosevelt's Social Security Act insured that Americans who work a lifetime can grow old with dignity. Harry S. Truman's G.I. Bill rewarded the service of my father's generation, transforming youthful veterans into an army of educated civilians that led our nation into a new era.

For my generation, the reality of national service was born 32 years ago tomorrow, when President John F. Kennedy created the Peace Corps. At its peak, the Peace Corps enrolled only 16,000 volunteers yet it changed the way a generation of Americans look at themselves and the world.

Today, the spirit of our people once again can meet head-on the troubles of our times.

The task is as complex as our chal-

*President Clinton will deliver a speech on national service tomorrow at Rutgers University.*

lenge is great. We must combine the intensity of the post-World War II years with the idealism of the early 1960's — and help young people afford a college education or job training.

In 1993, we'll restore the spirit of service by asking our people to serve here at home. We won't re-fight the wars we won, but we'll tackle the growing domestic dangers that threaten our future.

Our new initiative will embody the same principles as the old G.I. Bill. It will challenge our people to serve our country and do the work that should — and must — be done. It will give those who serve the honor and rewards they deserve. It will invest in the future of the quiet heroes who invest in the future of others.

The national service legislation that I will send to Congress shortly will give our people the chance to serve in two basic ways:

First, it will make it easier for young people to hold low-paying public service jobs and still pay off their student loans.

Under our program, Americans will be able to borrow the money they need for college and pay it back as a small percentage of their income over time. By giving graduates the chance to repay loans on an affordable, reasonable schedule, this "income-contingent" program will allow our people to do the work that our communities really need.

Second, our legislation will create new opportunities for Americans to serve our country for a year or two — and receive financial support for education or training in return.

We'll offer people of different ages and educational levels different ways to serve. And to focus our energies and get the most for our money, we'll direct special attention to a few areas:

• We'll ask thousands of young people to serve in our schools — some as teachers, others as youth mentors, reading specialists and math tutors. They'll join the effort to insure that our schools offer the best education in the world.

• We'll send people into medical clinics to help immunize the nation's 2-year-olds. Some participants will be qualified to give the shots, but thousands of others can provide essential support, contacting parents and following up to make sure children get the shots they need.

• We'll help police forces across the country through a new Police Corps trained to walk beats. We'll also organize others in our communities to keep kids out of gangs and off drugs.

• We'll put still others to work controlling pollution and recycling waste, to help insure that we pass on to our children a nation that is clean and safe for years to come.

Our national service program will offer more than benefits to individuals. We'll help pay operating costs for community groups with proved track records, providing the support they'll need to grow. And we'll let entrepreneurs compete for venture capital to develop new service programs.

While the Federal Government will provide the seed money for national service, we are determined that the participants — the individuals who serve and the groups that sponsor their service — will guide the process. Spending tens of millions of tax dollars to build a massive bureaucracy

would be self-defeating; it would squash the spirit of innovation that national service demands.

By design, our national service program will not happen overnight. Instead, it will grow year by year, with funding reaching \$3 billion in 1997. And as I've said many times, I believe it will be the best money we ever spend.

If Congress gives us the chance, this summer we'll create an eight-week leadership training program. We'll recruit more than 1,000 young people for special projects to meet the needs of children at risk — and to train the first class of full-year participants.

In the first full year of our initiative, we'll launch our flexible loan program and aim to put tens of thousands of people to work. By 1997, more than 100,000 citizens could be serving our country, getting education and training benefits in return. And hundreds of thousands more people could be doing invaluable work because college loans no longer block the way.

But the best planning and the most ambitious design won't make this vision of national service a reality. That responsibility ultimately rests with the American people.

I am convinced that after 12 years of drifting apart instead of working together we are ready to meet the challenge. From a 14-year-old boy in North Dakota who sent us \$1,000 to help pay off the deficit, to a 92-year-old widower in Kansas who followed his example, people are demonstrating that they want to give something back to their nation.

National service will exercise our talents and rebuild our communities. It will harness the energy of our youth and attack the problems of our time. It will bring together men and women of every age and race and lift up our nation's spirit. And for all of us, it will rekindle the excitement of being Americans. □

# Clinton National Service Proposal

## Discussion Outline

The President's call to service extends from the youngest elementary students to our oldest citizens, and includes everything from part-time volunteer activities to full-time public service jobs. Toward this end, the President supports funding for service programs involving school-age youth and senior citizens, as well as professional corps programs such as the Police Corps and Teacher Corps designed to attract top candidates to public service jobs. These issues, however, are not considered in this outline.

The centerpiece of the President's proposal is a national service program that will make it possible for college graduates and others to perform needed services in their communities by making it easier to pay back their student loans. All students will have the option of repaying their loans with a small percentage of their income over time, removing a significant obstacle to low-paying careers in public service. Some will have the opportunity to serve in national service positions in the areas of education, human services, environment, and public safety. This program is outlined below.

### A. National Service Positions

Types of Placements: States and the federal government may approve full-time or part-time placements in youth corps, specialized service corps, individual placements in non-profit organizations (through VISTA or nonfederal programs), and college service programs, with an emphasis on placements addressing national priority needs. A limited number of public service entrepreneurs would also be selected for participation. National Service positions may not displace paid workers.

Selection of Participants: A diverse group of recent college graduates, as well as college students, college-bound high-school graduates, and non-college bound youth, will be selected for participation by applying to and being accepted into a program offering approved national service positions. A national system to help match individuals with programs will be established.

Benefits: The program will support a minimum-wage stipend and health and child care benefits (if needed). Individuals serving after college would receive student loan forgiveness worth \$10,000 for each of two years of service, or the amount of their outstanding loans, whichever is less. Other participants would receive a post-service benefit of \$5,000 for each of two

years of service, useable for higher education or employment training.

Building an Infrastructure: Funding will be available for three types of grants: single-year venture capital grants may be made to individuals, states, and public or private non-profit organizations (including education institutions) for program start-up; states and public or private non-profit organizations operating programs may receive multi-year grants for program costs; and states and public or private non-profit organizations may receive grants to replicate proven existing programs.

Leveraging Nonfederal Funding: All grants will be made on a challenge basis and must be matched. This requirement may be waived in special circumstances.

Federal role: The federal government will establish criteria for approved national service positions and programs, allocate program resources, ensure against fraud and abuse, arrange for a national training program, coordinate service programs within the federal government, arrange for evaluation of funded programs, and provide training and technical assistance to states and programs.

State role: The governor of each state may designate a lead agency and appoint a State National Service Commission responsible for overseeing national service programs in the state. The State Commission will include representatives of local service program directors and other citizens and will develop a plan for service, including proposed national service placements in the state. The plan must ensure equitable treatment of urban and rural areas within the state and be approved by the governor and the national service agency.

Phase-in: Participation is expected to reach at least 25,000 by the end of fiscal year 1994, increasing to at least 100,000 in 1997.

#### **B. Income Contingent Loan Repayment**

All borrowers will be able to repay their loans through income contingent repayments. This means that borrowers with higher incomes would repay more quickly, while lower-income borrowers would repay over a longer period of time. Student debt will not prevent borrowers from choosing lower-paying jobs for fear that they will not be able to repay their debt.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary  
(New Brunswick, New Jersey)

For Immediate Release

March 1, 1993

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
IN NATIONAL SERVICE ADDRESS

Rutgers University  
New Brunswick, New Jersey

1:15 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. (Applause.) Thank you. Thank you, Nakia Tomlinson for that fine introduction. I wish I could take you with me everywhere. We'd make a great duo there. Let's give her another hand. I thought she was great. (Applause.)

I'd like to thank President Frank Lawrence for his - Francis Lawrence -- for his fine speech. Does anybody call him Frank? I should have asked. (Laughter.) I want to compliment Professor Benjamin Barber for his leadership and service here. (Applause.) And I want to thank all of you here in the Rutgers community for coming out for what I hope will be a truly historic moment in our nation's history. (Applause.)

In addition to the people who have been introduced here, there are a host of mayors and members of the Assembly and county officials here from your state. We have two former governors, both of whom I served with -- Brendan Byrne and Tom Kean who are out there. I'm glad to see them. (Applause.) My friends. We have a distinguished array of members of the House from New Jersey -- Hero Klein, Bob Manendez, Frank Pallone, Donald Payne -- (applause).

But you have some members of the Congress from all over America here and I want to introduce them, too, because they have taken a lot of trouble to come to Rutgers and because without them and without the people who represent you, the proposal I make today has no hope of passage.

Many members of the Congress for years have believed we ought to do more in national service and some of them are here today. I'd like to begin by introducing your Senator Bill Bradley, who's behind me. (Applause.) I must say, when I walked into this arena, I turned around and asked Bill Bradley if he'd ever shot any baskets in here. I'd be intimidated to be the opposing team in here. (Applause.) Senator Bradley sponsored legislation to establish neighborhood corps and self-reliance

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scholarships, things that are forbearers of the proposal I came to make.

I'd like to recognize the presence on the platform of Senator Ted Kennedy from Massachusetts -- (applause) -- who chairs the Senate Committee on Human Resources and Education, which sheperded the pilot national and community service bill through the Congress in the last session, along with his counterpart who is out here in the audience somewhere. I'd like to ask him to stand up. The Chairman of the House Committee, Congressman Bill Ford, who came all the way from Michigan to be with us. Congressman, would you stand up. (Applause.)

I'd like to recognize in the audience the presence of Senator Chris Dodd from Connecticut, who was one of the first Peace Corps volunteers in the United States. (Applause.)

The member of Congress who introduced many, many years ago, the first piece of national service legislation ever introduced, the Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Clairborne Pell from Rhode Island is here. (Applause.)

I'd also like to introduce the only person in this audience, at least of our crowd, who doesn't have to look up to Senator Bradley, Senator Jay Rockefeller from West Virginia, an early VISTA volunteer in the United States. (Applause.)

And finally I would like to recognize two other people, one, a member of the United States Senate and one a distinguished American citizen, the first boss of the Peace Corps, Sargent Shriver, who's up here with me. (Applause.) And his deputy, Senator Harris Wofford, from Pennsylvania. (Applause.) And Mrs. Wofford, I'm glad to see you. (Applause.)

Now, I was involved before I became President in a group called the Democratic Leadership Council, and we made one of the central parts of our platform to reclaim a new majority of Americans for our party the establishment of a system of national service to help people to finance education. And one of our founding members and guiding lights is here, Representative Dave McCurdy from Oklahoma. I'd like for him to stand up. (Applause.)

Let me make this last point, if I might, by way of beginning. None of these things happen at the national level. We empower them to happen and then people have to do things here at the grassroots. And I want to say a special word of thanks to your Governor for supporting the New Jersey Youth Corps and several other projects like it around the state, because if nobody's here to believe in this, it can't happen. And I thank Governor Florio for his support for these things. (Applause.)

I came here to ask all of you to join me in a great national adventure, for in the next few weeks I will ask the

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United States Congress to join me in creating a new system of voluntary national service -- something that I believe in the next few years will change America forever and for the better.

My parents' generation won new dignity working their way out of the great Depression through programs that provided them the opportunity to serve and to survive. Brave men and women in my own generation waged and won peaceful revolutions here at home for civil rights and human rights, and began service around the world in the Peace Corps and here at home in Vista. Now, Americans of every generation face profound challenges in meeting the needs that have been neglected for too long in this country -- from city streets plagued by crime and drugs to classrooms where girls and boys must learn the skills they need for tomorrow, to hospital wards where patients need more care. All across America we have problems that demand our common attention.

For those who answer the call and meet these challenges, I propose that our country honor your service with new opportunities for education. National service will be America at its best -- building community, offering opportunity, and rewarding responsibility. National service is a challenge for Americans from every background and walk of life, and it values something far more than money. National service is nothing less than the American way to change America. (Applause.)

It is rooted in the concept of community: the simple idea that none of us on our own will ever have as much to cherish about our own lives if we are out here all alone as we will if we work together. That somehow a society really is an organism in which the whole can be greater than the sum of its parts. And every one of us, no matter how many privileges with which we are born, can still be enriched by the contributions of the least of us. And that we will never fulfill our individual capacities until, as Americans, we can all be what God meant for us to be. (Applause.)

If that is so -- if that is true, my fellow Americans, and if you believe it, it must therefore follow that each of us has an obligation to serve. For it is perfectly clear that all of us cannot be what we ought to be until those of us who can help others -- and that is nearly all of us -- are doing something to help others live up to their potential. The concept of community and the idea of service are as old as our history. They began the moment America was literally invented.

Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence, "With a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortune, and our sacred honor." In the midst of the Civil War, President Lincoln signed into law two visionary programs that helped our people come together again and build America up. The

Morrill Act helped states create new land grant colleges. This is a land grant university. The university in my home state was the first land grant college west of the Mississippi River.

In these places, young people learn to make American agriculture and industry the best in the world. The legacy of the Morrill Act is not only our great colleges and universities like Rutgers, but the American tradition that merit and not money should give people a chance for a higher education. (Applause.)

Mr. Lincoln also signed the Homestead Act that offered 100 acres of land for families who had the courage to settle the frontier and farm the wilderness. Its legacy is a nation that stretches from coast to coast. Now we must create a new legacy that gives a new generation of Americans the right and the power to explore the frontiers of science and technology and space. The frontiers of the limitations of our knowledge must be pushed back so that we can do what we need to do. And education is the way to do it, just as surely as it was more than 100 years ago.

Seven decades after the Civil War in the midst of the Great Depression, President Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps, which gave 2.5 million young people the opportunity to support themselves while working in disaster relief and maintaining forests, beaches, rivers, and parks. Its legacy is not only the restoration of our natural environment, but the restoration of our national spirit. Along with the Works Products Administration -- the WPA -- the Civilian Conservation Corps symbolized government's effort to provide a nation in depression with the opportunity to work, to build the American community through service. And all over America today, you can see projects -- even today in the 1990s -- built by your parents or your grandparents with the WPA plaque on it -- the CCC plaque on it -- the idea that people should be asked to serve and rewarded for doing it.

In the midst of World War II, President Roosevelt proposed the GI Bill of Rights, which offered returning veterans the opportunity for education in respect to their service to our country in the war. Thanks to the GI Bill, which became a living reality in President Truman's time, more than eight million veterans got advanced education. And half a century later, the enduring legacy of the GI Bill is the strongest economy in the world and the broadest, biggest middle class that any nation has ever enjoyed.

For many in my own generation, the summons to citizenship and service came on this day 32 years ago, when President Kennedy created the Peace Corps with Sargent Shriver and Harris Wofford and other dedicated Americans when President Kennedy created the Peace Corps. With Sargent Shriver and Harris Wofford and other dedicated Americans, he enabled thousands of young men and women to serve on the leading edge of the new

frontier, helping people all over the world to become what they ought to be, and bringing them the message by their very lives that America was a great country that stood for good values and human progress.

At its height, the Peace Corps enrolled 16,000 young men and women. Its legacy is not simply goodwill and good works in countries all across the globe, but a profound and lasting change in the way Americans think about their own country and the world.

Shortly after the Peace Corps, Congress, under President Johnson, created the volunteers and service to America. Senator Jay Rockefeller, whom I introduced a moment ago, and many thousands of other Americans went to the hills and hollows of poor places, like West Virginia and Arkansas and Mississippi, to lift up Americans through their service.

The lesson of our whole history is that honoring service and rewarding responsibility is the best investment America can make. And I have seen it today. Across this great land, through the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, which took the children who lived in the neighborhoods where the riots occurred and gave them a chance to get out into nature and to clean up their own neighborhoods and to lift themselves and their friends in the effort; in Boston with the City Year program -- with all these programs represented here in this room today, the spirit of service is sweeping this country and giving us a chance to put the quilt of America together in a way that makes a strength out of diversity; that lifts us up out of our problems; and that keeps our people looking toward a better and brighter future. (Applause.)

National service recognizes a simple but powerful truth -- that we make progress not by governmental action alone, but we do best when the people and their government work at the grassroots in genuine partnership. The idea of national service permeates many other aspects of the programs I have sought to bring to America. The economic plan that I announced to Congress, for example, will offer every child the chance for a healthy start through immunization and basic health care and Head Start. (Applause.) But still it depends on parents doing the best they can as parents and children making the most of their opportunities.

The plan can help to rebuild our cities and our small communities through physical investments that will put people to work. But Americans still must work to restore the social fabric that has been torn in too many communities. Unless people know we can work together in our schools and our offices, in our factories, unless they believe we can walk the streets safely together, and unless we do that together, governmental action alone is doomed to fail. (Applause.)

The national service plan I propose will be built on the same principles as the old GI Bill -- when people give something of invaluable merit to their country, they ought to be rewarded with the opportunity to further their education. National service will challenge our people to do the work that should and indeed must be done and cannot be done unless the American people voluntarily give themselves up to that work. It will invest in the future of every person who serves.

And as we rekindle the spirit of national service, I know it won't disappoint many of the students here to know that we also have to reform the whole system of student loans. (Applause.) We should begin by making it easier for young people to pay back their student loans and enabling them to hold jobs -- (applause) -- enabling them to hold jobs that may accomplish much, but pay little.

Today, when students borrow money for an education, the repayment plan they make is based largely on how much they have to repay, without regard to what the jobs they take themselves pay. It is a powerful incentive, therefore, for young college graduates to do just the reverse of what we might want them to do; to take a job that pays more even it is less rewarding because that is the job that will make the repayment of the loans possible. It is also, unfortunately, a powerful incentive for some not to make the payments at all, which is unforgivable.

So what we seek to do is to enable the American students to borrow the money they need for college and pay it back as a small percentage of their own income over time. This is especially important after a decade in which the cost of a college education has gone up even more rapidly than the cost of health care. (Applause.) Making a major contribution to one of the more disturbing statistics in America today, which is that the college dropout rate in this country is now 2.5 times the high school dropout rate. We can do better than that through national service and adequate financing. (Applause.)

The present system is unacceptable, not only for students, but for the taxpayers as well. It's complicated and it's expensive. It costs the taxpayers of our country about \$4 billion every year to finance the student loan program because of loan defaults and the cost of administering the program. And I believe we can do better.

Beyond reforming this system for financing higher education, the national service program more importantly will create new opportunities for Americans to work off outstanding loans or to build up credits for future education and training opportunities.

We'll ask young people all across this country and some who aren't so young who want to further their college

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education to serve in our schools as teachers or tutors in reading and mathematics. We'll ask you to help our police forces across the nation, training members for a new police corps that will walk beats and work with neighborhoods and build the kind of communities ties that will prevent crime from happening in the first place so that our police officers won't have to spend all their time chasing criminals. (Applause.)

We'll ask young people to work, to help control pollution and recycle waste, to paint darkened buildings and clean up neighborhoods. (Applause.) To work with senior citizens and combat homelessness and help children in trouble get out of it and build a better life. (Applause.)

And these are just a few of the things that you will be able to, for most of the decisions about what you can do will be made by people like those in this room, people who run the programs represented by all of those wearing these different kinds of tee-shirts. We don't seek a national bureaucracy. I have spoken often about how we need to reinvent the government to make it more efficient and less bureaucratic, to make it more responsive to people at the grassroots level.

And I want national service to do just that. I want it to empower young people and their communities, not to empower yet another government bureaucracy in Washington. This is going to be your program at your level with your people. (Applause.)

And as you well know, that's what's happening all across America today. People are already serving their neighbors in their neighborhoods. Just this morning, I was inspired to see and to speak with students from Rutgers serving their community, from mentoring young people as Big Sisters, to helping older people learn new skills.

I met a lady today who has 13 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren who dropped out of school the year before I was born -- is about to become a high school graduate shortly because of the efforts of this program. (Applause.) Is she back there? Stand up. (Applause.)

I'm impressed by the spirit behind the Rutgers civic education and community service program: the understanding that community service enriches education, that students should not only take the lessons they learn in class out into the community, but bring the lessons they learn in the community back into the classroom. (Applause.)

And that spirit, during this academic year alone, more than 800 students from Rutgers are contributing more than 60,000 hours of community service -- in New Brunswick, in Camden, in Newark, throughout this state. (Applause.)

This morning I also met with members of the New Jersey Youth Corps. Here they are. (Applause.) Stand up. (Applause.) Young people who are looking for a second chance at school, and who when coming back to finish their high school degrees, also serve in their communities. Through this program, more than 6,500 young adults have contributed over 900,000 hours of service to the state of New Jersey. (Applause.)

They've done everything from paint senior citizens' homes, to tutor and mentor children in after-school programs. For the future of our state and nation, we need more young people like those in the New Jersey Youth Corps who exemplify the spirit of service.

That spirit also moves people all across the nation. In my state, there's a young woman named Antoinette Jackson, who's a senior in a small community called Gauld, Arkansas. She's a member of the Delta Service Corps. The rural Mississippi Delta is still the poorest place in America. And in that area, she works with a "Lend a Hand" program which runs a thrift shop to provide hungry and homeless people with food and clothing. And in return, the Delta Four is going to help her attend college so that she can make an even greater contribution. (Applause.)

The spirit of service also moves a young man I met about a year ago named Stephen Spalos, who works with a City Year program in Boston. At age 23, he's had some hard times in his life. But as he puts it, City Year gave him a place and the tools to be able to start over. He works as a team leader, a mentor, a tutor, a project manager for a bunch of young people who restore senior citizens' homes.

Last year when I visited his project, he literally took his sweatshirt off his back and gave it to me so that I would never forget the kids at City Year. And I still wear it when I go jogging, always remembering what they're doing in Boston to help those kids. (Applause.)

The spirit of service moves Orah Fireman, a graduate of Wesleyan College. As a sophomore in high school, she worked with disadvantaged children in upstate New York. That experience changed her life. And during her high school and college years, she continued to work with children. And now that she is out of college, she has begun what will probably be a lifetime of service by working at a school for emotionally disturbed children in Boston. She wants other people to have the opportunity to serve, and she wrote this: Service work teaches responsibility and compassion. It fights alienation by proving to young people that they can make a difference. There is no lesson more important than that.

Well, there are stories like this in this room and all across America. And we're going to create thousands of more of them through national service. We'll work with groups with

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proven track records to serve their community, giving them the support they need. And if you have more good ideas, if you're entrepreneurs of national service, we'll let you compete for our form of venture capital -- develop new programs to serve your neighbors. That's how we want the national service program to grow every year -- rewarding results, building on success, and bubbling up from the grassroots energy and compassion and intellect of America.

I don't want service to wait while this potential is wasted. That's why I want to make this summer a summer of service, when young people can not only serve their communities, but build a foundation for a new national effort. I've asked Congress to invest in and I'm asking young people to participate in a special effort in national service and leadership training just this summer. We are going to recruit about 1,000 young people from every background -- from high school dropouts to college graduates, to send to an intensive leadership training program for national service at the beginning of the summer.

Then we'll ask them to work on one of our country's most urgent problems, helping our children who are in danger of losing their God-given potential. Some of them will tutor. Some will work on programs to immunize young children from preventable childhood diseases. Some will help to develop and run recreational centers or reclaim urban parks from dealers and debris. Some will counsel people a few years younger than themselves to keep them out of gangs and into good activities. And everyone will learn about serving our country and helping our communities.

At the end of this summer, we'll bring all these people together for several days of debriefing and training, and then they'll all join in a youth service summit. I will attend the meeting and I expect to listen a lot more than I talk. I'll ask leaders from Congress, from business, labor, religious, and community groups to attend the youth service summit, too. We'll give those who serve the honor they deserve, and we'll learn a lot more about how to build this national service program. And from the thousand pioneers of this summer, I want the national service to grow 100-fold in the next four years. (Applause.)

But even when hundreds of thousands are serving, I want to maintain the pioneer spirit of this first few months, because national service can make America new again. It can help solve our problems, educate our people, and build our communities back together. So if anybody here would like to be one of those 1,000 -- or if anybody who is listening to this speech by radio or television or reads about it and would like to be one of those 1,000, drop me a card at the White House and just mark it national service. We're going to pick them. And I can't promise you'll be selected, but I promise you'll be considered. I want to engage the energies of America in this effort. (Applause.)

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I also want to say that you shouldn't wait for the summer or for a new program. We need to begin now. We are going to be looking for the kinds of ideas that we ought to be funding. This is Monday. I ask you by Friday -- every one of you -- to think about what you think you can do and what we should do to be agents of renewal; to talk with your parents, your clergy, your friends, your teachers, to join the effort to renew our community and to rebuild our country; and to write to me about what you are doing. It's time for millions of us to change our country block by block, neighborhood by neighborhood -- time to return to our roots an excitement, an idealism, and an energy. (Applause.)

I have to tell you that there are some among us who do not believe that young Americans will answer a call to action, who believe that our people now measure their success merely in the accumulation of material things. They believe this call to service will go unanswered. But I believe they are dead wrong. (Applause.)

And so, especially to the young Americans here, I ask you to prove that those who doubt you are wrong about your generation. And today I ask all of you who are young in spirit -- whether you are a 10-year-old in a service program in our schools who reads to still younger children, or a 72-year-old who has become a foster grandparent -- I ask you all to believe that you can contribute to your community and your country. And in so doing, you will find the best in yourself.

You will learn the lessons about your life that you might not ever learn any other way. You will learn again that each of us has the spark of potential to accomplish something truly and enduringly unique. You will experience the satisfaction of making a connection in a way with another person that you could do in no other way. You will learn that the joy of mastering a new skill or discovering a new insight is exceeded only by the joy of helping someone else do the same thing. You will know the satisfaction of being valued not for what you own or what you earn or what position you hold, but just because of what you have given to someone else. (Applause.) You will understand in personal ways the wisdom of the words spoken years ago by Martin Luther King who said "Everybody can be great because everybody can serve." (Applause.)

I ask you all, my fellow Americans, to support our proposal for national service and to live a proposal for national service; to learn the meaning of America at its best, and to recreate for others America at its best. We are not just another country. We have always been a special kind of community, linked by a web of rights and responsibilities, and bound together, not by bloodlines, but by beliefs. At an age in time when people all across the world are being literally torn apart by racial hatreds, by ethnic hatreds, by religious divisions, we are a nation, with all of our problems, where people can come together across racial and religious lines and hold hands and work together, not just to endure our differences, but to celebrate

them. I ask you to make America celebrate that again.  
(Applause.)

I ask you, in closing, to commit yourselves to this season of service because America needs it. We need every one of you to live up to the fullest of your potential, and we need you to reach those who are not here and who will never hear this talk, and who will never have the future they could otherwise have if not for something that you could do. The great challenge of your generation is to prove that every person here in this great land can live up to the fullest of their God-given capacity. If we do it, the 21st century will be the American century. The American Dream will be kept alive if you will today answer the call to service.

Thank you, and God bless you all. (Applause.)

END

1:50 P.M. EST

# National Service — Now

The New York Times  
2/28/93

By Bill Clinton

WASHINGTON

A path is dead. Of everything I've learned in my first few weeks in the White House, that's the thing that's made me the happiest. Whether or not the people I've met outside the capital support the changes I have proposed, they're all saying they're ready to rebuild our country.

But they know, as I do, that no economic plan can do it alone. A plan can make vaccines available to children, but alone it will not administer the shots to all of them. It can put security guards in the schools, but alone it will not take gangs off the streets. And it can provide more aid for college, but alone it will not make the costs of college less daunting for the middle class.

That's why I believe we need national service — now.

If Congress acts quickly enough, just months from now more than 1,000 young people will start serving our country in a special summer effort. In four years, the successors to these pioneers will multiply a hundredfold. Imagine: an army of 100,000 young people restoring urban and rural communities and giving their labor in return for education and training.

National service is an idea as old as America. Time and again, our people have found new ways to honor citizenship and match the needs of changing times.

Lincoln's Homestead Act rewarded those who had the courage to settle the frontier with the land to raise a family. Franklin D. Roosevelt's Social Security Act insured that Americans who work a lifetime can grow old with dignity. Harry S. Truman's G.I. Bill rewarded the service of my father's generation, transforming youthful veterans into an army of educated civilians that led our nation into a new era.

For my generation, the reality of national service was born 32 years ago tomorrow, when President John F. Kennedy created the Peace Corps. At its peak, the Peace Corps enrolled only 16,000 volunteers yet it changed the way a generation of Americans look at themselves and the world.

Today, the spirit of our people once again can meet head-on the troubles of our times.

The task is as complex as our chal-

*President Clinton will deliver a speech on national service tomorrow at Rutgers University.*

lenge is great. We must combine the intensity of the post-World War II years with the idealism of the early 1960's — and help young people afford a college education or job training.

In 1993, we'll restore the spirit of service by asking our people to serve here at home. We won't re-fight the wars we won, but we'll tackle the growing domestic dangers that threaten our future.

Our new initiative will embody the same principles as the old G.I. Bill. It will challenge our people to serve our country and do the work that should — and must — be done. It will give those who serve the honor and rewards they deserve. It will invest in the future of the quiet heroes who invest in the future of others.

The national service legislation that I will send to Congress shortly will give our people the chance to serve in two basic ways:

First, it will make it easier for young people to hold low-paying public service jobs and still pay off their student loans.

Under our program, Americans will be able to borrow the money they need for college and pay it back as a small percentage of their income over time. By giving graduates the chance to repay loans on an affordable, reasonable schedule, this "income-contingent" program will allow our people to do the work that our communities really need.

Second, our legislation will create new opportunities for Americans to serve our country for a year or two — and receive financial support for education or training in return.

We'll offer people of different ages and educational levels different ways to serve. And to focus our energies and get the most for our money, we'll direct special attention to a few areas:

• We'll ask thousands of young people to serve in our schools — some as teachers, others as youth mentors, reading specialists and math tutors. They'll join the effort to insure that our schools offer the best education in the world.

• We'll send people into medical clinics to help immunize the nation's 2-year-olds. Some participants will be qualified to give the shots, but thousands of others can provide essential support, contacting parents and following up to make sure children get the shots they need.

• We'll help police forces across the country through a new Police Corps trained to walk beats. We'll also organize others in our communities to keep kids out of gangs and off drugs.

• We'll put still others to work controlling pollution and recycling waste, to help insure that we pass on to our children a nation that is clean and safe for years to come.

Our national service program will offer more than benefits to individuals. We'll help pay operating costs for community groups with proved track records, providing the support they'll need to grow. And we'll let entrepreneurs compete for venture capital to develop new service programs.

While the Federal Government will provide the seed money for national service, we are determined that the participants — the individuals who serve and the groups that sponsor their service — will guide the process. Spending tens of millions of tax dollars to build a massive bureaucracy

would be self-defeating; it would squash the spirit of innovation that national service demands.

By design, our national service program will not happen overnight. Instead, it will grow year by year, with funding reaching \$3 billion in 1997. And as I've said many times, I believe it will be the best money we ever spend.

If Congress gives us the chance, this summer we'll create an eight-week leadership training program. We'll recruit more than 1,000 young people for special projects to meet the needs of children at risk — and to train the first class of full-year participants.

In the first full year of our initiative, we'll launch our flexible loan program and aim to put tens of thousands of people to work. By 1997, more than 100,000 citizens could be serving our country, getting education and training benefits in return. And hundreds of thousands more people could be doing invaluable work because college loans no longer block the way.

But the best planning and the most ambitious design won't make this vision of national service a reality. That responsibility ultimately rests with the American people.

I am convinced that after 12 years of drifting apart instead of working together we are ready to meet the challenge. From a 14-year-old boy in North Dakota who sent us \$1,000 to help pay off the deficit, to a 92-year-old widower in Kansas who followed his example, people are demonstrating that they want to give something back to their nation.

National service will exercise our talents and rebuild our communities. It will harness the energy of our youth and attack the problems of our time. It will bring together men and women of every age and race and lift up our nation's spirit. And for all of us, it will rekindle the excitement of being Americans. □

SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1993 A21

*Colman McCarthy*

# Clinton's Call to Service

No speech in the Clinton campaign was more inspirational than the candidate's remarks at the University of Notre Dame last September. As president, Clinton didn't match it until his March 1 speech at Rutgers University. At both campuses, he issued calls for national service for college students.

At Notre Dame: "If we are truly to practice what we preach, Americans of every faith and viewpoint should come together to promote the common good." It was similar at Rutgers: "National service is nothing less than the American way to change America."

Clinton's effort to rally the young to altruism has created a debate that pits idealism against realism, as if the two are forever locked in conflict. Where's the money, ask realists, for the tuition-for-service program that Clinton is proposing: \$369 million in scholarships for 25,000 students the first year and \$3.4 billion for 100,000 by 1997. Realists say that Clinton's sweet talk ignores sour facts: There's no money for a new social program.

From that negative, despairing argument, Clinton is supposed to get the message: Don't even try. That means don't lead, just preside. The past 12 years witnessed two presidents in the White House. Most first-year college students today were in kindergarten when Ronald Reagan was elected and in fourth grade when reelected. They came into adolescence under a politician who tried nothing by way of linking government with national service. Instead of selflessness to others, he extolled self-enrichment.

Evidence suggests that the young weren't seduced either by Reagan's message of contempt for government or his disdain for altruism. The 1980s saw a surge in campus community-service programs, such as the ones Clinton praised at Notre Dame and Rutgers. Amnesty International chapters increased on campuses, as did those of Oxfam USA. Applications to Peace Corps remained high, as they did for such private domestic programs as the Jesuit Volunteer Corps and

Yet Clinton's philosophy of service represents intellectual newness to many in high school and college. John F. Kennedy's appeals to national service are seen as historical relics, known from books but not live on MTV as are Clinton's. It wasn't a politician's celebrityhood that created support for the president at Notre Dame and Rutgers. Students saw in him someone with a positive message—put community interest above self-interest—that many professors and counselors at their schools had been exposing them to all along: If you can't teach the illiterate, comfort the sick and handicapped, or mend whatever and whoever is broken during your college years, you're receiving a limited education.

Clinton deserves to be honored for taking a risk that he'll be able to raise the money for his program of national service. Critics in Congress with no greater agenda than carping about ideas they were too dull-witted or timid to propose themselves now lie in wait for the president when he comes in with specifics. They will say Clinton's ideas are dangerous because they are romantic and utopian, a charge that ignores the thought of James Madison in 1788: "No theoretical checks—no form of government, can render us secure. To suppose that any form of government will secure liberty or happiness without any virtue in the people is a chimerical idea."

Some critics charge that Clinton is into bribery: tuition money for service. While the details are being worked out on how much money for what service, who complains that the U.S. Army entices recruits with as much as \$20,000 toward a college education. Why isn't it bribery when ROTC programs pay students to shine their boots occasionally and take gut courses in military lore. Nor is much alarm expressed over the most lavish enticement of all: a free ride at the military academies in exchange for a few years in uniform after graduation.

Clinton's Rutgers speech marked the 32nd anniversary of the Peace Corps. Kennedy's spirited message was repeated by Clinton: "Answer the call to service." In "The Bold Experiment," a history of the Peace Corps by Gerard Rice, one of those who responded to Kennedy's call explained why: "I'd never done anything political, patriotic or unselfish because nobody ever asked me to. Kennedy asked."

So has Clinton.

## **BACKGROUNDER ON PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL SERVICE INITIATIVE**

Timing. The President will submit his legislation to Congress soon -- certainly this spring. We are still working out the details because we want to get it right.

Two parts. The legislation has two parts. One part will create opportunities for young people to serve our country and help pay for college in return. The other part will enable young people to pay back their student loans as a small percentage of their income over time, so they can take essential community jobs and still pay off their loans.

Funding. The President has requested \$7.4 for national service over the next four years. The funding level rises each year, to \$3.4 billion in 1997, because this initiative aims to support the growing work of America's communities -- not overwhelm it. Funding starts at \$400 million in appropriations and \$100 million in outlays next year.

Number of Participants. The numbers will reflect the enthusiasm of the American people and the ingenuity of our communities in developing solid ways to put our people's energy to work. By 1997, we believe there could be more than 100,000 young people paying for post-secondary education by serving their country, and hundreds of thousands more serving because loans no longer block the way.

Eligibility and benefits. Students before, during and after college will be eligible to serve for a year or two. In return, they will get a small stipend, health and child care benefits where necessary, and an educational benefit to pay for college or job training.

Activities. The program aims to meet unmet needs in critical areas. It is not job training. Possible tasks include: teaching or serving as a teachers aid or mentor; working as a police officer or desk aide; providing health care or doing linked outreach and administrative; recycling or controlling pollution.

Administration. The program will be non-bureaucratic, using venture capital to support entrepreneurs and public-private partnerships to support growing programs. States will be given the opportunity to design national service plans to meet their particular needs. Within guidelines to prevent fraud and ensure that important work gets done, local organizations will be given the opportunity to design and implement solutions to local needs.

Nondisplacement. The legislation will include strict nondisplacement and nonduplication provisions. National service will only meet needs that are not otherwise being met.

**BACKGROUNDER ON  
PRESIDENT'S SUMMER OF SERVICE PROGRAM**

Overview. At 4 to 10 sites around the country, the Summer of Service will involve 1,000 diverse young people in a program to help children at-risk and provide leadership training.

Funding. The program will be funded with a \$15 million appropriation in the FY 93 stimulus package.

Goals. The program has two major goals: To show what national service can accomplish, meeting critical needs and bringing people together; and to develop a leadership corps for future years of national service through the President's initiative. National service was such a priority of the President, he didn't want to let it wait a year.

Targeted needs. The programs in the Summer of Service aim to help children-at-risk in the areas of education, health, crime prevention, and environmental protection. Some participants will tutor; some will help provide shots; some will develop recreational centers; some will counsel youths to keep them out of gangs. The possibilities are as diverse as our problems, but the goal is always the same: tangible, meaningful change to help children-at-risk.

Participation. At least 1,000 young people will participate in the program at a select number of sites around the country. Participants will be a diverse group -- including high school dropouts and college graduates -- but they all must bring leadership qualities to the program.

Leadership training. For several days at the beginning of the summer and several at the end, the young people will gather to share their experiences and complete an intensive leadership program.

SEA Change Awards. Service Entrepreneurial Awards will be available to a few participants (25) with ideas to start new service programs. All participants who are interested in continuing to work through the next year will receive placement assistance.

Administration. The Commission on National and Community Service will administer a competitive process to determine what programs participate. The Commission is working quickly to ensure that programs are developed quickly and efficiently to succeed for this summer.

**NATIONAL SERVICE  
GENERAL TALKING POINTS**

**National Service as a challenge to young people:**

- \* America has serious problems. If young people don't solve them, nobody will. That's why we are challenging America's youth to a season of service. You can create America's future -- and change your own. The country belongs to you if you will seize this opportunity.
- \* Government leaves off somewhere. It can make immunizations available, but it can't make kids show up for shots. It can put more money into Head Start, but it can't teach all the kids who need to join. It can spend more on police organizations, but it can't mobilize communities to protect themselves. And it can raise penalties for pollution, but it can't force people to recycle.
- \* Young people have a unique ability to fulfill these needs. You have the energy. You have the ideas. You have the determination. Bill Clinton wants to give you the tools to make it happen.
- \* I know that today, with COOL, I am preaching to the choir. You are doing it already. Some of you are teaching children to read. Some are providing shelter to the needy. Some are doing environmental audits. And some are giving kids the medical care they desperately need.
- \* And all of you aren't just doing; you're leading. You're showing the way for the rest of America.
- \* You are the forefront of the movement that Bill Clinton supports. You are the young people who are "changing America forever, and for the better," as Bill Clinton urged in his Rutgers speech.
- \* So today I am just saying: Keep doing what you are doing -- but do it more. Double your efforts. Get your friends involved. Get your teachers or your parents to work with you. Go get businesses to pay for what you are doing. Because this season of service will be led by youth -- but it has to be joined by everyone.
- \* I am here to tell you: The President is with you and behind you -- we won't get ahead of you -- but we believe in everything you stand for, and we want to help.

## KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF SOS PROGRAMS

PROGRAM	# OF PARTIC	TYPE OF SERV**	PARTICIPANT EDUCATION	PARTICIPANT COMPOSITION	LOCATION
EAST BAY, OAKLAND	250	ALL	MIX	DIVERSE	URBAN
BUILD UP, LA	150	ALL	MIX	DIVERSE	URBAN
UCLA (NURSING), LA	50	H	COLLEGE BOUND	MINORITY	URBAN
SUMMERBRIDGE, NEW ORLEANS	100	ED	COLLEGE BOUND	DIVERSE	URBAN
OHIO WESLEYAN, CENTRAL OHIO	75	ALL	MIX	DIVERSE	URB/RUR
NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE TECH, NEWARK	200	ALL	MIX	DIVERSE	URBAN
TEACH FOR AMERICA, WASH HTS, NY	50	ENV,ED	COLLEGE BOUND	DIVERSE	URBAN
HARLEM FREEDOM SCHOOL, MAN, BRKLYN	50	ED,H	COLLEGE BOUND	MINORITY	URBAN
ACORN, QUEENS, HARLEM, BRKLYN	50	H,ENV	NON COLL BOUND	MINORITY	URBAN
MPOWER, BALTIMORE MARYLAND	75	ALL	MIX	DIVERSE	URBAN
GREATER PHILADELPHIA URBAN AFFAIRS	150	H	MIX	DIVERSE	URBAN
CITY YEAR, BOSTON	75	ALL	MIX	DIVERSE	URBAN
TUFTS, BOSTON	50	ED	MIX	DIVERSE	URBAN
HANDS ON ATLANTA	50	ED,ENV	MIX	DIVERSE	URBAN
CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY	50	ED	MIX	DIVERSE	URBAN
PINAL GILA, AZ	50	ALL	MIX	DIVERSE	RURAL
RED LAKE BAND, MINNESOTA	50	ENV	NON COLL BOUND	NATIVE AMERICAN	RURAL

1525

\*VIRTUALLY ALL APPLICANTS HAVE MULTIPLE PARTNERS IN THE PROGRAMS

\*\*E=ENVIRONMENT, H=HEALTH, ED=EDUCATION, PS=PUBLIC SAFETY, ALL=COMBINATION OF ALL FOUR

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 30, 1993

NATIONAL SERVICE INITIATIVE

The national service initiative is innovative public policy founded on traditional American values. The initiative will build the American community through a domestic Peace Corps that brings Americans together to tackle pressing problems. It will offer educational opportunity by providing educational awards to hundreds of thousands of Americans who serve our country; and by overhauling the student loan system, to offer EXCEL Accounts and lower interest rates. The initiative will demand personal responsibility by requiring Americans who borrow to repay their loans in one of two ways -- either through service or through repayment plans that make it tougher to default. In all this, the Act will reinvent government -- to unleash the initiative of the American people.

The President's initiative has three basic components:

- **The National Service Trust**, which will establish an innovative, entrepreneurial Corporation for National Service to offer Americans educational awards in return for vital service to our country. The Corporation is designed to cut waste and promote excellence in government, encourage locally driven initiatives, create flexibility for students, and foster competition among programs.
- **EXCEL Accounts**, which will offer all borrowers income contingent repayment plans. The new income contingent repayment plan will allow borrowers to spread their loan payments over a long period of time, reduce defaults, and encourage students to take lower-paying community service jobs.
- **One-Stop Direct Student Loans**, which will save taxpayers billions of dollars in bank subsidies and defaults by replacing private capital with Federal borrowing. Students will receive some of the savings in reduced interest rates and a streamlined "one stop" loan delivery system.

## THE NATIONAL SERVICE TRUST

The National Service initiative will offer an educational award to Americans who do vital work in one of four priority areas: education, human services, environment and public safety. In addition to the trust, the initiative will support a variety of other programs to develop citizenship among all Americans, ranging from elementary school "service-learning" projects to older American volunteer programs.

**1. DIVERSE AND WIDE PARTICIPATION.** The National Service initiative will offer Americans 17 or older opportunities to serve our country before or after college. While contributing millions of hours of service, National Service Trust participants will learn an ethic of civic responsibility. And while communities will recruit, select and place volunteers, a nationwide public awareness campaign will build a common identity for programs, disseminate information widely through college and high school placement offices, and help place a leader corps of participants across the country.

**2. EDUCATIONAL AWARD WITH DIFFERENT USES.** The program will provide those who complete a year of service with a \$5,000 award for college, graduate school or job training. In addition, participants in general will receive a roughly minimum wage stipend, and health and child care, if necessary.

**3. PRESSING COMMUNITY NEEDS.** National service means educating children, helping immunize infants, fighting crime, and stopping pollution. Within the broad priority areas, communities will be able to design programs that meet their own unmet needs. Programs will be designed in ways best suited to local needs, and range from specialized service programs with in-college training and individualized placements; to youth corps offering disadvantaged young people a second chance while they perform invaluable service; to community corps that bring together the young and the old of all economic and racial backgrounds.

**4. REINVENTING GOVERNMENT.** The Commission on National and Community Service and ACTION will be combined in a single government Corporation for National Service. To promote excellence, the Corporation will be governed by a bipartisan Board, offer pay-for-performance to its employees, and raise private funds for the Trust. In addition, the Corporation will establish quality guidelines for all programs. Programs themselves must also set measurable goals and demonstrate success in order to receive continued funding. Within these bounds, local programs will have flexibility to design the best ways to meet their goals. In all instances, no program will be guaranteed funding; all will have to compete for funding.

**5. PARTNERSHIPS.** Programs will match federal assistance with private or other support. State commissions composed of local representatives appointed by governors will work hand in hand with the national Corporation to support service.

## EXCEL ACCOUNTS

The Clinton Administration will make repayment easier and encourage national and community service through EXCEL Accounts. All students will have the opportunity to repay as a percentage of their income over time. The EXCEL Account will make such "income-contingent" loans available for the first time. The EXCEL Account offers students offers Americans the chance to invest in their education and training and to pay back their loans as they start to reap the benefits.

**1. FLEXIBLE AND UNIVERSAL LOANS:** The EXCEL Account makes college and training accessible to all students, and to allow students the maximum flexibility in paying back their loans.

**2. ENDING CRUSHING DEBT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE STARTING THEIR CAREERS:** Currently our education system often makes young people pay large amounts of debt just at the moment when young people have their lowest earning potential and the hardest time finding jobs. The EXCEL Account allows a young person the ability to pay a set percentage of income, so that repayment is proportionate to income.

**3. ENCOURAGE NATIONAL SERVICE:** Too many of our young people are discouraged from taking lower paying jobs as teachers or police officers because they face large fixed monthly payments. The EXCEL Accounts will encourage national and community service by ensuring that young people will not have to pay an exceptionally high percentage of their income simply because they have chosen jobs where their service to their communities exceeds the size of their paychecks. The EXCEL Account will, for example, make it far easier for a recent medical school graduate -- who normally would have high fixed monthly loans -- to spend a few years serving lower-income communities without facing a crushing debt burden.

**4. ENCOURAGE ENTREPRENEURSHIP:** Our current loan system can discourage entrepreneurial behavior. Where a young person out of school faces fixed student loan costs, that creates a disincentive to take high risks -- like entrepreneurial activity -- where a person may make little money in the short-term in pursuit of larger rewards in the future. Allowing repayments based on income eliminates these disincentives to take risk.

**5. LOWER DEFAULT RATES:** Because EXCEL Accounts will determine loan payments on the basis of IRS verified incomes, they will dramatically reduce default rates by ensuring that anyone who works pays, and by not forcing borrowers into default simply because they experience a period of unemployment.

## ONE-STOP DIRECT STUDENT LOANS

This initiative -- the Student Loan Reform Act of 1993 --proposes important reforms in the student loan system, which will provide one-stop shopping for student loans, reduce borrowing costs for students, and save taxpayers billions of dollars.

- 1. USING FEDERAL CAPITAL:** Because the federal government can borrow money at a lower interest rate than can the private sector, using federal capital saves taxpayers billions of dollars in high subsidies to banks and other private lenders.
- 2. SAVINGS:** The Congressional Budget Office, the General Accounting Office, and the Department of Education have all found that direct lending will save billions of dollars over the next four years, even after transition costs. Students will benefit from these savings in the form of reduced interest rates.
- 3. FLEXIBLE REPAYMENT OPTIONS:** Students will have a variety of flexible repayment options designed to ease repayment, avoid defaults and encourage community service, including the new EXCEL Accounts, which will provide the opportunity for students to repay loans as a percentage of income over time.
- 4. STREAMLINED DELIVERY:** Direct lending simplifies the current complicated maze of financial aid for students and parents by cutting down on the number of middlemen and procedures in the current system. Most students will receive all of their financial assistance through one stop at existing college financial aid offices.
- 5. INSTITUTIONS AS ORIGINATORS:** Willing and able institutions will make (or "originate") loans directly to students on campus, and will receive a fee for providing this service. No school, however, will be forced to originate loans. Institutions that do not originate loans will be provided the services of alternative originators, selected and paid for by the Department of Education. No institutions will service or collect these student loans.
- 6. THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S ROLE:** The Department of Education will oversee an orderly transition to the new system, and monitor the new program. The Department is already working on several initiatives, including the development of a National Student Loan Data System, to improve its oversight capabilities and ensure a smooth transition to direct lending. The Department will contract with public or private entities, on a fee-for-service basis, to provide alternative origination and to service and collect loans.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 30, 1993

OUTLINE OF LEGISLATION

**NATIONAL SERVICE INITIATIVE**

President Clinton's national service program will expand educational opportunity, reward individual responsibility, and build the American community by bringing citizens together to tackle common problems. The President's support for service extends from the youngest elementary students to our oldest citizens, and includes everything from part-time volunteer activities to full-time public service jobs.

The centerpiece of the President's initiative to support service is a new program to offer educational awards to Americans who make a substantial commitment to service. In addition to this program, which builds on the youth corps and demonstration programs of the National and Community Service Act of 1990, the National Service Trust Act includes:

- Extension and improvement of programs in the National and Community Service Act of 1990 that enhance elementary and secondary education through community service in schools, support after-school and summer programs for school-age youth, and fund service programs on college campuses.
- Support for the Points of Light Foundation, to support volunteerism.
- Extension and improvement of VISTA and the Older American Volunteer Programs authorized by the Domestic Volunteer Service Act.
- Creation of a new Investment Fund for Quality and Innovation to support model service programs and activities designed to ensure the development of high quality national service programs.

## **NATIONAL SERVICE TRUST ACT**

### **Focus of Service**

- National service must address unmet educational, environmental, human, or public safety needs. National priorities may be established within these areas.
- National service must improve the life of the participants, through citizenship education and training.
- Participants may not displace or duplicate the functions of existing workers.

### **Corporation for National Service**

#### *Structure*

- The national service program will be administered by a new government Corporation for National Service, created by combining two existing independent federal agencies, the Commission on National and Community Service and ACTION.
- The corporation will be responsible for administering all programs authorized under the National and Community Service Act and Domestic Volunteer Service Act, including VISTA and the Older American Volunteer Programs. The Corporation will also fund training and technical assistance, service clearinghouses and other activities.
- The investment division of the corporation will administer the new trust program and programs currently administered by the Commission on National and Community Service.
- The operating division will administer programs currently run by the ACTION agency, including VISTA and the Older American Volunteer Programs.
- Flexible and quality-driven personnel policies will include pay-for-performance and a 5-year limit on most tenures.
- The Corporation may solicit and accept private funds.

#### *Governance*

- The corporation will have an eleven-member volunteer Board of Directors appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. It will be bipartisan and include persons experienced in national service and experts in providing educational, environmental, human, or public safety service.
- The first Board members will be appointed primarily from the Board of Directors of the Commission on National and Community Service. Seven Cabinet secretaries will serve as non-voting ex-officio members.

- The Board will develop the corporation's strategic plan, approve grant decisions, review other policy and personnel decisions, receive and act on reports from the Inspector General, supervise evaluations, and advise the Corporation on all issues.

- A Chairperson of the Board and a Managing Director for each division will be full-time employees appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

#### *Oversight*

- An Inspector General will oversee programs to guard against fraud and abuse.

- Programs must arrange for independent audits and evaluations, and may also be required to participate in national or state evaluations.

### **State Commissions**

#### *Structure*

- In order to receive a grant, each state must establish a commission on national service. The corporation will provide funding for the state commission.

- Commissions will have members appointed by the governors on a bipartisan basis from among the following: youth, educators, representatives of youth corps, older American volunteer programs, and other nonprofit service providers, labor, business, and experts in meeting particular unmet needs. No more than 25 percent of voting members may be state officials, although additional state agency representatives may sit on the commissions as non-voting ex-officio members. Commissions will elect their own chair.

- A representative of the corporation will sit on each commission as a voting member and act as liaison between the commission and the corporation.

#### *Duties*

- State commissions will be responsible for selecting programs to be funded under the state formula allocation, and in any competitive grant states may request.

- State commissions must also design strategic plans for service in the states, recruit participants, and disseminate information about service opportunities.

- State commissions may also support clearinghouses, training and technical assistance, and other initiatives to support service. They may not operate national service programs, but may use a portion of funds to support programs run by state agencies.

#### *Transition*

- For a period of one year, existing state agencies may assume the responsibility of the state commissions.

- The Corporation may approve an alternative agency in place of a commission at a state's request, if the agency ensures diverse participation in policy making.

### **Allocation of Funds**

- States submitting plans approved by the Corporation will receive one-third of funds according to a population-based formula and one-third on a competitive basis.
- One-third of funds will be allocated directly by the corporation. Programs eligible for priority consideration include federal programs, national nonprofit organizations operating multiple programs or competitive grant programs, national service initiatives in more than one state and meeting priority needs, proposals to replicate successful programs in more than one state, professional corps, and innovative national service programs.

### **Programs**

#### *Goals*

- Programs must set measurable goals regarding the impact of the service on the community and on participants.

#### *Eligibility*

- Programs eligible for national service designation include diverse community corps, youth corps, specialized service programs focusing on a specific community need, individual placement programs, campus-based service programs, programs that train and place service-learning coordinators in schools or team leaders in corps programs, intergenerational programs, national service entrepreneurship programs, and professional corps.
- Programs may be run by non-profit organizations, institutions of higher education, local governments, school districts, states, or federal agencies.
- Programs may not provide direct benefits to for-profit businesses, labor unions, or partisan political organizations, or involve participants in religious activities.

#### *Selection*

- Selection criteria include quality (based on criteria developed in consultation with experts in the field), innovation, sustainability, and replicability of programs.
- Past experience and management skills of program leadership, involvement of participants in leadership roles, and the extent to which the program builds on existing programs will also be taken into account.
- Programs serving and recruiting participants from communities of need, including those designated as enterprise zones, community redevelopment areas, areas with high poverty

rates, environmentally distressed areas, and communities adversely affected by decreased defense spending will also receive special consideration.

### *Funding*

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

## **Participants**

### *Eligibility*

- Individuals may serve before, during, or after post-secondary education.
- In general, participants may be age 17 or older. Youth corps participants may be age 16 or older.
- Participants must be high school graduates or agree to achieve their GED prior to receiving educational awards.

### *Selection*

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

### *Term of Service*

- To earn an educational award, a participant one year of full-time or two years of part-time service in a program designated by a state or the federal government. An individual may serve up to two terms and earn up to two educational awards.

### *Educational Awards*

- Educational awards of \$5,000 will be provided for a term of service. Educational awards may be used to repay loans for higher education or to pay for higher education or training.
- Educational awards will be federally funded and deposited into a national service trust on behalf of all participants accepted into the program. Organizations and individuals may donate funds to support national service participants in the donor's community.
- Payments will be made directly to qualified post-secondary educational institutions, including two- and four-year colleges, training programs, and graduate or professional programs.
- In the case of participants with outstanding loan obligations for qualified educational activities, awards will be paid directly to lenders.
- Awards will not be taxable and must be used within five years of receipt.

### *Stipends*

- Programs will set stipends within program guidelines. However, federal support will be limited to a match of 85 percent of an annual stipend equivalent to benefits received by VISTA volunteers. Programs may provide additional stipends up to twice this amount, with no federal match for the portion of the stipend in excess of the VISTA benefit.
- In the limited case of designated professional corps in areas of great need, such as teaching and public safety in underserved areas, participants may be paid a salary in excess of the guidelines and receive an educational award. However, no federal support will be available for a stipend.

### *Health and Child Care*

- All participants without access to health insurance will receive health coverage. Federal dollars will pay up to 85 percent of the cost of these benefits.
- Participants may receive child care assistance, if needed.

## Serve-America

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

### Service-Learning Program

#### *Program Goals*

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

#### *Types of Programs*

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

#### *Types of Funding*

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

#### *Training and Technical Assistance*

- Clearinghouses will be expanded to further enable them to disseminate information and curriculum materials; train teachers, service sponsors and participants; and provide needs assessments or technical assistance.

- States will also receive additional resources to train and educate state educational personnel.

#### Community-based Program for School-Age Youth

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

#### Higher Education Innovative Projects

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

### **Extension of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973**

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

#### VISTA

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

### Special Volunteer Programs

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

### Older American Volunteer Programs

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

### Administration

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