

FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an
administrative marker by the William J. Clinton
Presidential Library Staff.**

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Americorps

Series/Staff Member: General Files

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 24223

FolderID:

Folder Title:

Federal Agencies: OMB [Office of Management and Budget]

Stack:
S

Row:
66

Section:
1

Shelf:
4

Position:
1

(File) OMB

April 10, 1995

To: Steve Selby

From: Joel Berg

JB

4 pages, including this cover

OMB ask us to respond, from USDA's perspective, to the attached sheet from what appears to be a House G.O.P. budget document.

Let me know if you want any changes in our response.

SETTING PRIORITIES

Eliminate LIHEAP (\$7.227 billion over five years)

LIHEAP (the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program) was created in 1981 as a temporary means of assisting low-income households in meeting increased home heating costs resulting from dramatic energy price increases in the late 1970s. Since 1981, however, real prices of household fuels have declined by 22 percent. Electricity prices are at pre-1974 levels, natural gas prices have fallen to pre-1980 levels, and fuel oil prices have declined to pre-1975 levels. Thus the emergency that led to LIHEAP has abated.

It should be noted that LIHEAP payments go to utility companies, not to individuals.

Reduce the Corporation for National and Community Service — National Community Service Act and Domestic Volunteer Service Programs (\$681 million over five years)

If the point of this program is to assist low-income people to attend college, there are already programs for doing this more efficiently. There is no need to establish another bureaucracy. This proposal would limit the program to 25,000 participants.

The President called for 47,000 participants leading to a goal of 100,000.

Reduce Impact Aid Payments for Federal Property (\$66 million over five years)

These payments are made to local education agencies without regard to the presence of children of families employed on federal installations. The President has not requested funding for this program for FY 1996 and the Appropriations Committee rescinded the funds for FY 1995.

USDA Response to the AmeriCorps reference in document entitled:

"Setting Priorities"

The documents states the following:

"If the point of this program is to assist low-income people to attend college, there are already programs doing this more efficiently. There is no need to establish another bureaucracy."

The above statement is false on two accounts. First, AmeriCorps is pointedly **not** a program targeted just to low-income Americans and it does **not** exist simply to allow citizens to attend college. Second, AmeriCorps does not establish another bureaucracy. While both descriptions incorrectly characterize the entire AmeriCorps program, they are particularly incorrect in characterizing the USDA AmeriCorps program.

The USDA/AmeriCorps Program is For All Americans, Not Just the Poor

The USDA AmeriCorps program is open to all United States citizens, not just those from low-income families. President Clinton vigorously opposed, and the previous Congress overwhelmingly rejected, an amendment to target targeted AmeriCorps benefits to solely individuals from low-income families. In fact, most USDA Members are from middle income families, who are ineligible for many other forms of student aid.

The USDA/AmeriCorps Program Accomplishes Many Critical Goals

While the USDA AmeriCorps program certainly does allow Americans from all backgrounds to help finance their post-secondary, it accomplishes many other goals simultaneously: getting things done, building community, promoting personal responsibility, and expanding opportunity. The USDA projects focus on fighting hunger, protecting the environment, and re-building rural America. These projects have all produced concrete, measurable results that have dramatically improved the quality of life --- and thus garnered broad, bi-partisan local support --- in rural and urban communities throughout the nation.

The USDA/AmeriCorps Program Focuses on Results, Not Bureaucracy

THE USDA/AmeriCorps program --- managed in Washington by only three full-time employees --- has not created a new bureaucracy. In addition, AmeriCorps Members are not Federal employees and they are not routinely performing USDA office work. Rather, AmeriCorps Members are performing service that meets critical community needs, but which our agency does not now have the resources to meet. In many cases, our Members are not even working directly in Federal offices, but are working for county and state agencies and local non-profit organizations. Moreover, the service projects were not designed or implemented in Washington -- all our projects are locally-proposed and locally-administered. Each project is filling needs determined as most critical by each individual community.

USDA provides seed money -- sometimes the bulk of the funds in this first year of AmeriCorps operation -- but also, as rightfully mandated by the National and Community Service Act of 1993, requires matching money from all sub-grantees. In effect, the USDA is acting as a venture capitalist by funding the best local proposals and providing a general structural framework and philosophical guidelines which local groups can follow while meeting their own local needs.

Rather than trying to directly provide service ourselves out of Washington, USDA has empowered local communities by providing them with the resources to solve their own problems.

USDA has erased the artificial boundaries between itself and other Federal Departments working in similar areas by partnering on AmeriCorps projects at the local level with Department of Interior in California, the Environmental Protection Agency in Maine, the Department of Education in Oregon, and the Department of Energy in Minnesota.

Focusing on many of the Department Of Agriculture's multiple missions, the USDA/AmeriCorps program fulfills the goals of key initiatives pushed by the Clinton Administration such, as:

The USDA/AmeriCorps program is requiring specific performance measures for each and every site that are agreed upon before the project starts and are measured and evaluated at quarterly intervals throughout the year. While it is sometimes difficult and painful to measure concrete and specific accomplishments every few months, such measurements are a cornerstone of the Department's program.

(File)
omb circulars



To: Project Directors of
AmeriCorps National Direct Grants

AmeriCorps National Service

From: Michael J. Arthur *MJA*
Grants Officer

CORPORATION
FOR NATIONAL
SERVICE

Re: OMB Circulars

Date: November 1, 1994

Attached are the following OMB Circulars: A-21, A-110, A-122, and A-133.

The OMB Circulars mentioned above describe the federal requirements for the administration of federal grant funds. Below is a summary of the required OMB Circulars for each type of organization receiving federal funding:

Nonprofit organizations. The following circulars apply to nonprofit organizations:

- i. OMB Circular A-110, Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals and Other Nonprofit Organizations.
- ii. OMB Circular A-122, Cost Principles for Nonprofit Organizations.
- iii. OMB Circular A-133, Audits of Institutions of Higher Learning and Other Nonprofit Institutions.

Educational institutions. The following circulars apply to educational institutions:

- i. OMB Circular A-110, Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals and Other Nonprofit Organizations.
- ii. OMB Circular A-21, Cost Principles for Educational Institutions.
- iii. OMB Circular A-133, Audits of Institutions of Higher Learning and Other Nonprofit Institutions.

Should you have any questions about the OMB Circulars, please call the Grants Officer Liaison specified in your Corporation Cooperative Agreement.

1100 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20525
Telephone 202-606-5000
Fax 202-606-4906

Getting Things Done.
AmeriCorps, National Service
Learn and Serve America
National Senior Service Corps