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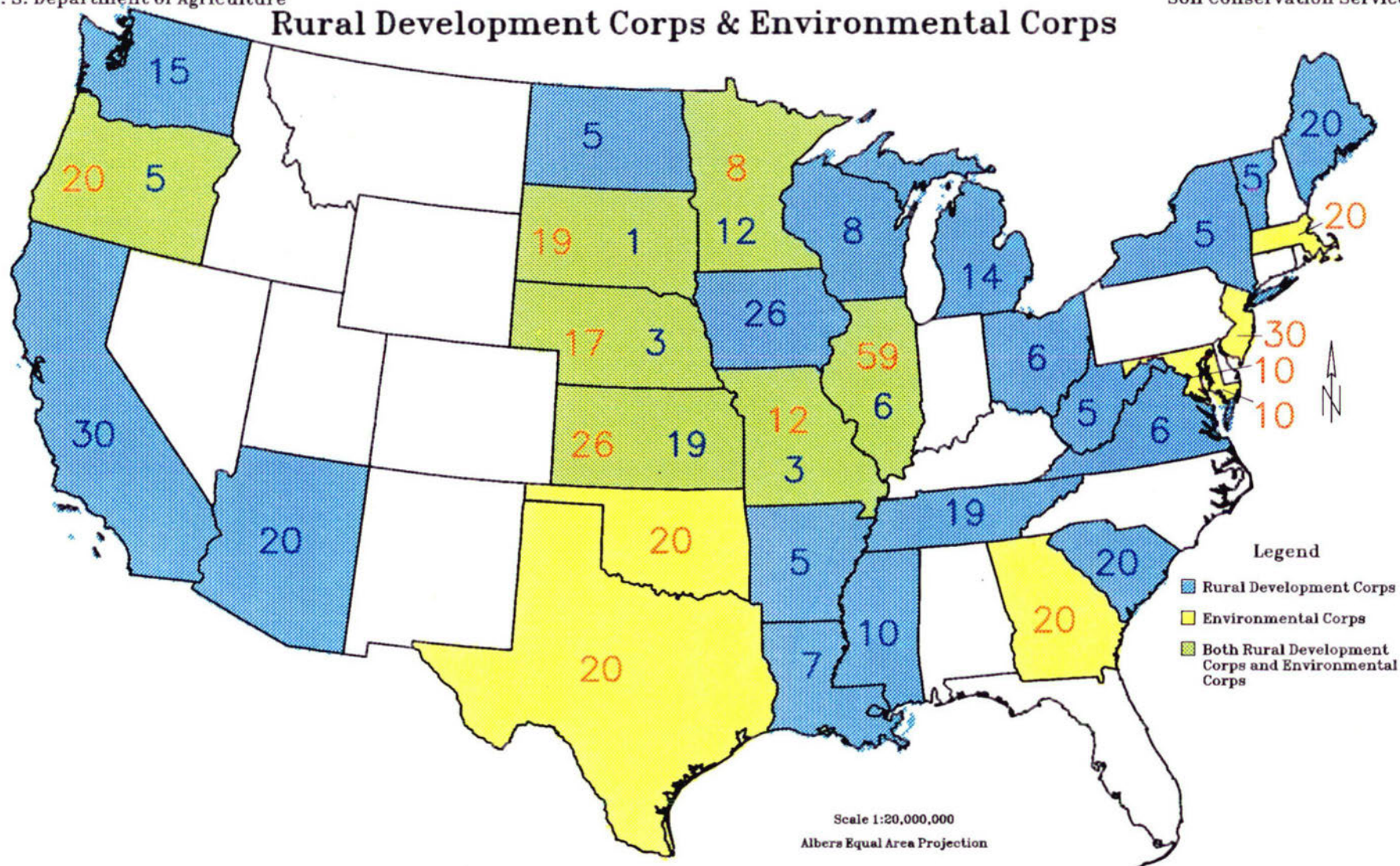
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Rural Development Corps & Environmental Corps



FACT SHEET ON THE STATUS OF FUTURE USDA-SPONSORED AMERICORPS PROJECTS

In both the 1994-1995 program year and the 1995-1996 program year, USDA sponsored community-based AmeriCorps projects throughout the country that fought hunger, protected the environment, and boosted rural community development. In both program years, the projects were supported by four sources of funding:

- 1) Corporation for National Service (CNS) funding paid for educational awards for AmeriCorps Members that successfully completed the program; *none of these funds were ever transferred to USDA* --- they went into a trust fund that will eventually pay the lending and/or educational institutions of AmeriCorps graduates.
- 2) CNS funds were granted from CNS to USDA, which USDA, in turn, sub-granted to local AmeriCorps projects, especially to five anti-hunger projects; the total amount of these funds were minimal compared to the overall cost of the USDA program.
- 3) USDA utilized money from the Department's own appropriated funds; USDA used funds from a variety of agencies to support AmeriCorps projects that provided critical community services in areas related to the broad mission areas of those agencies.
- 4) State and local governments and private sector organizations provided matching funds; in the 1994-1995 program year, non-Federal sources provided \$1.7 million in funding to USDA-sponsored AmeriCorps projects.

In a compromise brokered between CNS head Harris Wofford and Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA), a leading critic of the program, CNS will no longer make grants of operating funds to Federal agencies. This deal compromise codified by the appropriations language governing CNS. Some of those critics who agreed to the compromise may have believed, incorrectly, that they eliminated CNS's legal ability to allow USDA to continue to sponsor AmeriCorps projects. In fact, neither the compromise nor the appropriations language restricted CNS' legal ability to continue to allow AmeriCorps Members sponsored by USDA to receive educational awards.

The only legal result of the compromise is that it eliminated AmeriCorps funding source #2 --- operating funds transferred from CNS to USDA. The few projects that were most dependent on this source of funding --- the five anti-hunger projects --- banded together as a consortium under the umbrella of the non-profit Congressional Hunger Center to successfully apply for funding directly from CNS. However, the over 1,000 remaining USDA sponsored AmeriCorps positions focused on environmental protection and rural development would be eliminated entirely if CNS could not continue to sign a cooperative agreement with USDA in which the Department would continue to use its own appropriated funds to support these projects. **These projects --- many of which are the only significant AmeriCorps presence in rural areas of their states --- would end if USDA's involvement in AmeriCorps was terminated. Most state commissions on national service have neither the available funds nor the technical expertise to continue these projects on their own.**

Under the current appropriations language governing CNS, while CNS can no longer transfer operating funds (source #2) to USDA, it may sign a cooperative agreement with the Department to allow USDA-sponsored educational awards funded by source #1. Under this arrangement, USDA would still be able to spend its own funds (source #3) and USDA AmeriCorps projects would still be able to obtain state, local and private funds (source #4).

Thus, CNS still has the *legal* ability to sign an agreement with USDA to sponsor AmeriCorps projects with funds provided by USDA and non-Federal sources. Under this condition, USDA-sponsored AmeriCorps Members would still have the legal ability to receive educational awards from the CNS. However, even though both agencies have the legal ability to ensure that USDA can continue to run an AmeriCorps program, the Department and CNS are seeking to reach a bi-partisan *policy* consensus with key leaders in Congress that USDA will do so. The Department wants to be sure that no critics of AmeriCorps believe that either CNS or USDA have, in essence, "broken the deal" regarding Federal agency programs.

Consequently, both USDA and CNS are seeking at least tacit approval from Senator Christopher S. (Kit) Bond of Missouri, the Chairperson of the Senate VA/HUD appropriations sub-committee that funds CNS, to support a compromise in which USDA would no longer receive operating awards from CNS but in which USDA would still be able to spend its own already-appropriated funds on AmeriCorps, and in which USDA-sponsored AmeriCorps Members would still be able to receive educational awards funded by CNS.

LEGEND

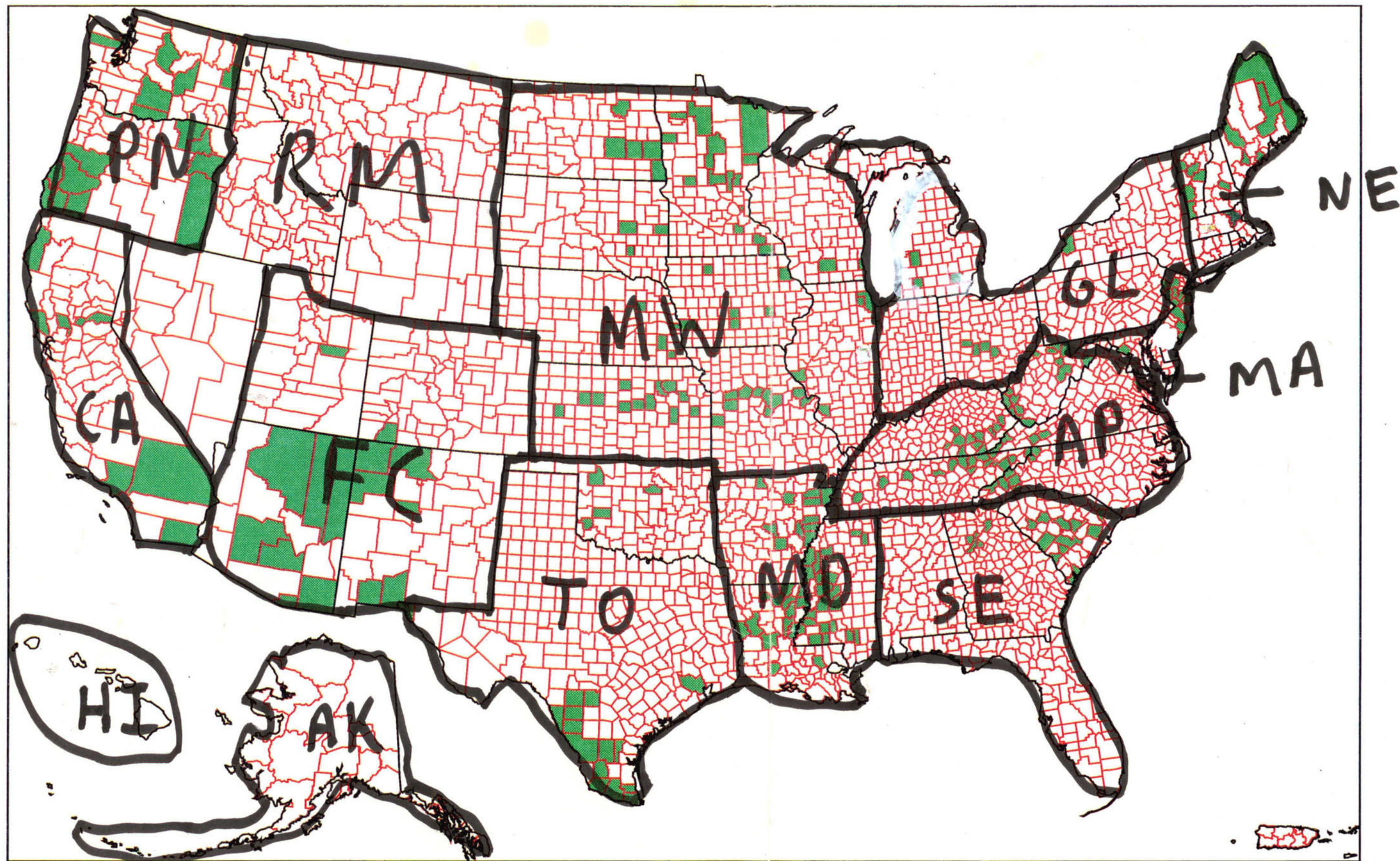
- AUTHORIZED AREAS
- APPLICATIONS

ABBREVIATIONS:

- C.C. = CHESTATEE-CHATTAHOOCHEE GA
- C.G.L. = CUMBERLAND GREEN LAKES KY
- G.C. = GWINNETT COUNTY GA
- H.H.H. = HISTORIC HOOSIER HILLS IN
- H.M. = HUDSON-MOHAWK NY
- L.H. = LINCOLN HILLS IN
- L.K. = LITTLE KANAWHA WV
- L.R.V. = LICKING RIVER VALLEY KY
- L.V. = LIMESTONE VALLEY GA
- M.V. = MOUNTAIN VALLEY NC
- N.P. = NORTHERN PANHANDLE WV
- S.C.P. = SOUTH CENTRAL PIEDMONT NC
- S.W.N.C. = SOUTHWESTERN NORTH CAROLINA NC
- T.B. = THOROUGHBRID KY

REVISÉD JULY 1992 1000303-06

COUNTIES WITH USDA AMERICORPS PROJECTS



Regions For Recruitment Coding

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CORPORATION FOR
NATIONAL
AND
COMMUNITY
SERVICE

*Administrative
Issues*

July 21, 1994

TO: Ron De Munbrun
FR: Terry Russell
RE: Federal Agency Administrative Issues

I have reviewed your recent draft memorandum addressing common administrative issues that will arise as the Federal agencies go forward with the implementation of AmeriCorps programs. In my view, it is an excellent starting point for beginning to resolve the important issues that the agencies will face; particularly, I agree fully that the establishment of some sort of interagency task force or working group will be critical in avoiding duplication of effort and taking advantage of the inherent opportunities to achieve economies of scale.

The specific numbered points that you raised in your memo seemed either to raise questions or to identify issues that will need to be resolved among the agencies. In this memorandum, I answer each of the questions that you raised to the best of my ability. (The numbers of the questions are taken from your memo.) The issues you have identified are important — if they are not addressed by a Federal agency task force they will need to be in some other forum — but I do not discuss them further here.

(1) What is the life span of the funds that would be transferred?

Your concern is that USDA would not be able expend funds during FY 95 if those funds were transferred in FY 94. As we discussed, the general requirement that agencies obligate appropriated fiscal moneys by the end of a given fiscal year will not restrict USDA's ability to expend a Corporation grant in the following fiscal year(s). The Corporation's FY 1994 grant funds were appropriated by Congress to the Corporation to remain available until September 30, 1995. In addition, once they have been obligated (e.g., transferred to USDA for the purpose of carrying out an AmeriCorps program), those funds are governed solely according to the specific and general conditions of the transfer agreement.

(2) Is just receiving the education award for each participant sufficient to allow conveyance of the authorities in the Trust Act?

Section 121(b)(1) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 12571(b)(1)) states that "the Corporation may enter into a contract or cooperative agreement with another Federal agency to support a national service program carried out by the agency. The support . . . may include the transfer . . . of funds."

It would be impossible for the Corporation to enter into such a contract or agreement if Federal agencies were not authorized to undertake the activities necessary to operate a national service program. Therefore, Congress clearly intended this provision to authorize federal agencies to carry out national service programs. Federal agencies may carry out national service programs themselves directly, or, "in an appropriate case, enter into a contract or cooperative agreement with an entity that is carrying out a national service program in a State" (42 U.S.C. 12571(b)(4)). Moreover, because the statutory language states that Corporation support "may include" the

transfer of funds, it is implicit that it also may not include the transfer of funds. If funds to support these programs do not come from the Corporation, they must come from the Federal agency. Congress, therefore, must have intended for Federal agencies to be able to use appropriated moneys to carry out national service programs, regardless of whether such programs receive monetary support from the Corporation. This, of course, is further strengthened if the Corporation pays the post-service education award from the Trust.

(3) Can for-profit organizations be partners in a national service program run by a federal department?

Yes. There is no specific statutory provision allowing for for-profit organizations to be partners in AmeriCorps program. On the other hand, there is no prohibition against it, and there are numerous statutory provisions that imply it should be allowed, as well as a number of common-sense reasons.

First, there are safeguards. The statute provides that Corporation funds and national service positions received by an AmeriCorps program may not be used to "provide a direct benefit to any business organized for profit" (42 U.S.C. 12584(a)). Second, under the K-12 service-learning subtitle, for-profit businesses are specifically included as eligible partners for local education agency programs. Finally, one of the four main statutorily established selection criteria is the sustainability of the program, "based on such evidence as the existence of strong and broad-based community support for the program and of multiple funding sources or private funding for the program" (42 U.S.C. 12584(c)(3)). A strong partnership with a for-profit business would certainly lend itself to the long-term sustainability of a program. (And, one could argue, private financial support from businesses in and of itself is a form of partnership.) For all these reasons, the Corporation has not only allowed but actively encouraged AmeriCorps programs to develop partnerships with a variety of community partnerships including businesses. An AmeriCorps program run by a Federal agency is no different from other AmeriCorps programs in this respect.

(4) Are USDA State Extension Offices considered a Federal agency or are they eligible to propose projects through their state national service commissions to be funded by that portion of the Corporation's Funds reserved for States.

You are in a better position than me to answer whether the extension offices are part of the USDA. If they are, they would not be eligible to apply to the State Commissions (although they could form partnerships with local eligible applicants). If they are not, they would be eligible to apply either through USDA (as a Federal agency subgrant) or to the State Commissions.

(5) What is the relationship of a national service participant doing work on public land and the Davis-Bacon Act? Is the total funding for the program the determining factor that triggers Davis-Bacon(\$2000)?

To be discussed later.

(6) To what extent can USDA provide technical assistance to AmeriCorps programs?

Our Act does not authorize Federal agencies to carry out technical assistance activities *per se*. However, it implicitly authorizes Federal agencies to provide technical assistance to programs they would operate or support. As discussed above in question 2, Federal agencies are authorized to carry out programs. Since technical assistance is necessary to carry out programs, they must be allowed to provide technical assistance to the programs they carry out. They are not, however, authorized under our Act to provide technical assistance to programs (or prospective programs) that would receive AmeriCorps program support from sources other than the Federal agencies.

(10) Can USDA employees and their immediate family members be excluded from applying for positions in AmeriCorps programs?

The Corporation has no guidelines on this. It would be governed by USDA's rules on nepotism.

(11) Can USDA enter into a MOU with the Peace Corps to assist in recruitment?

Yes.

(12) How are participants treated with respect to liability since they are not government employees?

USDA will need to obtain an insurance policy that provides liability protection to participants. Chuck Tremper and the Non-profit Risk Management Center are doing work in this area for the Corporation.

(13) If a participant is released for cause can that participant be replaced? Would the replaced participant receive a prorated share of the post-service education award?

A program may fill a position left vacant due to attrition only within the first six weeks of the operation of the program. A participant released for cause may not receive any portion of the education award.

(14) Do participants need government driver's licenses to drive government cars?

Yes. No government car can be legally driven without one.

(18) Is the participant eligible to be paid for holidays? When an individual reaches 1700 hours of service, how are they terminated? Is the \$7660 based on an hourly wage? Is \$7660 divided by 1700 to determine the hourly wage and hence the weekly pay? How is absenteeism handled?

(19) If participants are paid for holidays do those hours count toward the 1700 total or are they tacked on? Are they paid for sick days? Do the sick days count toward the 1700 total or are they tacked on?

The Corporation's position is that there is not and should not be an hard link between hours served and the amount of the living allowance. Rather, there are two general requirements: full-time participants must serve at least 1700 hours over a period of between nine months and one year, and they must (with a few exceptions) receive a living allowance of between about \$7600 and \$15,200. Only hours actually served (including up to 20% in training and education) will count toward the minimum 1700. Because some terms of service may exceed the minimum 1700 hours, participants should not necessarily be terminated upon completion of 1700 hours. Beyond that, we have not provided any guidance on how sicknesses, vacations, etc. should be handled. Those are issues that the USDA or a Federal agency task force would have to address. My recommendation, however, is as follows:

Since the amount of the living allowance is very little — really not much more than participants will need to cover basic expenses — it seems to make sense to distribute it evenly over the course of the term on either a weekly or bi-weekly basis. Tying the amount of a living allowance disbursement to the number of hours would not only be more difficult administratively but could create serious liquidity problems for participants who become sick. Vacations could be scheduled into the term of service such that the participants would still be able to easily complete

the 1700 hours. Participants who are ill for a period of time long enough to preclude the possibility of completing the minimum number of hours could have their service suspended and finish at a later time according to the guidelines set forth in our regulations.

(20) Certification of successful completion of a term of service. What form is to be used? Who is authorized to complete it? Where are the copies maintained? at the individual project site, the headquarters of the agency?

The Office of the National Service Trust at the Corporation will keep computerized records of all participants. The Trust has developed forms that will need to be completed by the participant and certified by the project director. These forms include, at the beginning of the term of service, a participant enrollment and a Trust enrollment form. Upon completion of a term of service (or if a participant is released early or suspended) project directors will need to submit a change of status form.

FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS/INDEPENDENT AGENCIES
AMERICORPS PROGRAMS
DIRECT APPLICATION

RESP.	STEP	ACTION	ASSIGNED TO	DUE	COMPLETED
	OVERVIEW Of the 49 million dollars available under this program, up to 16 million is reserved for award to Federal agencies. Federal Departments/Independent Agencies may apply for: * Funds to plan national service programs; * Operating funds to establish, expand or replication national service programs and educational awards to be provided to participants who successfully complete a term of service; or, * Educational awards only. Federal Departments/Independent Agencies may apply individually or they may enter into partnerships or participate in consortia consisting of other Federal Agencies, Indian Tribes, subdivisions of States, community-based agencies, institutions of higher education, or other non-profit organizations. NOTE: In accordance with Americorps regulations, agencies, bureaus, divisions, field offices that are part of a Cabinet-level department are eligible to participate but they must submit their applications as a project which forms part of their Department's single application. There are three basic types of grants: * Planning grants; * Operating grants; and, * Educational awards.				

RESP.	STEP	ACTION	ASSIGNED TO	DUE	COMPLETED
	APPLICATION GUIDELINES				
	MULTI-PROGRAM APPLICATION PACKAGES				
	NOTE: AmeriCorps has strict limits on the size of the application packages they will accept. For this reason, the number of allowable pages is listed along side of the requirement. These limits must be adhered to for the application to be acceptable. Except where a form is to be completed all application information should be done using WordPerfect 5.1, double spaced, and in Times Roman 12 point font. The font should remain the same through out the application material done in WordPerfect. The letter C appearing in the "RESP." column means that the USDA national service coordinator is responsible for preparing that portion of the application. The letter A appearing in the "RESP." column means that the USDA agency proposing the program is responsible for completing a first draft of that portion of the application. The draft will be re-worked with the USDA national service coordinator, if necessary.				
C	1. Aggregate Title Page (one page)	Complete the provided form.			
C	2. Aggregate Table of Contents (one page)	Provide the page numbers of each item requested in the application format.			
C	3. Aggregate Application Summary (one page)	In one page provide an overview of the following:			
C		The specific needs to be met, particularly as they relate to the National priorities in the four issue areas (Education, Public Safety, Human Needs, and Environment);			
C		Key elements of the program design;			
C		Recruitment goals, including the percentage of participants to be drawn from the national recruitment system, if any; and,			
C		Description of the administering organization and identification of primary program partners.			
C	4. Aggregate Program and Mission Objectives (one page)	Complete the provided form.			
C	5. Aggregate Program Narrative (25 pages)	This section is intended to elicit an overall description of the applicant's proposal and using no more than 25 pages should include the following information.			

RESP.	STEP	ACTION	ASSIGNED TO	DUE	COMPLETED
C	(a) <u>Areas to be served, need(s) to be met and appropriateness for national service.</u> Identify the nature of the specific need(s), in the aggregate, to be met by the proposed national service program, including how and why these needs are appropriately or uniquely addressed by a multi-state national service program.				
C		<u>Geographic Area(s).</u> What geographic areas will be served by the program? What was the process used to select the program sites, including who was involved and what was the manner of their involvement?			
C		<u>Needs.</u> What specific need(s), in the aggregate, will the program address and how do these needs relate to the national priorities? If they do not relate to the national priority areas, please explain why they were selected.			
C		<u>Needs Identification Process.</u> What was the process by which the needs were identified? Who was involved in identifying the needs? To what extent were residents of the community in which the service will be provided involved in the needs assessment activities?			
C	(b) <u>Program Design.</u> Describe the concept of the program, including a discussion of how the proposed activities build on your institutional mission and goals.				
C		<u>Program Concept.</u> What is the basic concept for the design of the Program? How will the program be structured? Where will it be located? Describe any institutional or programmatic collaborations or partnerships that will be involved in operating the program, including the extent to which the program builds on existing infrastructures.			

RESP.	STEP	ACTION	ASSIGNED TO	DUE	COMPLETED
C		<u>Common Program Elements.</u> What activities will the participants engage in, and how do these projects or activities result in direct, measurable service that addressed the identified needs? If possible, describe a typical week in the life of program participants, giving concrete examples of the types of activities or duties participants will perform. How are the individual programs connected through common program elements or activities, including participant training, in-service education, or service-learning curriculum employed to improve participants' skills, prepare them for placement, and foster positive civic values? What will be the principal applicant's role in placing, training, and matching participants with assignments, and orienting and preparing sponsors or host-sites for that placement?			
C		<u>Multi-State Strategy.</u> How do each of the proposed programs relate to one another? How do they support an overall strategy to meet specific needs in the communities in which the programs will operate?			
C	(c) <u>Participant profile, recruitment strategy, and benefits.</u> Provide an aggregate description of the total number and type (full- or part-time) of participants to be recruited in the program, including the expected characteristics, attributes or skills of participants and describe the benefits these participants will receive.				

RESP.	STEP	ACTION	ASSIGNED TO	DUE	COMPLETED
C		<u>Number and Characteristics of Participants.</u> What are the expected number and characteristics of participants, including racial or ethnic background, socioeconomic status, gender and educational attainment? If the program will recruit fewer than 20 participants, please explain why this small number is appropriate to the purpose and design of the program. What will be your role in achieving the desired number and characteristics of participants through recruitment and selection? If appropriate, describe outreach, recruitment, and selection strategies. Any discussion of participant selection should include a description of selection criteria (including minimum qualifications for participants) and whether any participants will be drawn from the national recruitment system.			
C		<u>Participant Benefits.</u> What benefits will participants receive? Describe the amount of the living allowance provided to each participant. Describe how national service educational awards will be apportioned among program participants, (if not provided to all participants). Describe any alternative post-service benefits that might be used.			
C	(d) <u>Internal Evaluation and Monitoring Activities.</u> Describe internal evaluation and monitoring activities.				
C		<u>Internal Evaluation and Monitoring.</u> How will you monitor progress toward aggregate objectives? How will the principal applicant assess, on an on-going basis, the quality of services and the satisfaction of both the participants and the individuals or institutions served? How will the principal applicant collect the required descriptive and demographic data?			

RESP.	STEP	ACTION	ASSIGNED TO	DUE	COMPLETED
C		<u>Previous Evaluation.</u> For applicants proposing to replicate an existing program in other areas, has the program proposed for replication or expansion been evaluated? If so, by whom and what were the results of the evaluation regarding community and participant impact? If the program has not been evaluated, what evidence of successful performance or of a track record does the program have that will demonstrate its appropriateness for replication or expansion?			
C	(e) <u>Institutional and Personnel Information.</u> This section should provide a description of hour past experience and institutional capacity to operate or coordinate a program comparable to the program(s) proposed. Describe the project director's background, experience and major accomplishments as they relate to his or her duties in and responsibilities for the proposed programs.				
C		<u>Administering Organization.</u> What is the principal applicant's past experience in operating and coordinating a comparable program, and capacity? Indicate your experience and capacity to administer the program.			
C		<u>Principal Staff.</u> What are the background, experience and major accomplishments of the program director and principal staff. How do their qualifications relate to their duties in and responsibilities for the proposed program. If no yet hired, what qualifications must the candidate fulfill? If appropriate, describe the outreach, recruitment, and selection strategies used.			
C		<u>Training.</u> What kind of orientation and training, if any, will you provide for staff?			
C		<u>Institutional Strengths.</u> What institutional resources or expertise will the administering organizations(s) provide that will contribute to the overall success of the program?			

RESP.	STEP	ACTION	ASSIGNED TO	DUE	COMPLETED
A	6. <u>Individual Program Applications.</u> The Corporation (AmeriCorps) is requesting additional information for each separate program to ensure that each program meets the Corporation's program requirements and objectives for community impact, strengthening communities, and participant impact. For each separate program, you must attach an individual title page, summary page, program mission and objectives form(s), and budget form.				
A	(a) Individual Title Page (one page)	Complete the provided form.			
A	(b) Individual Program Summary (one page)	In one page provide an overview of the following:			
A		The specific needs to be met, particularly as they relate to the National priorities in the four issue areas (Education, Public Safety, Human Needs, and Environment);			
A		Key elements of the program design;			
A		Recruitment goals, including the percentage of participants to be drawn from the national recruitment system, if any; and,			
A		Description of the administering organization and identification of primary program partners.			
A	(c) Individual Program and Mission Objectives (one page)	Complete the provided form.			
A	(d) Individual Program Narrative (6 pages)	In no more than 6 pages, organized and labeled in the stipulated categories, provide the following information in a narrative form with as much specificity as possible:			
A	(1) <u>Need(s) to be met and appropriateness for national service.</u> Identify the nature of the specific need(s) to be met by the proposed national service program, including how and why these needs are appropriately or uniquely addressed by a national service program.				

RESP.	STEP	ACTION	ASSIGNED TO	DUE	COMPLETED
A		<u>Needs.</u> What specific need(s) will the program address and how do these needs relate to the national priorities? If they do not relate to the national priority areas, please explain why they were selected.			
A		<u>Needs Identification Process.</u> What was the process by which the needs were identified? Who was involved in identifying the needs? To what extent were residents of the community in which the service will be provided involved in the needs assessment activities?			
A	(2)	<u>Program Design.</u> Describe the concept and design of the program, including the nature of specific service activities to be preformed by participants and how these activities address the identified needs and meet the program objectives.			
A		<u>Program Concept.</u> What is the basic concept for the design of the Program? How will the program be structured? Where will it be located? Describe any institutional or programmatic collaborations or partnerships that will be involved in operating the program, including the extent to which the program builds on existing infrastructures.			
A		<u>Service Activities.</u> What activities will the participants engage in, and how do these projects or activities result in direct, measurable service that addressed the identified needs? Describe a typical week in the life of program participants, giving concrete examples of the types of activities or duties participants will perform.			
A		<u>Relation to Need.</u> How do the service activities respond to identified needs?			
A		<u>Participant Training and Support.</u> How will participants be trained, supported, or otherwise prepared for their assignments or placements? Describe the key elements of the participant training, in-service education, or service-learning curriculum employed to improve participants' skills, prepare them for placement, and foster positive civic values.			

RESP.	STEP	ACTION	ASSIGNED TO	DUE	COMPLETED
A		<u>Participant Placement and Supervision.</u> How will participants be placed (in teams or individually) and matched with assignment? How will service sponsors or host-sites be oriented and prepared for that placement? How will participants be supervised within the program?			
A	(3) <u>Participant profile, recruitment strategy, and benefits.</u> Provide a description of the total number and type (full- or part-time) of participants to be recruited in the program, including the expected characteristics, attributes or skills of participants. Describe the benefits these participants will receive.				
A		<u>Number and Characteristics of Participants.</u> What are the expected number and characteristics of participants, including racial or ethnic background, socioeconomic status, gender and educational attainment? If the program will recruit fewer than 20 participants, please explain why this small number is appropriate to the purpose and design of the program.			
A		<u>Participant Recruitment.</u> What methods will be used or strategies undertaken to recruit participants? Describe your methods and strategies to achieve your recruitment goals.			
A		<u>Participant Selection.</u> What strategies will you use to select participant? Describe selection criteria, including minimum qualifications for participants. Will participants be required to possess any specialized skills to carry out service assignments? Will any participants be drawn from the national recruitment system?			
A		<u>Participant Benefits.</u> What benefits will participants receive? Describe the amount of the living allowance provided to each participant. Describe how national service educational awards will be apportioned among program participants, (if not provided to all participants). Describe any alternative post-service benefits that might be used.			

RESP.	STEP	ACTION	ASSIGNED TO	DUE	COMPLETED
A	(4) <u>Internal Evaluation and Monitoring Activities.</u> Describe internal evaluation and monitoring activities.				
A		<u>Internal Evaluation and Monitoring.</u> How will you monitor progress toward your program objectives? How will you assess, on an on-going basis, the quality of services and the satisfaction of both the participants and the individuals or institutions served? How will you collect the required descriptive and demographic data?			
A		<u>Previous Evaluation.</u> For applicants proposing to replicate an existing program in other areas, has the program proposed for replication or expansion been evaluated? If so, by whom and what were the results of the evaluation regarding community and participant impact? If the program has not been evaluated, what evidence of successful performance or of a track record does the program have that will demonstrate its appropriateness for replication or expansion?			
A	(5) <u>Institutional and Personnel Information.</u> Provide a description of the administering organization's past experience and institutional capacity to operate or coordinate a program comparable to the program(s) proposed, including the organization's ability to recruit and train staff.				
A		<u>Principal Staff.</u> What are the background, experience and major accomplishments of the program director and principal staff and how do their qualifications relate to their duties in and responsibilities for the proposed program. If no yet hired, what qualifications must the candidate fulfill?			
A		<u>Training.</u> What kind of orientation and training, if any, will you provide for staff?			
A		<u>Institutional Strengths.</u> What institutional resources or expertise will the administering organizations(s) provide that will contribute to the overall success of he program?			

RESP.	STEP	ACTION	ASSIGNED TO	DUE	COMPLETED
A	(e) Individual Budget Form Page(s) and Budget Narrative(s).	Complete the provided form(s).			
C	7. Aggregate Budget Form Page(s) and Budget Narrative(s).	Complete the provided form(s).			
C	8. Assurances Signature Form	Complete the provided form.			
C	9. Certification Signature Form	Complete the provided form.			



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

*Memorandum
from
Joel*

August 31, 1994

To: Flood Relief and Rural Development Team Project Managers

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service *JB*

Subject: **Revising the Community Service Objectives for Your Site**

As you know, your agencies have asked you to create or revise the community service objectives for each site. The process through which you should do so is specified in the Corporation for National and Community Service document, "Assessing Annual Objectives," which was included in the large notebook distributed at the staff training. You need to create or revise one community service objective for each AmeriCorps Member or Team of Members completing similar work.

Please note that you need to create or revise objectives *only* for community service. You do *not* need to provide member development objectives, which have already been agreed upon by the Department for all sites (See pages 65 and 66 of draft operation manual). You also do *not* now need to provide community building objectives, which will be revised at a later date.

I have already received some draft community service objectives. While all the objectives I have reviewed are on the right track and represent exiting and creative ideas for helping communities, some still need additional revisions in order to fully meet the AmeriCorps vision. It is *not* sufficient for the objectives to simply specify the methods, processes, or means through which a community will be improved. The objectives must focus of concrete outcomes which can be achieved and measured.

I do not underestimate the great difficult in creating such concrete objectives, especially given the multiplicity of variables in rural development work. Creating such objectives may very well be the most difficult task we all face this year. However, creating such concrete objectives in an essential first step towards creating workplans which will keep all our AmeriCorps Members continually engaged in useful work that "get things done" in communities.

If you have any further questions, please contact your agency coordinator first. For any additional questions, feel free to contact me at (202) 720-6350.

From: Joel Berg
To: SDEWHURST, CRAWLS, JLYONS
Date: 11/9/95 11:17am
Subject: OMB Support of USDA's AmeriCorps Program

At the request of Harris Wofford's (the new CEO of AmeriCorps) office, I contacted T.J. Glauthier's office at OMB to provide them with updated information on the USDA AmeriCorps program. In my conversation with Alice, TJ's assistant, she made it clear that OMB would strongly support sending the FS AmeriCorps reprogramming letter NOW and would continue to support USDA's use of our own appropriated funds to sponsor AmeriCorps projects. Furthermore, she indicated that T.J. would reinforce OMB's support for USDA's AmeriCorps projects to his staff that works on agriculture programs..

P.S. - I apologize for my previous, blank message.

CC: MGAEDE, DKAPLAN

LEW

AMERICORPS AND FEDERAL AGENCIES

The Corporation for National Service works together with hundreds of private and nonprofit institutions. In addition, the Corporation has partnerships with 10 Cabinet agencies and 3 independent federal agencies that support the work of 2,885 AmeriCorps Members. These Members are teaching developmentally disabled children, conserving national parks, and helping homeless veterans to live independently, **costs to the Corporation total about 4% of the AmeriCorps budget.**

The Corporation selected Federal agencies on a **competitive basis**--just like other AmeriCorps programs--and many agency applications were rejected. The current partnerships between AmeriCorps and agencies have many unique benefits:

- **Reinvent government by using service to meet agency goals.** The National Performance Review has suggested that agencies would work better if they relied less on Washington structures and more on ordinary citizens. Through AmeriCorps, Federal agencies use **existing appropriations** that would have been spent otherwise in order to involve citizens--AmeriCorps Members--in meeting their missions. It's a new model for a new government.
- **Meet the needs that only agencies address.** Agencies have unique responsibility for particular functions. For example, the Department of the Interior protects our national parks, and the Department of Veteran's Affairs addresses the well-being of veterans. In order to get things done in these vital areas, AmeriCorps **must** work with Federal agencies--through conservation efforts in the Florida Everglades and the Rio Grande (following NAFTA), and in a partnership with the VA and the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans in order to help homeless veterans move to self-sufficiency.
- **Build private partnerships through agency contacts.** When the Corporation works with Federal agencies, the partnerships do not stop there. In nearly all cases, AmeriCorps Members work at the local level in private, community-based organizations to meet local needs. These groups provide financial support, both in kind and in cash--just as in any AmeriCorps program. In the Agriculture Department's Anti Hunger Corps in Los Angeles, AmeriCorps Members serve in local youth corps in joint efforts with the Interfaith Hunger Coalition of Los Angeles. And in Alabama, in the Department of Health and Human Services' ADD Corps to help individuals with developmental disabilities to live more independently, AmeriCorps Members work with the Civitan International Research Center and the University of Alabama.

THE COPS PROGRAM AND AMERICORPS:
A PROPOSED PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE CORPORATION
AND THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

In November of last year, the Corporation began discussions with the Justice Department about incorporating an AmeriCorps component into the COPS program, the President's initiative to put 100,000 more police on the streets over the next 6 years. In fiscal year 1995, the COPS program has been authorized to award \$1.3 billion to new and existing community policing programs. Of this, 85% must be used for salaries and benefits for hiring new officers. The remaining 15% can be used for other purposes that enhance community policing.

We have proposed to Justice that national service programs be a permissible use of the 15% funds. COPS funds would be used to cover the program and participant costs of new AmeriCorps programs. The Corporation would supply the educational awards.

This proposal has the potential to add 1,000 new AmeriCorps Members to the fight against crime. Members will work alongside police officers and perform a variety of tasks, including staffing police mini-stations, setting up neighborhood block-watch programs, identifying and helping shut down crack houses, installing locks on windows and doors in crime-ridden neighborhoods, and providing escort services to young school children and the elderly.

The sustained viability of this partnership depends on the continued authorization and funding of the COPS program. New crime bills that would redirect COPS funding into law enforcement block grants are currently being considered in both Houses of Congress.

**SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM: A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN
THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE AND
THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

BACKGROUND

In the spirit of President Clinton's mandate to "develop a single coordinated Federal plan for breaking the cycle of homelessness and preventing future homelessness,"¹ the Corporation for National Service has entered into a number of creative partnerships designed to meet those challenges. The Corporation has launched a number of projects involving federal agencies and nonprofit organizations, our state commissions, VISTA, the NCCC, and a number of our senior service programs.

AmeriCorps Members are rehabilitating houses and shelters for homeless veterans, mentoring formerly homeless youth, feeding homeless families, and linking the homeless to a variety of social services -- among many other activities -- in urban and rural communities throughout the country.

An exciting partnership has been developed with the Department of Housing and Urban Development through its Supportive Housing Program (SHP). On December 29, 1994, the White House announced the awarding of nearly \$300 million in grants to public and nonprofit entities to create transitional housing for homeless persons and permanent supportive housing for homeless person with disabilities. HUD set aside \$3.4 million to pay for the support costs of AmeriCorps Members who work with SHP grantee organizations.

Grant applications to HUD which specified potential linkages with AmeriCorps programs were given special consideration during the review process. Nearly 75 percent of the applicants indicated a potential linkage with AmeriCorps. Those potential AmeriCorps partners will apply to the Corporation for education awards only, with the remainder of the costs associated with the support of the AmeriCorps Members being provided by HUD.

This creative partnership between the Corporation and HUD is striking example of combining federal and non-profit resources to get things done; in this case providing valuable services to those within our communities who are often most in need.

¹Executive Order 12848 of May 19, 1993, "Federal Plan to Break the Cycle of Homelessness."

**CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION INITIATIVE:
A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
and THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION**

Description of Program

The Corporation for National Service has agreed to partner with the Department of Health and Human Services/ Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention on the Childhood Immunization Initiative. In FY 95, the Childhood Immunization Initiative was authorized to award **\$359 million** to increase immunization rates of two years old by 90% for the most critical preventable diseases by 1996.

The CII has five elements which include **(1) Improving vaccination delivery systems** and outreach, **(2) Reducing vaccine cost for parents**, which is covered through the Vaccines for Children program, **(3) Increasing public awareness about the importance of childhood vaccines for children under age two**, **(4) Improving disease detection and monitoring** and **(5) Improving Medical research for vaccine use**.

In FY 95, 108 million will be available to the states for "infrastructure," education and outreach. 70% of these infrastructure funds is allocated to states on a per capita basis and 30% is awarded on a competitive basis dependent on the achievement of outcome goals set by each state in their immunization action plans. State public health clinics could access these infrastructure funds to pay for outreach that could include AmeriCorps projects. The states could fund AmeriCorps projects as partners or as part of a cost-share arrangement.

Summer Childhood Immunization Initiative

The Corporation will focus on childhood immunizations during a small scale summer program for four weeks in June 1995. We plan to target no more than 10 states where Learn and Serve, AmeriCorps NCCC, USA and VISTA, and the Senior Corps will work in communities to impact immunization levels among children. \$1million from Subtitle H money will be allocated to fund this effort.

10 sites will be selected where interested Learn and Serve, AmeriCorps USA, AmeriCorps NCCC and AmeriCorps VISTAs will work with existing grantees to ensure that children receive necessary immunizations.

The Corporation will consider partnering with a national organization with experience in medical service delivery to assist with technical assistance, supervision and infrastructure needs of local sites.

Empowerment Zones/Enterprise Communities Initiative

The Corporation for National Service is a member agency of the Community Enterprise Board and has committed significant resources to EZ/EC communities. Currently, over 4,500 AmeriCorps*USA and AmeriCorps*VISTA members are serving in and around the 15 urban and rural empowerment zones, urban supplemental zones and enhanced enterprise communities. In most EZ's, we also have Learn and Serve America, HOPE VI, and Senior Volunteer Programs.

National Service Resources for EZ's and EC's

There are AmeriCorps*USA and AmeriCorps*VISTA members serving in each empowerment zone and in many of the enterprise communities. Many designated empowerment zones included existing and planned national service projects as components of their revitalization plans and FY 1995 applications for projects in the empowerment zones will receive priority consideration for AmeriCorps*USA funding. We are currently developing an EZ/EC outreach strategy in partnership with HUD and USDA around available national service resources and application processes. We will work actively with the designated cities and states to effectively coordinate national service with their EZ activities. Corporation cluster and state offices will play an important role in providing technical assistance to EZ staff.

Signature Initiative

The Corporation is currently analyzing the potential for collaboration with other federal agencies around a signature initiative, most likely located in Atlanta. This initiative will focus national service resources within the EZ for at least one year, mobilizing community participation to achieve direct and demonstrable results around one or more of the following issues: public housing, public health issues, including early childhood immunizations and prevention education, as well as addressing violence against children and youth through community policing and other public safety initiatives.

Coordination Among Federal Agencies

The Corporation is enthusiastic about the opportunity to participate actively in this initiative and looks forward to increased inter-agency collaboration in the designated zones. Working with the EZ/EC Task Force, the Corporation will develop partnerships with other federal agencies active in the EZ's and EC's. Details of currently existing Corporation projects in the zones and plans for a signature initiative will be distributed to all CEB member agencies and we look forward to receiving your suggestions and exploring partnerships with you in the zones.

Corporation Contacts

Susan Stroud (202) 606-5000 ext. 172; Tim Silard ext. 218; Bryson McCulloch ext. 310

THE TOP TEN WAYS USDA SERVES RURAL CONSTITUENTS

1) *USDA helps develop new businesses and creates jobs in rural areas.* USDA administers guaranteed loans to improve or develop businesses, and provides technical assistance in developing long-term strategies for economic development.

2) *USDA brings running water to rural homes.* USDA has focused its rural water grant and loan program on the goal of ensuring that the half a million homes now without running water have affordable, safe, clean, water in their homes by the year 2000.

3) *USDA expands international markets and provides income support so farm families can stay on their land.* USDA's continuing efforts to increase farm income play a vital role in helping the US balance of trade while boosting the economy of rural America.

4) *USDA helps rural residents purchase homes, repair existing homes, or better afford rental housing.* USDA provides loans to low and moderate-income rural families to build, purchase, repair and finance homes, and also subsidizes rental housing.

5) *USDA ensures that America's food supply continues to be the safest in the world.* The Department is committed to a coordinated farm-to-table, science-based preventive food inspection system, which includes research, education, and regulation.

6) *USDA balances environmental protection, economic development, and recreational uses on 191.6 million acres of Forest Service land.* The Forest Service ensures that products, services, and uses are produced in ways that sustain healthy ecosystems.

7) *USDA provides school lunches and school breakfasts to 25 million American children in 92,000 schools from families of all economic backgrounds.* ____% of all participants in the school lunch program are from working families that receive no subsidies.

8) *Funds construction of critical facilities in rural areas such as hospitals, community centers, nursing homes, fire and rescue buildings, and police stations.* USDA makes infrastructure loans to public and quasi-public bodies, and non-profit groups.

9. *USDA provides critical services to minimize soil erosion and protect water quality.* USDA provides education and hands-on technical assistance to hundreds of thousands of rural landowners to help them decrease soil erosion and reduce water contamination.

10. *USDA runs the largest AmeriCorps national service program focused on rural America.* The USDA AmeriCorps projects allow Americans of all economic backgrounds to earn their way through college or vocational school by performing community service.

THE TOP TEN WAYS USDA SERVES SUBURBAN AND URBAN CONSTITUENTS

- 1) *USDA helps ensure that America's food supply continues to be the safest in the world.***
The Department is committed to a coordinated farm-to-table, science-based preventive food inspection system, which includes research, education, and regulation.
- 2) *USDA affords recreational opportunities on National Forests to 691 million Americans a year.*** USDA's Forest Service provides more recreation area than any other federal agency, and twice as much as the National Parks.
- 3) *USDA provides school lunches and school breakfasts to 25 million American children in 92,000 schools from families of all economic backgrounds. ____ % of all participants in the school lunch program are from working families that receive no subsidies.***
- 4) *USDA furnishes critical services to minimize soil erosion and protect water quality.***
Even in the most highly urbanized areas, the Natural Resources Conservation Service provides critical technical assistance to local governments and land use planners.
- 5) *USDA provides consumers with the world's cheapest and most abundant food.*** Partially as a result of USDA programs, Americans pay a smaller share of their income on food they eat at home than citizens of any other nation.
- 6) *USDA supports the 4-H program, the largest youth volunteer program in the world.***
Nearly 3 million trained volunteers work with 4-H and other Extension service programs, providing aid in such areas as nutrition, farming, youth development, and financial planning.
- 7) *USDA expands farmer's markets to urban and suburban areas to increase the availability of fresh, nutritious, and affordable commodities to consumers.*** These markets help both family farmers and urban and suburban consumers.
- 8) *USDA creates and distributes the nutrition information necessary for consumers to make informed and healthy choices about their eating.*** USDA is the premier nutrition research and education organization in the nation.
- 9) *USDA helps control pests that infect urban and suburban areas.*** The devastating Gypsy Moth is just one type of common pest that USDA is working to control.
- 10) *USDA runs AmeriCorps national service projects in urban and suburban areas.*** These

projects allow Americans of all economic backgrounds to earn their way through college or vocational school by performing community service to protect the environment, fight hunger, and promote economic growth.

THE MAJOR MISSION AREAS OF USDA

Research, Education, and Economics - USDA performs agricultural research and economic analysis, and makes the resulting information available to everyone.

Marketing and Regulatory Programs - USDA protects the health of animals and plants and contributes to the orderly marketing of agricultural products.

Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services - USDA helps American agriculture with commodity, credit, export, and risk management programs that improve the economic stability of American agriculture.

Food Safety - USDA inspectors make sure that the Federally-inspected meat and poultry you buy are safe and wholesome.

National Resources and Environment - USDA a major role in managing our natural resources --- both on National Forest and on private land.

Rural Economic and Community Development - USDA has the unique responsibility of coordinating Federal assistance to rural areas of the Nation.

Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services - USDA provides food assistance and nutrition education to those who need it through 15 different programs--including Food Stamps and School Lunch--that serve a total of nearly 1 in 6 Americans.

TEN CHANGES MAKING USDA WORK BETTER AND COST LESS

1. USDA is saving taxpayers \$3.6 billion (yes, that's *billion*) over five years through its massive efforts to reorganize, downsize, and reinvent itself.
2. USDA is reducing its staff by 11,000 employees, with an emphasis on a especially reducing the number of employees based in Washington, DC.
3. USDA is cutting down the number of its agencies from 43 to 29 by eliminating duplication, reducing overhead, and realigning agencies to met the needs of the 1990's.
4. USDA is closing or consolidating 1,100 field offices, saving money while improving services through "one stop shopping" for farmers."
5. USDA is overhauling meat and poultry inspection in order to utilize the latest microbiological technologies.
6. USDA is implementing changes in the crop insurance law that will save taxpayers \$151 million while ensuring farmers that they will have the protection they need.
7. USDA is improving the nutritional quality of school meals by ensuring that school meals meet the national dietary guidelines.
8. USDA is making wetlands policy more "farmer friendly" by easing the number of agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands policy.
9. Reducing welfare fraud and cutting costs by helping states use Electronic Benefit Transfers (EBT) to deliver food stamp benefits.

10. Increasing access to the "Information Superhighway" throughout rural America.

18 OCT 1995

MEMORANDUM

TO: Subcabinet Officials

FROM: Richard Rominger
Deputy Secretary

RICHARD E. ROMINGER

SUBJECT: Special Project Support

I am asking for your financial support for two important projects in the Department, the Americorps Program and USDA News which is published by the Office of Communications.

Agencies with Americorps programs are currently providing support in the form of funds and detailed personnel for the centralized administration of this program, and I ask that these agencies continue to do so. As you know, this program is a priority to the President, and I want to be assured that adequate oversight is available to run an efficient program. Therefore, the agencies that have Americorps programs will be asked to provide funds for the three person staff that manage this program. In addition, I ask those agencies with Americorps programs to continue to provide staff support as needed. I have asked the Director of National Service to keep all costs to a minimum level.

In addition, the Secretary has asked the Office of Communications to revamp USDA News and publish it monthly instead of bimonthly. Hard copies as well as electronic distribution over the Internet will be provided. The newsletter will include several new features including a Departmental news round-up, letters to the Secretary, and a guest columnist. Agencies will be asked to pay their prorated share of the cost of the newsletter.

I have asked OBPA to work with agency budget officers to determine the reimbursement amounts for these projects.

cc: Agency Heads

bcc: Joel Berg ✓
Ali Webb



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

JUN 11 1996

Bryce Luchterhand
State Director
USDA Rural Development
W2258 Popple River Road
Unity, Wisconsin 54488

Dear Bryce:

I write to express my appreciation for your work in providing senior staff, support staff, and other invaluable resources to assist the USDA Rural Development AmeriCorps program in its first two years of operation.

President Clinton stated during his Inaugural Address, "I challenge a new generation of young Americans to a season of service There is so much to be done -- enough, indeed, for millions of others who are still young in spirit to give of themselves in service too." In this spirit, the USDA Rural Development AmeriCorps, with your help, is improving the quality of life in rural America while providing educational opportunities for its members.

As you know, the motto of USDA AmeriCorps is "getting things done." During its first year, for example, Rural Development AmeriCorps members helped almost 4,000 families obtain running water, assisted almost 900 families with home repairs, and created after school programs for 400 students and parents. Your support was instrumental in this nationwide effort.

The AmeriCorps challenges federal agencies to follow innovative and creative approaches. You and your staff have clearly risen to this challenge. In an era of diminishing resources, I realize that it can be difficult to share resources and staff. Your willingness to be a part of the team is a great example of making government work better.

Again, thank you for helping USDA AmeriCorps "get things done."

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

Bill Long Thompson

Bill Long Thompson
Under Secretary for Rural Development

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

of pages

To J BERG	From SEANO
Dept./Agency	Phone # 720.4614
Fax #	Fax #

NSN 7540-01-317-7388

5099-101

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

7

Calder

EXECUTIVE
1995 MAY - F A 20 43

Glickman

Calder's Correspondence
COPIES: Joel Berg, etc
APHIS

Action Office: osec
Referral Code: 6



CORPORATION
FOR NATIONAL
SERVICE

April 28, 1995

**COPY FOR YOUR
INFORMATION**

The Honorable Dan Glickman
Department of Agriculture
14th & Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. Glickman:

On behalf of the staff of the Corporation for National Service, I send my deepest condolences for the injuries and loss of life suffered in your Oklahoma City office. Please convey to your staff and their families there that all our thoughts are with them in this time of terrible shock and sorrow. Please let me know if there is anything at all that we can do to help or to express our sympathy for those who have suffered from this tragic incident.

Sincerely,

Eli J. Segal
Chief Executive Officer

1201 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20525
Telephone 202-606-5000

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

18 OCT 1995

MEMORANDUM

TO: Subcabinet Officials

FROM: Richard Rominger
Deputy Secretary

RICHARD E. ROMINGER

SUBJECT: Special Project Support

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I have asked OBPA to work with agency budget officers to determine the reimbursement amounts for these projects.

cc: Agency Heads

bcc: Joel Berg ✓
Ali Webb



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

Mr. Tod Lindman
Editorial Page Editor
The Washington Times
3600 New York Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002-1996

Dear Mr. Lindman:

In his September 26, 1995, opinion piece criticizing AmeriCorps, James Hinri of the Heritage Foundation implied that Americorps members sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) are Federal bureaucrats. Nothing could be further from the truth. In reality, USDA AmeriCorps members are providing direct community service fighting hunger, protecting the environment, and rebuilding rural communities throughout America. Many of these members are based in small, non-profit organizations.

Mr. Hinri's opposition to AmeriCorps is puzzling, given that AmeriCorps meets many of the goals advocated by conservatives--rewarding work instead of welfare, moving power from government agencies to volunteer sector organizations, allowing middle class youth to earn their way through college, and reminding all citizens that they have an obligation to serve their country.

The members of the USDA AmeriCorps program are learning personal responsibility while strengthening the nation's spirit of community, all the while creating better opportunities for themselves and for others. The American taxpayers are getting much more than their money's worth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Dan Glickman".

DAN GLICKMAN
Secretary



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

Honorable Ralph Regula
Chairman, Subcommittee on Interior
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6023

Dear Chairman Regula:

I am writing to inform you of the intent of the Forest Service to use the AmeriCorps national service program as a delivery mechanism to carry out work projects we expect to be funded by the Forest Service's FY 1996 appropriations. Participants are being recruited for the 1996 program which is scheduled to begin nationwide in mid-October.

AmeriCorps is authorized by the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 (P.L. 103-82). The act further establishes a "Public Lands Corps" in the Departments of Agriculture and Interior. In the Senate passed FY 1996 Interior Appropriations Bill, the Senate requested the Department of Agriculture to follow appropriate reprogramming guidelines in funding Forest Service AmeriCorps programs, provided the AmeriCorps program is funded in the VA-HUD and independent agencies FY 1996 appropriations bill. This letter complies with that request.

The Forest Service ran a Public Lands Corps in FY 1995 through which 297 Members on National Forest land in eight States performed rehabilitation and watershed protection work, reforested fire-damaged lands, constructed and maintained trails for hiking and horseback riding, planted cuttings for riparian and wildlife restorations maintained and rehabilitated campgrounds and made campgrounds accessible for the disabled, completed timber stand improvements, restored historic sites, removed and installed fences, improved wildlife habitats, and hung erosion control netting on roads.

The Forest Service also ran a Rural Development Team in FY 1995 through which 86 AmeriCorps Members in 16 States worked on projects related to areas such as running water and indoor plumbing, emergency response and prevention, alternative uses of natural resources, environmental education facilities, tourism promotion, water quality protection, recycling promotion, cultural resource preservation, and relocated residents of flood plains.

All Forest Service AmeriCorps projects are getting things done providing vital services, while strengthening communities, expanding educational opportunity, and encouraging personal responsibility.

Under current law, Federal agencies receive limited grants from the Corporation from National Service (CNS) which are funded by the previous year's appropriations to CNS. The final size of the FY 1995 appropriations for CNS was determined when the President signed the Rescissions Bill. Thus, CNS has determined that it does indeed have enough funding from FY 1995 to provide a grant to the Forest Service to match the Forest Service's FY 1996 funding of AmeriCorps.

The Forest Service is planning a \$10 million AmeriCorps Program for FY 1996 that provides for enrolling 470 members in FY 1996 which would operate in 23 states. This would include 434 members in the Public Lands Corps and 36 Members in the Rural Development Team through the State & Private Forestry Program.

The Forest Service 1996 AmeriCorps program consists of two parts. First is a \$9.5 million program to be funded with National Forest system and related funds. While additional funding was not provided in 1995, and is not expected in 1996, the Forest Service will redirect work to the AmeriCorps program which would have been accomplished by other means. Second is a \$500,000 Rural Development Team program to be funded with State and Private Forestry funds. (See attachment for detailed source of funds.)

The Forest Service is using AmeriCorps as a delivery mechanism to perform work. Since AmeriCorps members perform for more work per dollar than the same work performed through routine means, the Forest Service is able to complete a greater volume of work. After the first 6 months of operation AmeriCorps Members performed at least \$1.51 worth of service for each \$1.00 spent on the program.

By increasing funding from non-Forest Service partners, by reducing overhead costs, and by transferring AmeriCorps slots to the project type in which members earn a lower living stipend, a 1996 Forest Service AmeriCorps program will be able to fund many more AmeriCorps Members for the same level of spending.

This letter is being submitted in accordance with the arrangement and understanding that the Department has with the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations with respect to reprogramming procedures.

Similar letters are being sent to Congressman Yates and Senators Gorton and Byrd.

I thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

DAN GLICKMAN
Secretary

ATTACHMENT A

The following reprogramming of FY 1996 Forest Service Funds to the AmeriCorps Program is requested:

	<u>Thousands \$</u>
Forest Trail Construction (CNTR)	628
Anadromous Fish Habitat Management - (NFAF)	400
In Land Fish Habitat Management (NFIF)	324
Threatened and Endangered Sensitive species Habitat Management (NFTE)	711
Wildlife Habitat Management (NFWL)	832
Recreation Management (NFRM)	4,352
Watershed Improvement (NFSI)	77
Rangeland Vegetation Management (NFRV)	102
Forestland Vegetation Management (NFFV)	750
Cooperative Work (CWKV)	620
Brush Disposal (BDBD)	129
Land Line Location (NLL)	24
Road Maintenance (NFRD)	63
Grazing Management (NFRG)	62
Wilderness Management (NFWM)	426
	9,500

The requested Rural Development Team AmeriCorps program for 1996 would be operated by reprogramming from:

Economic Action (SPEP) 500

Under the FY 1996 reprogramming for AmeriCorps, trail construction funds would still be used only to build trails, fish habitat management funds would be used only to manage fish habitat, recreation management funds would still only be used on recreation projects, watershed improvement funds would still only be used on watershed work, etc. The only change would be that AmeriCorps members would perform the work rather than using other methods or rather than allowing the work backlog to continue to go uncompleted.



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

June 5, 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR MARTHA PHIPPS, DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF

FROM: John Maynor, Acting Director
Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

SUBJECT: Options for Secretary Glickman's Trip to Missouri

Below you will find an some possible events for Secretary Glickman's trip to Missouri to view problems associated with flooding and extreme ground moisture that has prevented many farmers from completing their spring planting.

Farm Visit

The Secretary could visit with local producers at a farm in Montgomery County, Missouri, weather permitting. This area has been identified by the Missouri CFSA SED as an ideal area to visit. Secretary Glickman would be able to see first hand the problems producers are having due to the weather and would be able to meet with local producers to discuss the situation and any changes USDA has made in our programs to allow maximum flexibility. The Secretary could also visit with the press at the site.

Pros: An event like this shows that the Clinton Administration cares about farmers and is concerned about the current situation. It also shows that we are unafraid of addressing tough problems and that we are making our best attempt to provide farmers with real options that will help them through this difficult time. It would be an ideal time to announce or talk about any recent program changes.

Cons: This event would highlight real or perceived shortcomings in some of USDA's programs, especially the new crop insurance program. CFSA rules regarding the ECP program could also be controversial. Also, many farmers will be unwilling or unable to incur more debt which may force some off the field permanently. Additional controversial issues that may arise are ongoing levee issues and floodplain management. Especially controversial is the Army Corps of Engineers' proposed management plan for the Missouri River. The Department is on record as opposing this plan.

AmeriCorps

Missouri is a critical state for the future of the USDA AmeriCorps program, given that Senator Bond is leading an efforts to bar Federal agencies from running AmeriCorps projects. By visiting with AmeriCorps Members engaged in flood relief, such an event would highlight the concrete results USDA AmeriCorps projects are achieving in meeting

vital community needs. One possible visit could be St. Charles County, an area that was devastated by flooding in 1993. If the rivers rise as expected, AmeriCorps Members may be sandbagging in the area. Another possible visit would be to a farm that has received AmeriCorps assistance in the past.

Pros: Such an event would highlight a top Presidential initiative, would reinforce the President's veto of the recision bill (which slashes AmeriCorps), and would put much-needed pressure on Senator Bond.

Cons: Such an event might focus on attention on both the controversy surrounding AmeriCorps and the controversy surrounding Federal flood-relief activities.

USDA Service Center Visit

Secretary Glickman could also visit the USDA Service Center in Montgomery County to meet with employees and customers.

Press Opportunities

The Secretary would have the opportunity to meet with the press at any site in addition to scheduling some time for one-on-one interviews or editorial boards in the St. Louis area as determined by the Office of Communications.



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

File

August 23, 1994

TO: Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service
State Executive Directors

Farmers Home Administration
State Directors

FROM: Oleta Garrett Fitzgerald 
Director
Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

RE: AmeriCorps/USDA

In an effort to keep you informed regarding national programs, I would like to share information with you about **AmeriCorps/USDA**.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service initiative to allow diverse groups of Americans to earn college or vocational school scholarships while performing critical service to meet human, environmental, public safety, and educational needs. Participants in the program will work for a year earning a stipend of at least \$7,500, and then receive an additional educational voucher worth \$4,725.

The mission of the USDA's AmeriCorps program is to "engage a diverse group of Americans in working partnerships with communities to provide real and measurable service to meet environmental and human needs, while earning education benefits and building an ethic of service, responsibility, and citizenship."

USDA will run 42 different AmeriCorps projects designed "to fight hunger and improve nutrition, preserve national forests and improve community environmental quality, promote rural development and increase rural water delivery, and boost ongoing flood-relief efforts in the Midwest."

President Clinton has stressed to his Cabinet that national service is one of his top priorities. The President is pleased that USDA is playing a key role in the AmeriCorps program. In September, USDA will place 1,200 AmeriCorps national service participants throughout urban and rural America. The participants will be placed in 32 states, representing every region of the country. The USDA AmeriCorps sites are identified by project focus below.

Anti-Hunger

Vermont, state-wide
District of Columbia

Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Mississippi Delta, Mississippi
Los Angeles, California

Public Lands and the Environment

Western Kansas
Western Oklahoma
Texas Coast
Atlanta, Georgia
Boston, Massachusetts
East St. Louis, Illinois
New Jersey, state-wide
District of Columbia
Chicago, Illinois
Portland, Oregon
Sand Bernadino National Forest, Southern California
Six Rivers National Forest, Northern California
Olympic National Forest Washington State
Rogue River National Forest, Southern Oregon
Arizona, state-wide national forests
Bienville National Forest, Mississippi
Green Mountain National Forest, Vermont
White Mountain National Forest, New Hampshire

Rural Development

New England (Maine, Vermont, Northwestern New York)
Appalachia (Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia)
South Carolina, state-wide
Mississippi Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi)
Great Lakes (Michigan Ohio)
Minnesota, state-wide
Texas Colonias
Four Corners (Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah)
Pacific Northwest (Oregon, Washington)
California, state-wide

Flood Relief

Illinois
Iowa
Kansas
Minnesota

Missouri
Nebraska
North Dakota
South Dakota
Wisconsin

Joel Berg on 202-720-6350 is the contact for information on specific AmeriCorps sites. Americans 17 years of age or older may apply for the USDA AmeriCorps programs by calling 1-800-880-4183.

I hope this information is useful to you. If you have questions, your contact in my office is Rita Bibbs-Booth at 202-720-6643.

✓cc: Joel Berg
Director of National Service, USDA

Foundations List

Ms. Kathy Andersen	American Airlines P.O. Box 61966 Fort Worth TX	1-800-221-2255 75261-9616
Ms. Mary Beth Salerno	American Express Tower, World Financial Ctr. American Express New York NY	(212) 640-4661 200 Vesey Street 10285-4710
Ms. Suzanne Johnson	American Stock Exchange Corporate Giving 86 Trinity Place New York NY	(212) 306-1205 10006-1881
Ms. Miranda Rothrock	Archer-Daniels-Midland Foundation P.O. Box 1470 Decatur IL	(217) 424-2570 62525
Mr. Sam Gronner	AT & T Foundation 1301 Avenue of the Americas New York NY	(212)-841-4247 RM 3100 10019
Mr. Gary Doran	AT&T Corporate Giving Program 295 North Maple Ave. Basking Ridge NJ	(212) 841-4657 07920
Mr. Glenn Clarke	Avon Products Foundation, Inc. 1345 Avenue of the Americas New York NY	(212) 546-6731 10105-0302
Ms. Rebecca Golden	Ben and Jerry's Foundation P.O. 299 Waterbury VT.	(802) 244-7105 05676
Mr. Bertram C. Willis	Campbell Soup Foundation Campbell Place Camden NJ	(609) 342-4800 Box 60 F 08103
Mr. Stewart Mott	Charles Stewart Mott Foundation Office of Proposal Entry Flint MI	(810) 238-5651 1200 Mott Foundation Bldg 48502

Ms. Lynn A. Feldhouse	Chrysler Corporate Giving Program 12000 Chrysler Drive Highland Park MI	(313) 956-5194 48288-1919
Ms. Kristen Swain	Corning Incorporated Foundation MP-LB-02-1 Corning NY	(607) 974-8746 14831
Ms. Jane Hamel	Digital Equipment Corporate Giving Program 111 Powermill Rd. MSO1/L14 Maynard MA.	(508) 493-9210 01754-1418
Ms. Juliann Gill	Dun & Bradstreet Corp. Foundation 299 Park Avenue New York NY	(212) 593-6736 10171
Ms. Anne Kubish	Ford Foundation 320 East 43rd Street New York NY	(212) 573-5000 10017
Mr. James Wharton	Gateway 2000 Foundation P.O. Box 889 North Sioux City SD	(605) 232-2818 57049-0889
Ms. Jan Thon	General Mills Foundation PO Box 1113 Minnneapolis MN.	(612) 540-2211 55440
Mr. John K. Harwood	Genesis Foundation 2980 West Shore Road Warwick RI	 02886-5458
Mr. David Rutstein	Giant Food Foundation P.O. Box 1804 Washington DC	(301) 678-4972 20013
Ms. Dianne Moss	Helena Rubinstein Foundation, Inc. 405 Lexington Avenue New York NY	(212) 986-0806 10174

Mr. Peter May or Nelson	Homeless In America Foundation 900 Third Avenue, 31st Floor New York NY	(212) 230-3100 10022
Ms. Roberta Ruocco	J. P. Morgan and Company Corporate Giving 60 Wall St., 46th Fl. New York NY	(212) 648-9673 10260-0060
Ms. Jeanne Corrigan	James and Marietta Gargiulo Foundation 702 Corporation Park Scotia NY	(518) 374-7810 12302
Ms. Anne Romasco	James C. Penny Foundation 148 West 24th St.. 7th Fl. New York NY.	 10011
Mr. Stephen Viederman	Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation Six East 39th. St., 12th Floor New York NY	(212) 684-6577 10016
Mr. Richard Kaplan	John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation 140 South Dearborn St. Suite 1100 Chicago IL	(312) 726-8000 60603-5285
	John S. and James L. Knight Foundation One Biscayne Tower, Suite Two South Biscayne Blvd. Miami FL	(305) 539-0009 33131
Ms. Sue Ellen Walker	Lilly Endowment, Inc. PO Box 88068 Indianapolis IN	(317) 924-5471 46208
Ms. Mia Johnson	Mazon: A Jewish Response To Hunger 12401 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles CA	(310)-442-0020 90025
Ms. Westina L. Matthews	Merril Lynch & Company Foundation, Inc. South Tower, 6th Floor World Financial Center New York NY	(212) 236-4319 10080-0614

Ms. Sibyl Jacobson	Metropolitan Life Foundation One Madison Avenue New York NY	(212) 578-6272 10010-3690
Ms. Rayna Ayward	Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation 1150 Connecticut Ave. NW. Suite 1020 Washington DC	(202) 857-0031 20035
Ms. Kathleen Toohill	Morgan Stanley Foundation 1251 Ave. of the Americas, New York NY	(212) 703-4000 10020
Mr Colin Greer	New World Foundation 100 East 85th Street New York NY	(212) 249-1023 10028
Mr James E. Buck	New York Stock Exchange Foundation, Inc. 11 Wall Street New York NY	(212) 656-2060 10005
Mr. Max Downham	NutriSweet Company Charitable Trust 1751 Lake Cook Rd. Box 730 Deerfield IL	(708) 405-6804 53707
Ms. Lynette L. Byrnes	Oscar Mayer Corporate Giving Program 910 Mayer Ave. Box 7188 Madison WI	(608) 241-3311 53707
Ms. Monika Dillon	PaineWebber Foundation 1285 Avenue of the Americas New York NY	(212) 713-4545 10019
Ms. Jacqueline Millan	PepsiCo Foundation 700 Anderson Hill Road Purchase NY	(914) 253-3153 10577
Ms. Dee Topol	Primerica Foundation 65 East 55th Street New York NY	(212) 891-8884 10022

	Public Welfare Foundation 2600 Virginia Ave. New York NY	(202) 965-1800 20037-1977
Mr. Benjamin R. Shute	Rockefeller Brothers Fund 1290 Avenue of the Americas New York NY	(212) 373-4200 10104
Mr. Donald Ross	Rockefeller Family Fund 1290 Avenue of the Americas, New York NY	 10104
Ms. Deborah E. Tuck	Ruth Mott Fund 120 East First Street Flint MI	(810) 232-3180 Suite 1726 48502
Mr. Chris Ahearn	Scrivner Corporate Giving Program 5701 Shartel Oklahoma City OK	(405) 841-4245 Box 26030 73126
Ms. Paula Banks	Sears, Roebuck and Co. Corporate Contributions 3333 Beverly Road Hoffman Estates IL.	(847) 286-8337 D/703 BC 112A 60179
Ms. Peggy Crisalli	The Chase Manhattan Foundation One Chase Manhattan Plaza New York NY	(212)-552-7036 56th Floor 10081
Mr. Donald R. Greene	The Coca-Cola Foundation, Inc. One Coca-Cola Plaza, N.W. Atlanta GA	(404) 676-2568 30313-3009
	The Conrad Hilton Foundation 10100 Santa Monica Blvd. Los Angeles CA	Suite 740 90067-4011
Ms. Cynthia Ebert	The Gerber Companies Foundation 5 South Division Ave. Freemont MI	(616) 924-3175 49413

Mr. Bruce Asterein	The Hasbro Children's Foundation 32 West 23rd St. New York	NY	(212) 645-4055 10010
Mr. Robert M. Frehse	The Hearst Foundations, Inc. 888 Seventh Ave. New York	45th Floor NY	(212) 586-5404 10106-0057
Ms Laurie Regelbrugge	The Hitachi Foundation 1509 22nd St., N. W. Washington	DC	(202) 457-0588 20037
	The Howard Rubenstein Family Foundation, Inc. 1345 Ave. of the Americas New York	NY	 10105
Mr. Paul Bernish	The Kroger Company Foundation 1014 Vine Street Cincinnati	CH	(513)-762-4000 45202
Ms. Penny Cate	The Quaker Oats Company Corporate Donations PO Box 9001 Chicago	IL	 60604 - 9001
Mr. Edward Skloot	The Surdna Foundation 330 Madison Ave. New York	30th Floor NY	(212) 557-0010 10017-5001
Mr. Gary Lee	The UPS Foundation 55 Glenlake PKWY., N.E. Atlanta	GA	(404) 828-6374 30328
Ms. Mary McCarthy	Time-Warner Inc. Foundation 75 Rockefeller Plaza, 14th New York	NY	(212) 484-8022 10019
Ms. Nancy A. Sims	W.K. Kellogg Foundation One Michigan Avenue East Battle Creek	MI	(616) 968-1611 49017-4058

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PAGE: 02

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515-0015

December 11, 1996

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[illegible]

CLUB AND TEAM HISTORY

ANITA W. CYRUS

Abstract

IBM

Honorable Dan Glickman
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D. C. 20250

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are deeply concerned about a repeated pattern whereby the Department of Agriculture, specifically the U.S. Forest Service, ignores or circumvents Congressional appropriations intent. This includes both bill and report language, as well as reprogramming guidelines set by the Committee. Attempts by the Committees to review these incidents with the Department have not resulted in any satisfactory resolution or actions to prevent future occurrences. In fact, another case in which the Department of Agriculture proceeded despite direction from the Congress occurred just prior to the November election. Such inattention to Congressional policy and directives jeopardizes funding for the various programs of the Forest Service where these problems have occurred. The Committees have sought to be responsive and provide flexibility at a time of decreasing budgets and downsizing, but if comity and cooperation cannot be achieved between the two branches of government, the Committees may consider imposing more restrictive requirements on the expenditure of appropriated funds.

The latest incident, which occurred in early November, involved the reprogramming of \$250,000 to fund a land acquisition in Montana for the Mount Jumbo property, despite formal disapproval of previous such proposals by both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees in July and formal disapproval by the House Appropriations Committee in October. Both of these reprogramming requests treated the Mount Jumbo

Action Office: fs
Referral Code: 35



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DEC-19 96 14:21 FROM:S INTERIOR APPROP

202-228-4532

TO:2027202166

PAGE:03

Honorable Dan Glickman
December 11, 1996
Page Two

proposal as a regular reprogramming; no case was presented for consideration on an emergency basis.

It is our understanding that the most recent action involved the use of emergency acquisition funding. While emergency acquisitions are not required to be approved in advance, the reprogramming guidelines apply to reallocations in excess of \$500,000, or 10 percent of the budget activity, whichever is lower. The Mount Jumbo acquisition was not an emergency based on the facts presented in the two previous reprogramming requests, and exceeded the 10 percent threshold. It appears that this action was directed for "mere convenience or desire" which is in clear violation of the reprogramming guidelines (Senate Report 103-294, p. 5).

It is our understanding that this blatant disregard for Committee rules was done with the full knowledge and support of your office. We find this deeply troubling in light of the previous disapproval(s) of this action by the Committees. To date, the Committees have received no notification concerning the Mount Jumbo acquisition other than through news reports. Please provide the Committees with the details concerning the approval of the Mount Jumbo purchase, including the justification for using emergency acquisition funds and the aspects of the purchase that required you to proceed despite clear direction from the Congress that the action had been disapproved.

The Mount Jumbo reprogramming action is not an isolated problem. Last year, while negotiations between the White House and the Congress were ongoing for the fiscal year 1996 appropriations, the Forest Service spent nearly \$8 million for land acquisition projects prior to final action on the fiscal year 1996 appropriations and contrary to the clear intent of the Committees.

During fiscal year 1995, other clear violations also occurred. For instance, the Forest Service reprogrammed \$10 million to support the AmeriCorps program without approval. In that case, you sent a letter to the Committees on September 29, the next to the last day of the fiscal year, informing us of the reprogramming after the fact. That same year the Forest Service reprogrammed over \$16 million into the National Forest System range management activity without Congressional approval. This occurred despite a staff level working agreement that this would not occur while the Congress was working on a legislative solution to the immense allotment planning workload that the Forest Service had allowed to accumulate. Because of these past problems and others, adherence to the reprogramming guidelines for the Forest Service is established in law, not just in report language as is done for the other agencies and bureaus covered by the Interior bill.

Another example of how the Department has disregarded appropriations law is the continued existence of the Office of Forestry and Economic Assistance in Portland,

Honorable Dan Glickman
December 11, 1996
Page Three

Oregon. Funding for the activities that this office conducts was prohibited in the fiscal year 1996 appropriations act. Despite renaming the office, its major activities include summarizing past activities of the Office of Forestry and Economic Development (OFED) and aiding in the implementation of the salvage timber provision. We would like to see a shut-down plan for this office that is consistent with the fiscal year 1997 appropriations provision prohibiting funding for activities of all successor offices to the OFED, after December 31, 1996. Please also let us know where the new Headwaters Agreement director's office will be located and which departments and accounts will provide its funding. We understand that your chief of staff will serve on an executive committee supervising this position. Because this office was not proposed in the FY 1997 budget, the establishment of this office constitutes a reorganization, and is thus subject to the reprogramming guidelines.

We are also very concerned that the fiscal year 1997 appropriations provision is not being followed with regards to the use of staff on short-term assignments, or details, to other offices. This provision requires that offices receiving staff on detail pay the sending office if the staff on detail work for more than 30 days. We are concerned that several persons nominally on agency rolls may be working under the supervision of the Department, and hence, are staff whose salaries should be reimbursed pursuant to P.L. 104-208.

Please provide a list covering fiscal year 1996 indicating all Forest Service staff on detail and where, the office to which they are normally assigned, the dates of their detail, their current assignment and location, and whether any reimbursements occurred. Please provide a similar report of detail assignments to date for FY 1997.

It is critical that these issues are resolved as soon as possible to ensure that critical natural resource programs are administered properly. Please provide the requested information by January 15, 1997.



Slade Gorton
Chairman

Senate Subcommittee on Interior
and Related Agencies



Robert C. Byrd
Ranking Minority Member
Senate Subcommittee on Interior
and Related Agencies

Sincerely,



Ralph Regula
Chairman

House Subcommittee on Interior
and Related Agencies



Sidney R. Yates
Ranking Minority Member
House Subcommittee on Interior
and Related Agencies

From: Joel Berg
To: GFRAZIER,SIESNET.OSEC.MPHIPPS, SIESNET.OSEC.AKENNE...
Date: October 1, 1996 (Tuesday) 11:55
Subject: Forest Service AmeriCorps Language in the Omnibus Spending Bill

The FY97 omnibus spending bill signed by the President last night continues to require the Forest Service to follow "appropriate reprogramming guidelines" before spending funds on AmeriCorps.

The good news is that the bill's conference report states: "Timely consideration will be given to any request that is submitted. If AmeriCorps members can be used in a manner that on-the-ground land managers determine will be cost-effective and beneficial to the agency, those types of efforts should be considered via a reprogramming request."

Thus, if we submit a reprogramming request rapidly, we should be able to know by the October 25 White House AmeriCorps third year kick-off ceremony whether the request has been approved or not. If the request is approved, we would be able to start our projects immediately. If the committees again reject that request, the President could choose to highlight that issue in his October 25th remarks.

In my view, it is critical to send such a request immediately so that Congress can be held publicly responsible for either their support or opposition to AmeriCorps projects performing vital services on national forests.

JOEL —

I AGREE. GET

IT WORKED UP

SO WE CAN

PROCEED.

GF.



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

February 16, 1996

Honorable Slade Gorton
Chairman, Subcommittee on Interior
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
127 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6023

Dear Slade:

I am writing to inform you of the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) intentions regarding the use of Forest Service (FS) funds in fiscal year (FY) 1996 for the AmeriCorps programs in the event that funding for AmeriCorps is continued and the FY 1996 Interior and Related Agencies appropriations bill (H.R. 1977), as presently adopted by the Conferees, is enacted. Section 312 of the bill prohibits the use of FS funds for AmeriCorps programs unless "appropriate reprogramming guidelines" are followed. Further, section 312 prohibits the use of such funds for AmeriCorps programs "if no funds are provided for the AmeriCorps program by the Department of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development (VA-HUD), and Independent Agencies' fiscal year 1996 appropriations bill."

In accordance with section 312 and in anticipation of continued funding for AmeriCorps, we are giving notice to the Congress of our intent to use \$9.4 million from various National Forest System (NFS) and related funds and State and Private Forestry (S&PF) funds to carry out authorized FS work projects through the AmeriCorps national service program in FY 1996.

The FS ran a Public Lands Corps in FY 1995 through which 297 AmeriCorps members on national forest land in eight States performed rehabilitation and watershed protection work, reforested fire-damaged lands, and constructed and maintained trails for hiking and horseback riding. Additionally, the members planted cuttings for riparian and wildlife restorations, maintained and rehabilitated campgrounds, made campgrounds accessible for people with disabilities, completed timber stand improvements, restored historic sites, removed and installed fences, improved wildlife habitats, and hung erosion control netting on roads.

The FS also ran a Rural Development Team in FY 1995 through which 86 AmeriCorps members in 16 States worked on projects related to areas such as running water and indoor plumbing, emergency response and prevention, and relocation of residents of flood plains. They also worked on alternative uses of natural resources, environmental education facilities, tourism promotion, water quality protection, recycling promotion, and cultural resource preservation.

FS AmeriCorps members are getting things done and providing vital services, while strengthening communities, expanding educational opportunities, and encouraging personal responsibility.

Under current law, Federal agencies may receive limited grants from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), which is funded by the VA-HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act for FY 1995, although much of the CNCS appropriations is available not for FY 1995, but for the period September 1, 1995, through August 31, 1996. The final size of the appropriations for CNCS in the FY 1995 Appropriations Act was determined when the President signed the rescissions bill, Public Law Number 104-19. Thus, CNCS has determined that it does indeed have enough funding from the FY 1995 Appropriations Act to provide a grant to the Forest Service to match the FS's FY 1996 funding of AmeriCorps.

The FS is planning a \$9.4 million AmeriCorps program for FY 1996 that provides for enrolling 470 members in 23 states. This would include 434 members in the Public Lands Corps through the NFS program and 36 members in the Rural Development Team through the S&PF program.

The FS 1996 AmeriCorps program consists of two parts. The first is a \$8.9 million program to be funded with NFS and related funds. While additional funding was not provided in FY 1995 and is not expected in 1996, the FS will redirect work to the AmeriCorps program which would have been accomplished by other means. The second part is a \$500,000 Rural Development Team program to be funded with S&PF funds. (See enclosure for detailed source of funds.)

The FS is using AmeriCorps as a delivery mechanism to perform authorized functions of the FS. Since AmeriCorps members perform far more work per dollar than the same work performed through routine means, the FS is able to complete a greater volume of work. After the first 6 months of operation, USDA FS AmeriCorps members performed at least \$1.51 worth of service for each \$1 spent on the program.

By increasing funding from non-FS partners, reducing overhead costs, and transferring AmeriCorps slots to the project type in which members earn a lower living stipend, a 1996 FS AmeriCorps program can fund more AmeriCorps members for the same level of spending.

Similar letters are being sent to Congressmen Regula and Yates and Senator Gorton.

I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Glickman", written in a cursive style.

DAN GLICKMAN
Secretary

Enclosure

FY 1996 FOREST SERVICE AMERICORPS PROGRAM

The following reprogramming of FY 1996 Forest Service funds to the AmeriCorps program is requested:

Thousands \$

National Forest System and Related Funds:

Recreation Management (NFRM)	4,076
Wilderness Management (NFWM)	419
Wildlife Habitat Management (NFWL)	784
Inland Fish Habitat Management (NFIF)	273
Anadromous Fish Habitat Management (NFAF)	387
Threatened and Endangered Sensitive Species Habitat Management (NFTE)	663
Grazing Management (NFRG)	41
Rangeland Vegetation Management (NFRV)	65
Forestland Vegetation Management (NFFV)	712
Watershed Improvement (NFSI)	71
Land Line Location (NFLI)	24
Road Maintenance (NFRD)	63
Forest Trail Construction (CNTR)	583
Brush Disposal (BDBD)	129
Cooperative Work (CWKV)	604
Subtotal	<u>\$ 8,894</u>

Rural Development Team Program:

Economic Action (SPEP)	<u>500</u>
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Total, AmeriCorps Program	<u>\$ 9,394</u>
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Under the FY 1996 reprogramming for AmeriCorps, trail construction funds would still be used only to build trails; fish habitat management funds would only be used to manage fish habitat; recreation management funds only be used on recreation projects; watershed improvement funds would only be used on watershed work; etc. The only change would be that AmeriCorps members would perform the work rather than using other methods or allowing for a work backlog.

From: Ron DeMunbrun
To: jberg
Date: 7/2/96 7:12am
Subject: After Action Report

Joel,

In the military, they all sit down after a major engagement to assess what happened. The result is what is called an after action report. I wouldn't presume to give you a pep-talk but if this sounds like one, indulge me just one more time. With respect to the Forest Service, here is my assessment.

1. We didn't lose, the Forest Service field employees and the public lost an opportunity, but they wouldn't even have had a chance without your efforts and Lou's in the first year.
2. This wasn't the war, just a battle along the way. You pushed the bureaucracy further than anyone else I have ever seen, except someone who had the full ear of the Secretary.
3. I think you could consider that you have gotten your Phd in "governing." You now "know" at an emotional and intuitive level, where the pressure points are. The people who stop the forest service plan had to pull out all the stops. They didn't use a cannon to kill an ant, they were faced with (pardon the politically incorrect reference) an elephant.

I almost started to say that the only consolation is that you learned something. But that is not accurate. The truth is, that the best consolation is that you learned something. As you know, we have certain differences, but if I were to pick someone who would know both how to get elected and how to govern I would pick you. You have the integrity not to misuse your knowledge. Your vision is accurate, not theirs and I trust that the good Lord will give you many more opportunities to "carry on the good fight" (that was a biblical phrase before it became a Democratic slogan).

You not only did good Joel, you did better than that. You fought hard and fair and instead of scheming you learned a great deal about how to make this government of our's work. Personally, I think you should be proud and happy. You didn't lose, they had to beat you and I think "their" victory will be short-lived.

Take a little break. Rest up. The wonderful thing about life is that we get new opportunities each day. You did well with the ones that came to you so far and I am sure you will do well again. Not to force my different philosophy on you but Mother Theresa once said, "God does not require me to succeed, He only requires me to try." Sometimes the success depends on factors or people we can control or influence, but just like the lottery, you can't win if you don't buy a ticket and you can't improve your corner of the world unless you try. And you gave it a heck of a try.

Ron

From: Joel Berg
To: BBURKE
Date: 2/16/96 9:28am
Subject: Issues For Today's Meeting

As you may know, some Forest Service leadership are now coming to today's meeting. If possible, I would like to meet or speak with you privately before the meeting to make the following points:

1) While everyone at the meeting will, of course, tell you that they just love the President's AmeriCorps program, the truth is that they have used every possible method to kill the Forest Service portion of it by delay. FOREST SERVICE RANK-AND-FILE EMPLOYEES IN THE FIELD DID A REMARKABLE JOB PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTING EXCELLENT AMERICORPS PROJECTS THROUGHOUT THE NATION, BUT THE NATIONAL OFFICE HAS UNDERCUT THEM REPEATEDLY.

2) The only reason the Forest Service funded AmeriCorps in its first year is because Jim Lyons made them. In contrast, NRCS Chief Johnson has been an extremely enthusiastic supporter and funder. The Forest Service still resents being forced to spend what they believe is "their money" on this initiative.

3) The Forest Service plays lip service to the Department, but offers no real cooperation. Two years ago, then Deputy Chief Lamar Beasley (now head of the National Forest Foundation) expressly removed two staff from AmeriCorps duties because they "sided with the Department instead of the Forest Service." Additionally, the Forest Service is the ONLY USDA agency (out of the seven USDA agencies sponsoring AmeriCorps) that has not agreed to a joint management structure with the other agencies.

4) The USDA Office of General Counsel, the USDA Office of Budget and Program Analysis, and the Corporation for National Service have all agreed that the Forest Service has had the legal ability to start their AmeriCorps program since last October--- when it was originally scheduled to begin.

5) All the above parties agree that the Forest Service has the ability to begin its program BEFORE a reprogramming letter is sent or approved.

6) The only reason we had any trouble at all with the Hill on this matter this year was that the Forest Service made a huge mistake last year regarding reprogramming --- and they gave conflicting information about that to the Department and to the Hill for a whole year.

7) Given that many AmeriCorps projects are tied to "Visitor services" which, as you know are funded until the end of the fiscal year, the Forest Service could fund AmeriCorps for the rest of the year even without a new Continuing Resolution or appropriations.

8) By dramatically reversing itself on the issue of whether the money for the program is coming "off the top" of the national budget or from the regions or forests, the Washington leadership is placing the entire program in serious risk. The Forest Service will tell you that this is simply an internal issue which they will handle. That is not accurate. During the almost two years in which the regions and the field have been planning this year of the program, they have been continually assured that the money is coming "off the top." By now telling them to take the money out of their own budgets, the national office has, in effect, pulled the rug out from under the field. EVERY OTHER USDA AGENCY, INCLUDING NRCS, FUNDS AMERICORPS FROM THE NATIONAL BUDGET.

9) Despite assurances to the contrary, if the program is not funded "off the top," many regions will NOT run AmeriCorps projects. I have spoken with over a dozen Forest Service AmeriCorps staff in every region sponsoring projects, and VIRTUALLY EVERY REGION TOLD ME THE AMERICORPS PROJECTS WILL NOT PROCEED UNDER THE FUNDING APPROACH NOW DEMANDS BY THE WASHINGTON OFFICE. The example I have already presented about the Northwest Service Academy demonstrates this reality. The only way the regions could conceivably afford to fund AmeriCorps would be by rifting permanent or seasonal employees to do so, which would be illegal. Furthermore, this process would penalize the regions that support the President's initiative most strongly while, in effect, rewarding those regions that chose not to participate in AmeriCorps at all.

10) The Forest Service continues to send out messages to the field implying that seasonal employees could be fired in order to fund AmeriCorps. In my view, this would be a clear violation of the non-displacement provisions of the

National and Community Service Act of 1993. Furthermore, it would engender massive opposition from unions and rank and file Forest Service employees.

11) When I met with David Unger and other Forest Service leadership in late December, they pledged a letter from the Chief enacting the program would go out immediately. The letter never went out. Again, when I met with Reimers and Pytel last Wednesday, they pledged a different letter would go out immediately. That letter still has not gone out.

12) The Forest Service leadership continually seems unable or unwilling to grasp the urgency of immediate action. The fact is that literally hundreds of young Americans have put their lives on hold for months waiting to join the program. A handful of non-profit organizations throughout the nation have been placed on tenterhooks for months while constantly receiving conflicting information whether the Forest Service would keep the commitment to them to sign a cooperative agreement to run a project. Forest Service AmeriCorps staff have slowly begun transferring into other positions. In sum, while the program is collapsing across the nation, the Forest Service wants to have yet more meetings to discuss it.

13) The Forest Service has not placed someone they trust permanently in charge of the program. To date, the Forest Service has FIVE different individuals in charge of the program, most of whom were very low-ranking. In contrast, NRCS has had one high-ranking person in charge of the program the entire reporting directly to the Chief.

The Forest Service will likely dispute each and every one of the points I have made above. But if you independently check with the regions and the forests yourself, you will find that my points are accurate. LAST YEAR I PERSONALLY VISITED EVERY AND PERFORMED SERVICE ALONGSIDE THE AMERICORPS MEMBERS AT EVERY SINGLE FOREST SERVICE AMERICORPS SITE, COVERING NINE DIFFERENT FORESTS. Along the way, I met with seasonal employees, AmeriCorps project managers, District Rangers, Forest Supervisors, and regionally-based employees. I have kept in touch with many of them since my original visits. In contrast, virtually none of the Forest Service leadership in Washington has ever been to a single AmeriCorps site and have never spoken to so much as a single AmeriCorps manager directly. To make matters worse, no one seems willing to give them the news that their proposed funding method simply won't work.

Forgive me for being blunt, but we have been trying unsuccessfully since last Summer to get these projects up and running.

If we can simply empower local Forest Service project managers to do their jobs, the Forest service will once again run one of the most successful components of the overall AmeriCorps program.

If you have any questions before the meeting, please call me at 720-5746.

CC: NSERVICE2,RDEMUNBRUN

REVISED DRAFT LETTER TO FOREST SERVICE FIELD STAFF

August 1, 1996

To: Forest Service AmeriCorps Project Managers and Partner Organizations

Through: Jack Ward Thomas, Chief

Through: Jim Lyons, Under Secretary, NRE

From: Dan Glickman, Secretary of Agriculture

I regret to inform you that Congress has prohibited the Forest Service from directly sponsoring AmeriCorps projects in the remainder of this Fiscal Year (FY) 1996. However, I want to assure you that the Department will take every possible step to obtain bi-partisan support to begin new, year-long, Forest Service AmeriCorps projects beginning this October with FY 1997 funds.

Moreover, I want to thank you for your tremendous effort and patience in implementing AmeriCorps last year ---- and in attempting to implement AmeriCorps this year. You have exemplified the best of public service through your efforts to reinvent government by creating AmeriCorps projects that achieved concrete results on Forest Service lands and in rural communities. I am thus proud to have given honor awards this year to some of the most outstanding Forest Service employees involved in creating this program.

As you are aware, the first year of the program (1994-1995 program year) was extremely effective. In the first year, AmeriCorps Members serving on Public Lands teams in National Forests:

- * Constructed, maintained, and improved 682 miles of trail.
- * Achieved 2,569 acres of wildlife habitat improvement; built 133 structures to shelter or protect wildlife; built 296 nesting boxes; and constructed a threatened and endangered plant greenhouse.
- * Improved 668 acres of timber stand.
- * Built or completely rehabilitated 446 campground sites.
- * Reforested 638 acres of land.
- * Prepared 42 campsites for accessibility to people with disabilities.
- * Improved 760 acres of fisheries habitat.

- * Constructed 86 miles of new fence.
- * Maintained 18 miles of vehicle trails to keep them free of obstructive growth and slides.
- * Improved watersheds damaged by fire by cutting and planting 92,500 willows in riparian areas.
- * Improved Forest Service road and safety conditions ---- by "day lighting" 50 curves.
- * Released 775,000 salmon fry in a fish stocking operation.
- * Constructed a major visitor information center.
- * Provided conservation education to 8,373 students K-12.

Also in the first year of the program (1994-1995 program year), AmeriCorps Members serving in Rural Development teams in rural communities:

- * Promoted alternative energy sources and wood technologies.
- * Improved emergency response and prevention.
- * Helped home owners relocate from a flood plain.
- * Provided environmental and conservation education to school children.
- * Helped design and construct timber bridges.
- * Developed and implemented municipal recycling initiatives.
- * Created plans for improving local recreational areas.
- * Helped implement historic, scenic, and tourism trails.

Unfortunately, because the Forest Service was repeatedly funded this year through continuing resolutions, and because a final FY 1996 Interior Appropriations Bill was not agreed to by Congress and the President until Spring of this year, many projects planned by the Forest Service --- including AmeriCorps ---- were negatively impacted. We especially regret that the AmeriCorps program had so many "false starts" this year.

However, I am extremely encouraged that recent votes in both the House and the Senate have demonstrated growing bi-partisan support for the overall AmeriCorps program. I believe that the portion of AmeriCorps managed by the Forest Service was responsible for some of the highest quality projects in the entire AmeriCorps program.

Therefore, we expect to soon submit an AmeriCorps reprogramming letter for FY 1997, for which we are extremely hopeful that we will receive bi-partisan support from the Interior appropriations sub-committees in both Houses.

We will keep you apprised of the progress of the program. I thank you once again for all your efforts.



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

May 30 1996

Honorable Robert C. Byrd
Ranking Democratic Member
Subcommittee on Interior
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
127 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6033

Dear Robert:

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) proposes to reprogram Forest Service (FS) funds in fiscal year (FY) 1996 for the AmeriCorps program. Section 312 of the Omnibus Consolidated Rescissions and Appropriations Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-134) prohibits the use of such funds for AmeriCorps programs unless the relevant agencies of the Department of the Interior and USDA follow "appropriate reprogramming guidelines." Further, section 312 prohibits the use of such funds for AmeriCorps program "if no funds are provided for the AmeriCorps program by the Department of Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies FY 1996 appropriations bill (VA-HUD). P.L. 104-134 does provide funding for AmeriCorps under VA-HUD.

In accordance with section 312, we are proposing to reprogram \$5.24 million from various National Forest System (NFS), State and Private Forestry (S&PF), and other funds to carry out authorized FS work projects through the AmeriCorps national service program in FY 1996.

The FS operated a Public Lands Corps in FY 1995 through which 297 AmeriCorps members on national forest land in 8 States performed rehabilitation and watershed protection work, reforested fire-damaged lands, constructed and maintained trails for hiking and horseback riding, planted cuttings for riparian and wildlife restorations, maintained and rehabilitated campgrounds, made campgrounds accessible for people with disabilities, completed timber stand improvements, restored historic sites, removed and installed fences, improved wildlife habitats, and hung erosion control netting on roads.

The FS also operated a Rural Development Team in FY 1995 through which 86 AmeriCorps members in 16 States worked on projects related to areas such as running water and indoor plumbing, emergency response and prevention, alternative uses of natural resources, environmental education facilities, tourism promotion, water quality protection, recycling promotion, cultural resource preservation, and relocation of residents of flood plains.

FS AmeriCorps members are getting things done and providing vital services, while strengthening communities, expanding educational opportunities, and encouraging personal responsibility.

The FS is proposing to carry out a program very similar to the 1995 program, but at a reduced level. The program level is based upon field units' assessments of their ability to utilize AmeriCorps members during the remaining field season. The FS is using AmeriCorps as a delivery mechanism to perform work not performed by FS employees. The FS redirects work to the AmeriCorps program that would have to be accomplished by other, less cost efficient means, such as through private contractors.

The FS is planning a \$5.2 million AmeriCorps program for FY 1996 that provides for enrolling 410 members. This includes 385 members in the Public Lands Corps through the NFS program and 25 members in the Rural Development Team through the S&PF program. Most members will be enrolled in part-time slots (see enclosure).

I am also enclosing responses to your questions regarding our previous letter to assist in the review of the reprogramming request.

This letter is being submitted in accordance with the arrangements and understanding that the Department has with the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations with respect to reprogramming procedures.

Similar letters are being sent to Senator Gorton and to Congressmen Yates and Regula.

I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



DAN GLICKMAN
Secretary

Enclosures

FY 1996 FOREST SERVICE AMERICORPS PROGRAM

The following reprogramming of FY 1996 Forest Service funds to the AmeriCorps program is requested:

	<u>Thousands \$</u>
National Forest System and Related Funds:	
Recreation Management	2,486
Wilderness Management	97
Wildlife Habitat Management	435
Inland Fish Habitat Management	179
Anadromous Fish Habitat Management	127
Threatened and Endangered Sensitive Species Habitat Management	251
Grazing Management	46
Rangeland Vegetation Management	70
Timber Sales Administration	16
Forestland Vegetation Management	420
Watershed Improvement	81
Real Estate Management	16
Land Line Location	8
Road Maintenance	63
Facility Maintenance	66
Forest Trail Construction	174
Brush Disposal	15
Cooperative Work-KV	<u>338</u>
Subtotal	4,888
State and Private Forestry Funds:	
Economic Action	<u>355</u>
Total, AmeriCorps Program	5,243

1996 AmeriCorp Program

Question: What work will be done by AmeriCorps?

Answer: The service provided by Americorps in FY 1996 is likely to be similar to that provide in FY 1995.

Members funded through the National Forest System performed the following service and accomplishments:

- o Constructed, maintained, and improved 682 miles of trail.
- o Achieved 2,569 acres of wildlife habitat improvement; built 133 structures to shelter or protect wildlife; built 296 nesting boxes; and constructed a threatened and endangered plant greenhouse.
- o Improved 668 acres of timber stand.
- o Built or completely rehabilitated 446 campground sites.
- o Reforested 638 acres of land.
- o Prepared 42 campsites for accessibility to people with disabilities.
- o Improved 760 acres of fisheries habitat.
- o Constructed 86 miles of new fence.
- o Maintained 18 miles of vehicle trails to keep them free of obstructive growth and slides.
- o Improved watershed damaged by fire by cutting and planting 92,500 willows in riparian areas.
- o Built 11 flood fences to prevent future flooding.
- o Improved Forest Service road and safety conditions--by "day lighting" 50 curves.
- o Released 775,000 salmon fry in a fish stocking operation.
- o Constructed a major visitor information center.
- o Provided conservation education to 88,373 students, grades K-12.

Members funded through State and Private Forestry performed the following service and accomplishments:

Arkansas - Members worked to promote alternative energy sources which are environmentally safe, to select appropriate sites for installation of dry fire hydrants, to facilitate implementation and coordination of demonstration projects for five poultry litter spreaders. They also helped to promote alternative wood products and value-added manufacturing technologies, resulting in local people obtaining job training and higher paying employment while maintaining the quality of the rural environment. Tons of industrial wood waste is now being processed into energy in the form of wood pellets. The Members also helped the Community of Holly Grove facilitate the FEMA buy out of homes in the 100-year flood plain.

Georgia - A member created Recreation Opportunity Guides for the Forest and assisted in developing a series of videos entitled "America's Great Outdoors," working with the Environmental Education Coordinator to present environmental education programs and fire prevention programs; other members worked with the Wilderness Ranger on the Brasstown Ranger District doing trail maintenance and doing presentations to local groups on wilderness management. The Recreation Opportunity Guides that was produced will also be of value to thousands of Forest visitors expected to visit the Forest during the 1996 Olympics.

Kentucky - A Member worked with the McCreary County Fiscal Court, primarily with the County Road Supervisory, to take help create a (911) emergency response system and to start a road inventory and management system for the county.

Louisiana - One Member assisted grant development for a successful application to use timber bridge technology and materials for recreation tourism project in Lake Providence, LA. He continues to assist Humphreys County, MS in their timber bridge construction efforts. Two members assisted in the first stage of the Shiitake Mushroom forestry-related project.

Mississippi - One Member helped develop a recycling program in Leflore County. One Member organized construction of an outdoor classroom and implemented a plan to improve science test scores by 25 percent. A Member worked to start a community recreation and education program.

North Carolina - One Member developed a 5-year Master Plan for the development of a Parks and Recreation Department on the Cherokee Reservation. In addition, he established a Mountain Bike Trail on the Qualla Boundary for public use and special biking events. Another Member assisted in the identification and renovation of parks and other recreation facilities which did not comply with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements.

South Carolina - Two Members worked on a project to improve rural fire protection, lower fire insurance rates, reduce losses from fire, and stimulate rural development. A member worked to create a nature trail at an elementary school. One Member provided technical assistance in solid waste management and recycling to communities in Claiborne, Grainger, Hancock, Hawkins, and Union Counties.

Tennessee - One Member assisted the Shady Valley Ruritan Club (non-profit) in organizing a native cranberry restoration Action plan. The purpose of the cranberry restoration project is to stimulate economic development through tourism and educate the public about the uniqueness of the native cranberry and the Shady Valley community. One Member sponsored household hazardous waste collections held in 6 counties in July with participation increasing by 23%.

Virginia - A Member researched and wrote a Tree Identification Teachers manual and completed tree identification plaques for the Marion Riverwalk. Another Member completed timber bridge design for 2 species of lumber, 3 lumber grades for each species, and 6 different bridge spans for each species and lumber grade. He also developed and received funding for designing and constructing 2 nail-laminated pedestrian timber bridges in the towns of Teasel and Marion. He also contacted over 100 volunteers and municipal fire departments pertaining to interest in installing dry fire hydrants.

Minnesota - Members completed major analysis of the current situation in the development of hybrid poplar as an alternative crop. Members also completed analysis and documentation of a survey of primary and secondary forest products manufacturers to determine barriers they face in engaging in more value-added production.

West Virginia - AmeriCorps Members have helped implement the Hayfield-McCoy Trail System by identifying trail heads, as well as conducting inventories of service providers such as gas stations, motels, and restaurants. AmeriCorps Members also completed field work and analysis of current amounts of residues left in the forests after logging has been completed. This survey, covering the central counties of West Virginia has been used as a template for other areas of West Virginia and surrounding states. In West Virginia, another project was the Braxton County project; development of a trail system for environmental education. The project included clearing and constructing interpretive nature trails, building a large wooden foot bridge over a river, hanging bird and bat boxes, and identifying and labeling plants and trees along the way.

Colorado - Members completed draft of the San Juan Skyway Corridor Management Plan, completed conceptual master plan for a Petting Zoo, completed conceptual plan for Mangos Watchable Wildlife Wetland Park, developed GIS base map of political boundaries and wildlife corridors on the San Juan Skyway, initiated the Ponderosa Pine Partnership, which allowed a timber contract to be bought and delivered to Montezuma County (first time in history this has occurred), and completed the Mangos Riverwalk, which received Governor Roamer's Smart Growth and Development Award for 1995.

Utah - Members completed a site inventory of 23 sites for inclusion in the Trail of the Ancients Scenic Byway, completed a signing project for Scenic Byways Project in San Juan County, completed Urban Forestry project in Moab and in Huntington, and completed work with the College of Eastern Utah Prehistoric Museum on sorting and cataloging artifacts collected in 1987.

New Mexico - A Member worked with the non-profit Castile Arts and Crafts Guild to find work for people who were under-employed because of the closure of a lumber mill. AmeriCorps provided technical assistance to develop a plan for the second year of operation of the Sangre de Cristo Wood Workers. Working the Carson National Forest engineer, AmeriCorps helped the people of the village of Velocities figure out how to improve their contaminated and insufficient water supply. AmeriCorps worked with the non-profit organization Gannets Del Vale and La Madeira Cooperative to develop a long range plan for economic development in the village of Velocities, using forest products and locally produced arts and crafts. In addition, because of the efforts of AmeriCorps, the 2,000 residents of the village of El Rico is one year closer to having safe drinking water. In Coyote, AmeriCorps is assisting the Volunteer Fire Department in locating a building the house the fire engine and to serve as a fire house. AmeriCorps also assisted in the development of a group which will provide a long range plan for tree planting in Taos County.

Arizona - Members assisted distressed Arizona communities to retain or expand businesses. AmeriCorps members implemented the Econ DB, an economic data base profile in 8 communities. Area Developers as well as the Arizona Department of Commerce's National Marketing Team will use the Econ DB. Public and private enterprises alike consider the Econ DB beneficial in attracting, developing and retaining businesses. Members also assisted multi-community action teams to have the Four Corners Heritage Council adopt the "Trail of Many Tracks" into the Four Corners Heritage Trail System. The Trail of Many Tracks is a heritage auto-touring route covering approximately 260 miles located in north central Arizona. The touring route passes through all communities adjacent to the Apache Sitgraves National Forest.

Oregon - The University of Oregon's Learn and Serve AmeriCorps Members are working and living in fourteen rural communities, five of whose members are USDA Forest Service supported. These participants are providing assistance in the areas of 1) Economic Development; 2) Environmental Preservation, Restoration, and Education; 3) Community Empowerment and Development.

Question: Does the AmeriCorps staff have the required professional experience to do the work?

Answer: All AmeriCorps members receive extensive technical training before they start their service and ongoing professional supervision during their service.

Question: Who has done this type of work in the past? If contracts were used, why not continue to use competitive bids and get professional quality work with appropriate oversight?

By law AmeriCorps Members can not displace existing employees or duplicate existing work. AmeriCorps provides a way to accomplish needed work and also meet a social objective of helping young people obtain a higher education and meaningful work experience.

The benefits of using AmeriCorps members to perform work are not limited to just the work (hours or volume) performed by the members themselves. Because of the nature of the AmeriCorps program and its legislation, projects utilizing AmeriCorps members can form partnerships with other government and non-government entities, wherein these entities can provide money, tools, supplies, volunteers and other support that could not and is not provided when other means such as private contractors are used to perform the work.

Question: Are the AmeriCorps centers appropriately located so the priority projects are tackled for each of the main program areas listed?

Answer: All Forest Service projects, developed at the ground level, are selected after an intense internal competition and then a highly competitive external competition run by the Corporation for National Service. The projects are designed to contribute to the planned program accomplishments of each unit.



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

February 16, 1996

Honorable Sidney R. Yates
Ranking Democratic Member
Subcommittee on Interior
Committee on Appropriations
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6023

Dear Sid:

I am writing to inform you of the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) intentions regarding the use of Forest Service (FS) funds in fiscal year (FY) 1996 for the AmeriCorps programs in the event that funding for AmeriCorps is continued and the FY 1996 Interior and Related Agencies appropriations bill (H.R. 1977), as presently adopted by the Conferees, is enacted. Section 312 of the bill prohibits the use of FS funds for AmeriCorps programs unless "appropriate reprogramming guidelines" are followed. Further, section 312 prohibits the use of such funds for AmeriCorps programs "if no funds are provided for the AmeriCorps program by the Department of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development (VA-HUD), and Independent Agencies' fiscal year 1996 appropriations bill."

In accordance with section 312 and in anticipation of continued funding for AmeriCorps, we are giving notice to the Congress of our intent to use \$9.4 million from various National Forest System (NFS) and related funds and State and Private Forestry (S&PF) funds to carry out authorized FS work projects through the AmeriCorps national service program in FY 1996.

The FS ran a Public Lands Corps in FY 1995 through which 297 AmeriCorps members on national forest land in eight States performed rehabilitation and watershed protection work, reforested fire-damaged lands, and constructed and maintained trails for hiking and horseback riding. Additionally, the members planted cuttings for riparian and wildlife restorations, maintained and rehabilitated campgrounds, made campgrounds accessible for people with disabilities, completed timber stand improvements, restored historic sites, removed and installed fences, improved wildlife habitats, and hung erosion control netting on roads.

The FS also ran a Rural Development Team in FY 1995 through which 86 AmeriCorps members in 16 States worked on projects related to areas such as running water and indoor plumbing, emergency response and prevention, and relocation of residents of flood plains. They also worked on alternative uses of natural resources, environmental education facilities, tourism promotion, water quality protection, recycling promotion, and cultural resource preservation.

FS AmeriCorps members are getting things done and providing vital services, while strengthening communities, expanding educational opportunities, and encouraging personal responsibility.

Under current law, Federal agencies may receive limited grants from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), which is funded by the VA-HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act for FY 1995, although much of the CNCS appropriations is available not for FY 1995, but for the period September 1, 1995, through August 31, 1996. The final size of the appropriations for CNCS in the FY 1995 Appropriations Act was determined when the President signed the rescissions bill, Public Law Number 104-19. Thus, CNCS has determined that it does indeed have enough funding from the FY 1995 Appropriations Act to provide a grant to the Forest Service to match the FS's FY 1996 funding of AmeriCorps.

The FS is planning a \$9.4 million AmeriCorps program for FY 1996 that provides for enrolling 470 members in 23 states. This would include 434 members in the Public Lands Corps through the NFS program and 36 members in the Rural Development Team through the S&PF program.

The FS 1996 AmeriCorps program consists of two parts. The first is a \$8.9 million program to be funded with NFS and related funds. While additional funding was not provided in FY 1995 and is not expected in 1996, the FS will redirect work to the AmeriCorps program which would have been accomplished by other means. The second part is a \$500,000 Rural Development Team program to be funded with S&PF funds. (See enclosure for detailed source of funds.)

The FS is using AmeriCorps as a delivery mechanism to perform authorized functions of the FS. Since AmeriCorps members perform far more work per dollar than the same work performed through routine means, the FS is able to complete a greater volume of work. After the first 6 months of operation, USDA FS AmeriCorps members performed at least \$1.51 worth of service for each \$1 spent on the program.

By increasing funding from non-FS partners, reducing overhead costs, and transferring AmeriCorps slots to the project type in which members earn a lower living stipend, a 1996 FS AmeriCorps program can fund more AmeriCorps members for the same level of spending.

Similar letters are being sent to Congressman Regula and Senators Byrd and Gorton.

I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



DAN GLICKMAN
Secretary

Enclosure

FY 1996 FOREST SERVICE AMERICORPS PROGRAM

The following reprogramming of FY 1996 Forest Service funds to the AmeriCorps program is requested:

Thousands \$

National Forest System and Related Funds:

Recreation Management (NFRM)	4,076
Wilderness Management (NFWM)	419
Wildlife Habitat Management (NFWL)	784
Inland Fish Habitat Management (NFIF)	273
Anadromous Fish Habitat Management (NFAF)	387
Threatened and Endangered Sensitive Species Habitat Management (NFTE)	663
Grazing Management (NFRG)	41
Rangeland Vegetation Management (NFRV)	65
Forestland Vegetation Management (NFFV)	712
Watershed Improvement (NFSI)	71
Land Line Location (NFLI)	24
Road Maintenance (NFRD)	63
Forest Trail Construction (CNTR)	583
Brush Disposal (BDBD)	129
Cooperative Work (CWKV)	604
Subtotal	<u>\$ 8,894</u>

Rural Development Team Program:

Economic Action (SPEP)	<u>500</u>
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Total, AmeriCorps Program	\$ 9,394
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Under the FY 1996 reprogramming for AmeriCorps, trail construction funds would still be used only to build trails; fish habitat management funds would only be used to manage fish habitat; recreation management funds only be used on recreation projects; watershed improvement funds would only be used on watershed work; etc. The only change would be that AmeriCorps members would perform the work rather than using other methods or allowing for a work backlog.

MAJORITY MEMBERS

BOB LIVINGSTON, LOUISIANA, CHAIRMAN
 JOSEPH M. MCNAMEE, PENNSYLVANIA
 JOHN T. MUELLER, IOWA
 C.W. BILL YOUNG, ALABAMA
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 MICHAEL P. FORBES, NEW YORK
 GEORGE A. NETHERCUTT, JR., WASHINGTON
 JIM BURN, OREGON
 MARK W. NEUMANN, WISCONSIN

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515-6015

June 25, 1996

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 JAMES W. DYER

TELEPHONE:
 (202) 226-2771

Honorable Dan Glickman
 Secretary
 U. S. Department of Agriculture
 Washington D.C. 20250

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is in response to your May 30 request regarding Forest Service reprogramming of National Forest System, State and Private Forestry, and other funds to support the AmeriCorps national service program in fiscal year 1996. The Committee does not concur with this request. The Committee considers that this reprogramming would be an inappropriate use of these funds and that the support of 410 AmeriCorps 'volunteers' should not be pursued at this late date. The Committee is concerned that the AmeriCorps staff probably may not have the required professional expertise to do the work and that AmeriCorps centers may not be appropriately located so that the priority projects are tackled with the available funds.

The Committee is interested in true volunteerism and stretching the scarce Federal multiple use dollars. Since the Forest Service has these funds in excess of immediate program needs, the Committee directs that Forest Service reprogram these funds, from the activities in your associated list, to an account which will be used for challenge cost share matching grants. These funds will be used to match private or State funds and work-in-kind for recreation, watershed, fish and wildlife, and the other accounts in your list. This action should allow the \$5.24 million to be stretched to accomplish \$10.5 to \$15 million, or more, in projects and bring in true volunteers to accomplish needed, priority projects.

Honorable Dan Glickman
June 25, 1996
Page Two

Thank you for your consideration in these matters. Please let us know of your progress on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Regula', written over the printed name and title.

Ralph Regula
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior
and Related Agencies

cc: Chief, Forest Service



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

TO: Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, and IITF Director

THROUGH: Jack Ward Thomas *JWT* AUG 13 1996
Chief, Forest Service

THROUGH: James R. Lyons *James R. Lyons* AUG 22 1996
(for) Under Secretary, NRE

FROM: Dan Glickman *Dan Glickman* 6 SEP 1996
Secretary

SUBJECT: AmeriCorps Funding for Fiscal Year 1997

I regret to inform you that Congress has prohibited the Forest Service from directly sponsoring AmeriCorps projects in the remainder of this fiscal year (FY) 1996. However, I want to assure you that the Department will take every possible step to obtain bi-partisan support to begin new, year-long, Forest Service AmeriCorps projects beginning October 1996 with FY 1997 funds.

Moreover, I want to thank you for your tremendous effort and patience in implementing AmeriCorps last year--and in attempting to implement AmeriCorps this year. You have exemplified the best of public service through your efforts to reinvent Government by creating AmeriCorps projects that achieved concrete results on Forest Service lands and in rural communities. I am thus proud to have given honor awards this year to some of the most outstanding Forest Service employees involved in creating this program.

As you are aware, the first year of the program (1994-1995 program year) was extremely effective. In the first year, AmeriCorps members serving on public lands teams in national forests:

- * Constructed, maintained, and improved 682 miles of trails.
- * Achieved 2,569 acres of wildlife habitat improvement; built 133 structures to shelter or protect wildlife; built 296 nesting boxes; and constructed a threatened and endangered plant greenhouse.
- * Improved 668 acres of timber stands.
- * Built or completely rehabilitated 446 campground sites.
- * Reforested 638 acres of land.
- * Prepared 42 campsites for accessibility to people with disabilities.

Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, and IITF Director

2

- * Improved 760 acres of fisheries habitat.
- * Constructed 86 miles of new fence.
- * Maintained 18 miles of vehicle trails to keep them free of obstructive growth and slides.
- * Improved watersheds damaged by fire by cutting and planting 92,500 willows in riparian areas.
- * Improved Forest Service road and safety conditions by "day lighting" 50 curves.
- * Released 775,000 salmon fry in a fish stocking operation.
- * Constructed a major visitor information center.
- * Provided conservation education to 8,373 students, grades Kindergarten-12.

Also, in the first year of the program (1994-1995 program year), AmeriCorps members serving in rural development teams in rural communities:

- * Promoted alternative energy sources and wood technologies.
- * Improved emergency response and prevention.
- * Helped home owners relocate from a flood plain.
- * Provided environmental and conservation education to school children.
- * Helped design and construct timber bridges.
- * Developed and implemented municipal recycling initiatives.
- * Created plans for improving local recreational areas.
- * Helped implement historic, scenic, and tourism trails.

Unfortunately, because the Forest Service was repeatedly funded this year through continuing resolutions, and because a final FY 1996 Interior Appropriations Bill was not agreed to by Congress and the President until Spring of this year, many projects planned by the Forest Service--including AmeriCorps--were negatively impacted. We especially regret that the AmeriCorps program had so many "false starts" this year.

Again, I want to thank you for your enthusiastic and tireless support for AmeriCorps and we can look forward to a successful program next fiscal year.



National Association of
Service & Conservation Corps

August 30, 1996

Chairman Slade Gorton
Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee

Chairman Ralph Regula
House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee

Dear Chairmen Gorton and Regula:

On behalf of youth corps programs in six states -- Washington, Oregon, Montana, California, Arizona, New Hampshire, and Minnesota -- that want to carry out important projects in our national forests, I write to urge you to reconsider the language now in Sec. 312 of the FY1997 Interior Appropriations bill, which requires the Department of Agriculture to submit a reprogramming request in order to support national service programs.

The National Association of Service and Conservation Corps (NASCC) wishes to point out that young people -- voting constituents -- in these states will suffer from a loss of opportunities if the spending ban holds, to a far greater degree than will the AmeriCorps program. Youth corps have entered into partnership plans with the Forest Service to provide job training, education, and service opportunities for young people. Staff of those youth corps face the difficult task of explaining why already-appropriated, modest federal resources cannot be used to conduct vitally needed projects to improve ecosystem health and provide more recreational options for the public.

At least four courses of action are open to the Interior Appropriations conferees, in descending order of preference:

- Remove or soften language in Section 312 (of H.R. 3662 and the draft Senate Appropriations Committee Report) which currently requires the Departments of Interior and/or Agriculture to follow appropriate reprogramming guidelines, as well as language which currently makes Interior agency support conditional upon a CNS appropriation in VA/HUD bill;
- Insert language in the conference report that clarifies the terms under which a request for reprogramming could succeed. USDA-Forest Service believed it was following such an approach when it filed a request last year, only to have its request rejected in the House;

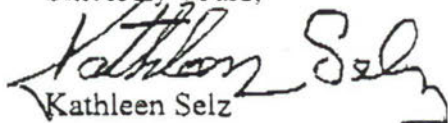
Letter to Chairmen Gorton and Regula, August 30, 1996

Page 2

- Insert managers' language clarifying that the ban on spending on AmeriCorps will in no way preclude the Forest Service and youth corps from entering into participating or challenge cost-share agreements to accomplish projects, nor from granting any youth corps a special use permit (similar to language inserted in the Conference Report on H.R. 1977 last year); or
- Have Congressional staff meet with Forest Service and youth corps representatives to devise other possible approaches to carrying out national service projects in the national forests.

I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter. Andrew Moore of my staff will follow up with your offices to discuss next steps.

Sincerely yours,



Kathleen Selz
Executive Director

cc: Senator Mark Hatfield
Members, Senate and House Interior Appropriations Subcommittees
Senator Barbara Boxer
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Judd Gregg
Senator Patrick Leahy

Federal, State, and local officials concur that significant land acquisitions are needed immediately to restore this most threatened national park. The Senate Subcommittee, however, would provide only 12 percent of the funds requested for land acquisition and 25 percent of the funds requested for additional Everglades restoration research. These funds are needed above and beyond the mandatory funds provided on a one-time basis in the 1996 Farm Bill.

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)

Interior's BIA would be reduced by \$195 million, or 11 percent below the President's request, impeding the ability of the BIA and tribes to meet critical tribal needs. The most serious consequence of the Subcommittee mark for BIA programs is the \$135 million reduction below the request for Tribal Priority Allocation (TPA), which funds vital reservation programs, such as tribal government, housing repair for the needy, road maintenance, and natural resource service. Tribes are reporting serious shortfalls in these programs as well as child protection and elderly assistance requirements, scholarship needs, and basic police protection on the reservations.

AmeriCorps Funding

The Administration objects to language included in the Subcommittee bill that would prohibit the use of funds for AmeriCorps national service projects unless agencies receive reprogramming approval and the Corporation for National and Community Service receives funding in the VA/HUD/Independent Agencies appropriations bill. The AmeriCorps program has had remarkable success in terms of providing national service opportunities, with an impressive return on investment for taxpayers. Land management agencies have also benefitted from the baseline surveys, environmental monitoring, restoration projects, and other conservation support tasks completed by the National Service Corps participants.



To: Marla Marvin, Office of Senator Murray

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

2 pages, including this cover

Per our discussion.

SUGGESTED INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT LANGUAGE ON AMERICORPS

“The Committee recognizes and commends the Secretary of Agriculture for following appropriate reprogramming guidelines in fiscal year 1996 in relation to the AmeriCorps program and understands that the Secretary followed the Committee’s direction to end AmeriCorps activities funded by the Forest Service pending approved reprogramming. Due to the lateness of the FY 1996 appropriations bill, the Committee denied the Secretary’s reprogramming request. However, if the Secretary submits a similar reprogramming request in a timely manner in FY 1997 that focuses on using AmeriCorps members as alternative delivery systems for filling critical Forest Service needs such as fire fighting, KV work, recreation backlog, timber stand improvement, and economic development in timber-dependent communities, then it will be the Committee’s intention to approve such a request.”



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

July 19, 1996

To: Greg Frazier, Martha Phipps, David Carlin, Brian Burke, Stephanie Hague

From: Joel Berg *JB*

Subject: **Senate Rejects Forest Service AmeriCorps Reprogramming Request**

As you can see from the attached copy, the Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee has joined the House in rejecting the Secretary's Forest Service AmeriCorps reprogramming request.

The letter claims that the work that would have been performed by AmeriCorps has been completed by other means and that starting AmeriCorps now would disrupt the Forest Service's ability to complete other projects. Of course, both claims are absurd ---- most of the projects planned for AmeriCorps simply won't get carried out this year without an AmeriCorps; the only serious disruption has been caused by the Committees' continued refusal to allow the AmeriCorps program to start on the forests.

The only good news is that the rejection letter is almost entirely pegged to the late start of the program, building our hope that we may be able to reach bi-partisan agreement on the start of a new, full year, Forest Service AmeriCorps program to start in Fiscal Year 1997.

The office of Senator Murray, our strongest supporter on this issue, agrees wholeheartedly that we should send letters to Senators and Congresspeople explaining why this program was killed and that we should issue state-specific press releases noting exactly where projects were eliminated. Her staff believes such pressure will help us reach agreement on a third year of the program.

"If you look at what this national service project does --- they're working in the San Bernadino National Forest; people who are helping to clean-up the forest, maintain it, strengthen it, keep it there for our children and our grandchildren, make sure it's an important resource... These are the kinds of things that are going on all over America, and I think it emphasizes what I'm saying. For a small amount of federal money we have increased opportunity with no bureacracy. This is all done at the grass-roots level."

**President Clinton in San Bernardino,
California on February 14**



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

December 4, 1995

To: David Unger, Associate Chief, Forest Service

From: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

JB

Subject: Start-Up of Forest Service AmeriCorps Program

I am writing to request your help in sending a clear and unequivocal letter from Chief Thomas to the field immediately indicating that all planned AmeriCorps projects should start service without delay based on the previous commitment --- made to both the field and to the Department --- that funds for the program will once again come "off the top" of the national Forest Service budget.

As you may know, the continued internal Forest Service confusion over funding has, once again, indefinitely halted all efforts to implement the second year of the AmeriCorps program. In direct opposition to assurances given to me just days earlier, a DG message was recently sent to the field, without my prior knowledge, indicating that the Forest Service would not be funding AmeriCorps from the national budget. As a direct result of that DG message, most forests stopped their AmeriCorps planning dead in their tracks.

In order for Forest Service AmeriCorps projects to be able to successfully meet the legal requirements of a full program year, they must start formal recruitment immediately in order to start actual service in January.

I am fully aware of the great emotional and financial stress placed on the Forest Service due to the fact that it is the only USDA agency now operating without a signed appropriations bill. This situation has obviously dramatically increased the workload of your highly dedicated budget and administration staffs. However, I am very concerned that AmeriCorps is slipping through the cracks --- and that the Forest Service is poised to make key, long-term decisions about AmeriCorps based on inaccurate and/or incomplete information.

Permit me to clear up a few points over which there has been some confusion:

* OGC and OBPA have both made it clear repeatedly that both the previous and the current the Continuing Resolutions do give the Forest Service authority to spend funds on AmeriCorps projects.

*** The Corporation for National Services does now have funding to pay for the educational awards and small matching funds for this year's Forest Service program.** These funds were provided by their FY95 budget and will in no way be affected by the current Congressional debate over the future of AmeriCorps.

*** The Interior Appropriations bill does not prohibit the Forest Service from funding AmeriCorps.** While the bill that passed the House prohibited Forest Service spending on AmeriCorps, the Senate approved a bi-partisan amendment to the bill by voice vote to allow the Forest Service program to continue funding AmeriCorps; the two versions of the bill passed by the House-Senate conference both included the Senate's favorable language. Some Forest Service staff seem to be under the false impression that the Forest Service is somehow governed by the old, pre-amendment, language. However, the larger point is that, since no Interior Appropriations Bill has been signed by the President, no such bill could possibly prohibit the agency from funding AmeriCorps.

*** OMB is almost certain to rapidly approve the Forest Service AmeriCorps re-programming letter.** OMB strongly supports Forest Service spending on AmeriCorps. Ms. Rivlin and her new Deputy, Jack Lew, are fervent supporters of AmeriCorps.

*** For a year, the Forest Service leadership has promised the Department, the regions, and the forests that funding for this year would be provided off the top of the national budget.** This promise was made throughout the lengthy year-long application process in which so many forests and regions participated. This entire process was clearly based on the promise of the national pool of money. It is simply inaccurate to now claim that the funds were never intended to come from the national budget.

*** All other USDA agencies involved in Americorps --- NRCS, RHCBDs, RBCDS, FSA, ARS, and FCS --- are funding the program off the top of their national budget.** All these agencies started their second year of the program in October. These agencies have made it clear that AmeriCorps is a top national priority.

*** Conflicting messages sent to the field about AmeriCorps funding have devastated morale for Forest Service AmeriCorps staff throughout the country.** One of the most damaging events was the sending of an E-Mail -- which contained inaccurate funding information and was supposed to be internal to Washington --- to project managers throughout the country. The Forest Service employees around the nation who ran the first year of AmeriCorps and proposed projects for the second year are among the finest employees I have ever met in Federal service; they are hard-working, innovative, dedicated, and highly successful. I believe that it sends precisely the wrong message to cut funding out from under them at the last minute.

*** Funding the program at the regional or forest level could cause labor unions and rank-and-file employees to oppose the program.** Such a funding approach would give the false impression that we are de-funding some permanent or seasonal employees in order to fund AmeriCorps.

*** The bottom line is simple: if the Forest Service does not fund AmeriCorps off the top of its national budget this year, the program will likely die.** Since a few regions have multiple AmeriCorps projects while other have none, denying funding from the national budget would, in essence, penalize the regions and forests that support this key initiative; as a result, many --- if not most --- would choose to no longer participate in the program. Project managers from around the nation have made this clear.

As you know, AmeriCorps is one of the very highest personal priorities of President Clinton. Secretary Glickman has called it one of the most "underrated activities of the government."

Moreover, the program has been wildly successful for the Forest Service. It is a very effective alternative mechanism to carry out work; it does not take away or reduce the Forest Service's ability to perform its mission --- rather it allows more work to be done at a lower cost. As of June 30, AmeriCorps Members serving in Forest Service Projects, had, maintained 355 miles of trail; reforested 638 acres of land; completely rehabilitated or built 254 campground sites; prepared 42 campground sites for accessibility for people with disabilities; improved 254 acres of timber stand; and improved 2,019 acres of wildlife habitat. For each dollar spent on AmeriCorps, the Forest Service would have to have spent between \$1.50 to \$2.30 to perform such work through traditional means. In addition to such work on National Forest System lands, Rural Development Team AmeriCorps projects completed many vital tasks in surrounding communities, thereby significantly improving the relationship between the agency and local public. These projects have helped boost local economies, deliver running water to homes still without it, increase eco-based tourism, promote value-added wood products, etc.

Many of the problems relating to the Forest Service AmeriCorps program can be easily resolved through improved communication between the agency and the Department. Secretary Glickman has signed a delegation of authority formally placing me in charge of the Department's AmeriCorps program, including the Forest Service portion of the program. Thus, it is extremely frustrating that some in the Forest Service still seek to make major policy, staff, and budget decisions about the program with even discussing those decisions with me. I would greatly appreciate your assistance in stressing to your staff the importance of working together with my office and with the other agencies as an equal part of "Team USDA." I hope we can work together to resolve this issue quickly. Thank you for your kind attention.

CC: Mark Gaede, Office of Under Secretary Lyons

**FOOD RECOVERY SUMMIT
AND
USDA FOOD DRIVE
UPDATES AND NEWS FROM THE FIELD**

TO: All State Directors nationwide
State coordinator for Gleaning and Food Drive
St. Louis office

FROM: Bonnie Berry
Food Recovery Summit and USDA Food Drive Coordinator
Rural Development

cc: Joel Berg, Office of the Secretary
National Director for Food Recovery Efforts, -USDA
and
Jill Long Thompson, Under Secretary, Rural Development

States nationwide making plans!!!

Thank you to all State Directors, Rural Development and their Food Recovery/Food Drive Coordinators!!! We are hearing of some very creative plans from states nationwide with the food drive and with plans for the mini-summit downlinks. This memo should provide you with updates from the National Summit and provide some ideas for event planning for your specific state(s). Please note that the following information is still a work in progress:

SUMMIT UPDATES:

Attached is an agenda for the summit and Food Recovery talking points. These can be distributed to those interested. The talking points can be given to participants at your mini-summits or others who are interested.

WORKING WITH THE FAC COMMITTEES:

I would like to re-emphasize that Secretary Glickman and our Under Secretary are very supportive of working together with the other agencies at USDA to make this a positive experience. This is a very worthwhile cause. By working together on the food recovery initiative in your state, we can accomplish much more to educate our employees and the public about the initiative. Please let me know if there are issues we need to resolve. The National FAC will send out a letter of support this week.

FOOD DRIVE AND TALLYING YOUR COLLECTIONS:

One tally of goods collected for each state will be sent to the National office in the report to

Secretary Glickman. THE TOTAL WILL BE THE FSA, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND FSA TOTAL POUNDAGE. We will not look at separate field reports from each of the agencies We are working together on the food drive. For logistics purposes, you should put boxes or bins in strategic places to remind employees of the food drive. This is a joint effort from the USDA offices at a location. It will be less work for everyone. If there are any questions on this, let me know.

STATE REPORTS:

ST. LOUIS:

Coordinator: Debra Petree

Food drive being coordinated. Downlink site and local participation is planned.

NORTHEAST REGION:

MASSACHUSETTS/CONNECTICUT/RHODE ISLAND:

Coordinator: Bill Gouzounis

This jurisdiction was very successful with the Summer of Gleaning program pilot with Americorps members last summer. A guaranteed community facility loan for \$990,000 is being finalized for a food bank located in Shrewsbury, for Worcester County in Massachusetts. The money will be used to expand the facility. The food bank works with over 320 partner agencies throughout the county. They are hoping to have the loan finalized so they can do an event for that week with the local Congressman and a National office representative for the week after the summit. They also have plans in the works for downlink sites etc. More to come I know from the three states!

OHIO:

Coordinator: Eric Luckage

A statewide press release is being prepared for distribution with a quote from the Under Secretary for Rural Development, Jill Long Thompson. Citizens are asked to participate in the food drive. Donations will be sent to the local food banks in that jurisdiction. Two fold approach: outreach to citizens to alert them of new office structure for Ohio and about our programs and also to help bring attention to the Secretarial initiative.

They are also going to contact Congressman Tony Hall's office. Since he is one of the main speakers for the summit, the congressional staff might be interested in participating with a downlink and other activities back home. NRCS/FSA and Rural Development are still ironing out plans for the summit downlinks.

MAINE:

Coordinator: Seth Bradstreet

They are working on the food drive and the downlink with FSA. The location is not finalized yet. The employees from FSA and Rural Development will be gleaning a potato field in Penobscot

County the week of 9/15. No news yet of participation with NRCS.

VERMONT/NEW HAMPSHIRE:

Coordinator: Carolyn Landry

Working with the other agencies, FSA and NRCS. Plans being finalized for a downlink site.

PENNSYLVANIA:

Coordinator: Venecia Cobb (717) 782-2209

Working with the other agencies. Plans are being finalized for a downlink site.

Butler County contacted grocery stores donating canned goods. Downlink site: Trudy Moore will be the contact. 1 Credit Union Place, 3rd floor, USDA joint conference room, Harrisburg, PA. Conference will begin 9:30 to 12:15 pm.

NEW JERSEY:

Coordinator: Marilyn Ford

Working with the other agencies. Plans are being finalized.

MARYLAND/DELAWARE:

Coordinator: Peggy Bennett

Food drive plans are finalized. The collections will be brought to Diversity Day which is held every year for employees. The employees with NRCS and FSA are working together to facilitate efforts. A downlink site/activities are planned at the State office in Camden, Delaware.

NEW YORK:

Coordinator: Paul Dendis

Working with the other agencies. Plans are being finalized.

SOUTHEAST REGION:

ALABAMA:

Coordinator:

FLORIDA:

Coordinator:

GEORGIA:

Coordinator: Laura Meadows, Barbara Eavenson

Food drive is underway for all of the field offices. Working with NRCS and FSA. A downlink site is planned for the State office in Athens.

NORTH CAROLINA:

Coordinator: Dianne Hawes

Food drive is underway with NRCS and FSA. A downlink is planned.

SOUTH CAROLINA:

Coordinator:

VIRGINIA:**Coordinator:****WEST VIRGINIA:****Coordinator: Cathi Ludwig**

Food drive is being held. State is working with NRCS and FSA. There is no downlink planned.

PUERTO RICO:**Coordinator: Arturo Negron**

Food drive in place with FSA. They are working with the Caribbean Food Bank as their partner. They have no plans for a downlink site.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION:**INDIANA:****Coordinator: Sharon Zapata**

Food drive underway. Working with FSA, NRCS and Extension. No plans made as yet for a downlink site.

IOWA:**Coordinator: Nancy Orth**

A food drive is underway with NRCS and FSA. The state office is participating in the downlink site with NRCS in Des Moines.

MINNESOTA:**Coordinator: Rebecca Al-Shams**

Food Drive is underway with NRCS and FSA. No plans are being made for a downlink at this time.

NEBRASKA:**Coordinator:****NORTH DAKOTA:****Coordinator: Colleen Nosbusch****SOUTH DAKOTA:****Coordinator: Shirley Bowden**

Food drive underway with FSA, NRCS and Extension. A downlink site is planned with Extension Services assistance. There will be numerous locations. (Will provide later). NRCS is coordinating a site for FSA, NRCS and Rural Development in Huron.

WISCONSIN:**Coordinator:**

MICHIGAN:**Coordinator: Tim McNeilly**

No response from the FSA or NRCS partners. No downlink site is planned.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION:**ARKANSAS:****Coordinator:****ILLINOIS:****Coordinator: Sheldon Keyser**

Food drive is underway. A downlink site is planned for the Springfield, Illinois with FSA, NRCS and Extension Service.

KANSAS:**Coordinator: Deanna Gerhardt**

Food drive is underway. Coordinating with FSA, NRCS and Extension. Downlink sites are planned. Scheduled for the Garden City USDA Service Center and the Kansas State office. A radio station has already expressed interest in covering a downlink site etc.

KENTUCKY:**Coordinator: Louis Elliott**

The food drive is underway with FSA, NRCS and Extension. The downlink sites are at Kentucky State University, Morehead State University, Adair Extension, UK Research and Education Center. They are coordinating a gleaning site at Gallrein Farms in Shelbyville on Sept. 8th thru 10th and at Kentucky Food Bank in Elizabethtown on Sept. 8 thru 10th.

LOUISIANA:**Coordinator: Janelle Smith**

Food drive is underway. Working with NRCS, FSA and Extension Service. A downlink site is planned. Will let us know of the developments.

MISSISSIPPI:**Coordinator: Bettye Oliver**

The state is working with NRCS and FSA. Roxanne Wise of Food and Consumer Services is coordinating the efforts. A media event is planned with USDA FCS, Mississippi Food Network, The Gleaners, Inc. and Rural Development. Food will be distributed on site at the Mississippi Food Network to local food banks and shelters. All Federal agencies located in the Federal building are participating.

MISSOURI:**Coordinator:****TENNESSEE:****Coordinator:**

WESTERN REGION:

CALIFORNIA:

Coordinator:

IDAHO:

Coordinator:

MONTANA:

Coordinator:

OREGON:

Coordinator:

WASHINGTON:

Coordinator:

WYOMING:

Coordinator:

ALASKA:

Coordinator: Cynthia Ross

Alaska is unable to participate in the downlinks because the national office is not providing to that location. Food drive is underway with FSA. They are working with the food bank in Palmer.

SOUTHWEST REGION:

ARIZONA:

Coordinator: Diana Jennings

Downlink are planned for the following offices: Phoenix, Tucson, Kingman, Flagstaff, Holbrooke, Wilcox. Food Drive is already. They have found over 200 food recovery organizations listed for Arizona in a directory. All will be invited to the downlink. Diana has put together an invitation that will be sent to the organizations. Because of the time difference with the Washington summit, they will tape it and play it around a 12 to 2pm lunch hour so they can attract more persons.

NEVADA:

Coordinator: Kelly Clark

They are working on a downlink with NRCS and FSA and coordinate with the local food banks and with United Way. They are also putting together a booth at the local farmers market.

COLORADO:

Coordinator: Jerry Reitmeyer

The state is working with FSA and NRCS. A downlink site is planned for the state office in Lakewood and other areas in Colorado. More plans are being finalized.

HAWAII:

Coordinator:

No downlink site because the national office cannot provide one for Hawaii. A tape will be sent for their use at a later time.

NEW MEXICO:

Coordinator:

OKLAHOMA:

Coordinator:

TEXAS:

Coordinator:

UTAH:

Coordinator:

CRS Report for Congress

Congressional Research Service • The Library of Congress

The National and Community Service Act of 1990

Dale H. Robinson
Analyst in Social Legislation
Education and Public Welfare Division

SUMMARY

The National and Community Service Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-610) was enacted to renew the ethic of civic responsibility in the United States, and to encourage U.S. citizens to engage in full- or part-time service, among other purposes. Many of the programs authorized under this Act are similar in intent to the Peace Corps and VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America), which were established in the 1960s to respond to needs related to poverty, and still exist today. For FY 1992, the Act received appropriations of \$75 million, with the first grants awarded in June 1992. Programs authorized under the Act include: a demonstration program which offers full- and part-time service opportunities; school and community based service programs; conservation and youth corps; and several smaller innovative and demonstration service programs.

INTRODUCTION

In a national service program, citizens either volunteer or are required to perform some kind of public service usually in exchange for benefits such as educational assistance. Such service can be performed domestically or overseas and be civilian or military based. The United States has no comprehensive national service program. However, for many years the Federal Government has offered volunteer opportunities through programs such as the Peace Corps, VISTA, and several volunteer programs for older Americans. In addition, military service, while providing employment and career opportunities, is also viewed as a form of national service.

The National and Community Service Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-610) established several new service programs, amended existing programs such as the Peace Corps, and established a Points of Light Foundation as requested by President Bush. The Act was the culmination of 2 years of intense congressional debate, and much legislation, on the merits, scope and scale of a national service program. This report describes the National and Community Service Act as enacted and implemented by the newly established Commission on National Service, and includes funding information. Final regulations for the Act were published in the *Federal Register* on February 13, 1992.¹

¹*Federal Register*, v. 57, no. 30, Thursday, Feb. 13, 1992. p. 5298-5318.

THE NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ACT

A 21-member *Commission on National and Community Service* is authorized to administer the majority of programs under the Act, provide for their continuing evaluation, and provide training and technical assistance to States and programs. The Commission must also provide assistance to not more than four regional service clearinghouses. These clearinghouses must have experience in categories such as community service, partnership programs, youth service and intergenerational service. The President, acting through the Commission, is authorized to make Presidential awards to individuals or programs demonstrating outstanding service. The Commission must submit a report on the status of its programs and recommendations for coordinating Federal volunteer service programs by January 1, 1993.

Major New Service Components

Serve-America: the Community Service, Schools and Service Learning Act, authorizes grants for *elementary, secondary and post-secondary education service projects*. Grants are awarded to States or local applicants to implement elementary and secondary service learning programs which can include: training for teachers; developing curricula; forming local partnerships among public and private schools and between schools and private organizations; and devising research and evaluation methods for studying the value of service. Projects can also include those specifically for out-of-school youth, dropouts, and ones involving adult volunteers in schools or partnerships.

Grants are also awarded under Serve-America for *higher education innovative projects*. Grants are authorized to help create or expand community service opportunities for students attending higher education institutions. These projects may involve student-initiated projects, integrating community service into curricula, and developing teacher and volunteer training programs, among others.

The American Conservation and Youth Service Corps Act authorizes the creation or expansion of *conservation and youth corps programs*. Conservation corps programs include projects such as rehabilitation and improvement of wildlife habitat, road maintenance, and energy conservation projects, among others. Youth corps projects involve working in government agencies, nursing homes, child and adult day care centers, and law enforcement agencies. Enrollment in these corps is limited to youths between 15 and 25 years old, and programs must include educationally and economically disadvantaged youth. In return for service, participants receive in-service and post service training and educational benefits and a living allowance. The Commission can award grants to States, the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Interior, or the ACTION agency for the creation of these programs.

The National and Community Service Act authorizes the demonstration of a *comprehensive national service program* that offers vouchers in exchange for full- and part-time service. Projects must be aimed at "meeting unmet

educational, human, environmental, and public safety needs, and especially those needs relating to poverty."² Vouchers can be used for payment of a student loan (part-time and full-time participants), down payment of a first home (part-time participant only), or tuition at a higher education institution or apprenticeship program (part-time or full-time participants). Full-time participants will receive vouchers worth \$2,500 and part-time participants will receive vouchers worth \$1,000. All participants must be at least 17 years old. Full-time participants must also have received a high school diploma or its equivalent, or agree to achieve one of these while in the program.

This program also includes a special senior service component for persons who are over 60 years of age and meet other eligibility criteria established by the Commission. The Act authorizes not more than five States (or Indian tribes) to operate full-time programs and not more than five States to operate part-time programs.

Other New Service Components and Amendments to Existing Programs

The National Service Act authorizes or amends several other service programs. A *Governors Innovative Service* grant program is authorized to award grants to States or Indian tribes for innovative projects related to national service. Projects may include enhancing and coordinating existing service programs, research and evaluation, and technical assistance. The Act amends the *Peace Corps* and *VISTA* programs by encouraging persons who have completed at least 2 years of higher education to serve in these programs for at least three years in exchange for education and training benefits. These benefits will pay the costs of the person's last 2 years in school.

The Act also creates a *rural youth service demonstration project*; authorizes grants for the already existing *Foster Grandparents* program to increase the number of low-income volunteers who provide services to Head Start children; and authorizes grants to public and private nonprofits organizations to develop *employer-based retiree volunteer programs*.

Postsecondary institutions participating in the *Perkins Loan and Guaranteed Student Loan* programs of the Higher Education Act are required under the Act to provide information to students on the terms and conditions for having loan repayments deferred or canceled for students engaged in certain volunteer programs. In addition, the U.S. Secretary of Education is required to collect data on the number and amount of loan repayments canceled and deferred due to students' voluntary community service.

In addition, the *Student Literacy Corps*, administered by the U.S. Department of Education is amended under the Act. The number of hours students must work under the program in order to receive academic credit is increased from 6 hours per week during the academic year to at least 60 hours during the academic year. Further, the Act stipulates that priority for receiving

²42 USC 12473.

the Student Literacy Corps grants be given to institutions that serve educationally disadvantaged children receiving services under Chapter 1 of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. Priority must also be given to schools serving illiterate parents of educationally or economically disadvantaged school children, especially single parents. However, these stipulations only apply to appropriated amounts in excess of \$10 million (in FY 1992 this program received an appropriation of \$5.4 million).

The Act adds *Youthbuild Projects* to the Domestic Volunteer Service Act. This program authorizes the director of ACTION, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, to provide economically disadvantaged young adults opportunities to help meet the housing needs of homeless individuals and low-income families; and to enable such young adults to obtain education and employment skills necessary to achieve economic self-sufficiency. A participant must be 16-24 years old, economically disadvantaged, and a dropout whose reading and math skills are at or below the 8th grade level. Participants will receive in-service education and training benefits and a living allowance.

The Act also authorizes the *Points of Light Foundation*. This foundation is authorized to make grants for the purposes of: encouraging Americans and institutions to solve critical social problems through volunteering; identifying successful and promising community service projects and disseminating information concerning such projects to other communities; and discovering new leaders and developing individuals and institutions that serve as strong examples of commitment to others. This foundation is a separate entity from the Commission on National Service and receives a separate appropriation from the programs administered by the Commission.

Funding

Appropriations for most components of the National and Community Service Act are included in the Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies appropriations acts. The programs under the Act received an appropriation of \$57 million for FY 1991, and technical amendments signed into law in March 1991 (P.L. 102-10) gave the Commission until May 16, 1991 to issue final rules regarding the programs under the Act. However, Commission members were not appointed by the President until August 1991, and could not grant funds before the end of FY 1991.

Although unable to take advantage of monies appropriated for FY 1991, the Act received an appropriation of \$75 million for FY 1992, and the first grants were awarded by the Commission in June 1992. All grants require some matching effort. Table 1 lists the programs authorized by the National Service Act, their administrative bodies, the authorizations and appropriations for FYs 1991 and 1992, and the amount recommended by the House for FY 1993.

TABLE 1. The National and Community Service Act: Authorizations, Appropriations, and Administration
(\$ in millions)

Program	Administration	FY 1991		FY 1992		FY 1993	
		Author.	Approp. ^e	Author.	Approp.	Author.	Hse.Rec. ^j
Title I							
Serve-America: School and Community Based Service	Commission; States	b	\$16.5 ^f	b	\$16.9	b	10.5 ^k
Higher Education Innovative Projects	Commission; Higher Education Institutions	c	f	c	\$ 5.6	c	c
Conservation and Youth Service Corps	Commission; States; Depts.of Agriculture, Interior, or ACTION	b	\$16.5 ^g	b	\$22.5	b	10.5 ^k
National Service Full- and Part-time Demonstration	Commission; States	b	\$22.0	b	\$22.5	b	10.5 ^k
Governors' Innovative Service Programs	Commission; States or Indian tribes	d	f	d	\$ 5.5 ⁱ	d	k
Peace Corps and VISTA Training and Educational Benefits Demonstration	Commission; Peace Corps and ACTION	d	f	d	i	d	k
Other Volunteer Programs ^a	Commission; ACTION; private & public nonprofits	d	f	d	i	d	k
Commission on National Service		\$ 2.0	\$ 2.0	\$ 2.0	\$ 2.0	\$ 2.0	\$ 2.0
Total for title I		\$56.0	\$57.0	\$95.5	\$75.0	\$105.0	\$35.0
Title II							
Youthbuild Projects	ACTION	\$ 1.0	h	\$ 2.0	h	\$ 5.0	h
Title III							
Points of Light Foundation	Points of Light Foundation	\$ 5.0	\$ 5.0	\$ 7.5	\$ 5.0	\$10.0	\$ 5.0
TOTAL		\$62.0	\$62.0	\$105.0	\$80.0	\$122.0	\$42.0

See footnotes at end of table.

Footnotes to table 1.

^aIncludes rural youth service projects, Foster Grandparent program amendments, and employer-based retiree volunteer programs.

^bNot less than 30 percent of the amount appropriated for title I must be made available for this program each year.

^cIncluded in amount allocated for Serve-America: School and Community Based Service.

^dThe Act states that grants for these programs may be awarded from title I monies.

^eAlthough funds were appropriated for FY 1991, due to delayed appointment of commission members, the funds were never obligated. Consequently, no awards were granted for FY 1991, and the money lapsed.

^fThe appropriation report language stated "\$16.5 million for school-based and community based programs and out-of-school programs." It is not clear which programs from title I were included in this category.

^gAppropriation report language stated "\$16.5 million for youth service corps." Presumably this also included conservation corps.

^hAs authorized under the National Service Act, the program would be included in appropriations for the ACTION agency, but has never received a direct line item appropriation. A proposal has been introduced in the 102d Congress (S. 1100) to turn this never-funded demonstration into a national program under the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

ⁱOut of a total of \$5.5 million available, the Commission states that it will be awarding grants under three of these five programs in FY 1992.

^jU.S. Congress. House. Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development and Independent Agencies Appropriations Bill, 1993. House Report No. 102-710, 102d Cong., 2d Sess., July 23, 1992. Washington, GPO, 1992.

^kThe Act requires that no less than 30 percent of funds appropriated for title I go for each of the following programs: school based service, conservation corps, and the national full- and part-time service demonstration project. Allocations amounts are not specified for the other five smaller demonstration programs.

File

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BACKGROUND BRIEFING FOR SENATOR LEAHY

SUBJECT: USDA AmeriCorps National Service Training

From Monday, August 8th through Friday, August 12th, approximately 200 people who will be managing USDA AmeriCorps projects will gather in Washington and at the 4-H Center in Chevy Chase for an intensive training program. Most of those in attendance will be USDA employees, but some will be employees of anti-hunger groups or youth service organizations. For at least half a day during the week, all training participants will join the young people in our DC summer program to perform community service.

The following three people from Vermont are expected to be in attendance:

Bari Gladstone, Project Director, VT anti-hunger project

Veda Lyons, State Office of Economic Opportunity

Kathie Blair, Executive Director, Governor's Commission on Service

Senator Leahy will address the kick-off of the conference at 2:00 p.m. USDA officials, including assistant secretaries and agency administrators, are likely to address the group at the same time. It is still unclear whether Secretary Espy or Deputy Secretary Rominger will be able to attend. Joel Berg, Director of National Service for USDA, will moderate the proceedings.

We suggest that Senator Leahy speak for a maximum of ten minutes and that he touch on the following points:

*** The AmeriCorps/USDA program is a triumph of the "Team USDA" approach in which all agencies pull together for one common goal instead of protecting their individual agency turfs. Thus, this program demonstrates the effectiveness of the "reinventing USDA" vision shared by Secretary Espy and Senator Leahy. Over a dozen USDA agencies have significant roles in managing this program. They are looking past their parochial interests to collaborate on how to best make this new program work.**

Doug

2

* **The USDA program culminates a highly unusual process in which Federal agencies have to actually submit a detailed and comprehensive application to another federal entity in order to be considered for a grant.** Unlike the way government usually operates, no one agency was guaranteed funding by a set formula. As a consequence of this open competition, Federal agencies were forced to work harder and more creatively to develop quality programs in their applications.

* **USDA had one of the highest quality applications, so it is no surprise that the CNCS granted USDA more AmeriCorps members than any other program, federal or non-federal.** Out of the approximately 2,500 AmeriCorps slots awarded to Federal agencies, USDA received 1,200 -- almost half. USDA will have 42 different projects operating in 32 different states.

* **AmeriCorps rebuilds the sense of community that made America great.** By bringing together Americans of all races, classes, genders, religions, sexual orientations, and physical abilities to work side-by-side, AmeriCorps will strengthen the cords that bind us together as a people. The "sweat equity" created by AmeriCorps can play an important role in healing the nation's wounds and bridging our divisions. AmeriCorps will fundamentally change the country because it creates a new civic compact in which any citizen can be tied to the nation by the simple virtue of making a difference in the lives of others.

* **AmeriCorps promotes personal responsibility.** AmeriCorps gives all Americans a new way of giving something back to the country. It reminds us that, along with rights we enjoy as citizens, we all have certain obligations to protecting those rights and aiding our own communities. Furthermore, AmeriCorps gives young people a tangible way to take charge of their own lives.

* **AmeriCorps expands educational and economic opportunity.** Participants in the program will receive a living stipend and will also receive an educational award worth \$4,725 for each year of service successfully performed. AmeriCorps is one of the major Administration initiatives aimed at making post-secondary education once again affordable for most Americans.

* **Starting in September 1994, USDA will run three nationwide AmeriCorps Teams: an Anti-Hunger Team; a Public Lands and Environment Team; and a Rural Development Team.** Vermont will have members of all three teams.

* **The USDA AmeriCorps program will provide USDA with innovative ways to meet three of its main mission areas: fighting hunger and improving nutrition, protecting the environment and preserving public lands, and boosting the economies and quality of life in rural communities.** This program provides USDA will a highly cost-effective way of better serving the American people.

The Center for Civic Enterprise



HOUSE PANEL DROPS NATIONAL SERVICE

April 17, 1990

Introduction

Despite broad backing in the U.S. Senate for a small national service demonstration project, the House Education and Labor Committee last month dropped the measure from its own package of youth service proposals. The Committee's action jeopardizes efforts, dating back to the first day of this Congress, to test proposals to create a "civilian G.I. Bill" that would offer federal education and housing aid in exchange for community service.

The demonstration project is part of the \$125 million National and Community Service Act (S. 1430), which the Senate overwhelmingly approved March 1. The bill, which includes a variety of approaches to youth service, earmarks \$35 million in grants to local full- and part-time community service projects that link service and federal assistance. The chief architects of the demonstration plan are Sens. Sam Nunn, Barbara Mikulski, and Claiborne Pell. Key House leaders, including Majority Leader Richard Gephardt and Majority Whip Bill Gray, have also endorsed the Senate approach.

While the House Education and Labor Committee incorporated other parts of the Senate bill, it explicitly rejected the national service demonstration project. In a March 21 letter to his colleagues, Committee Chairman Augustus F. Hawkins said his \$183 million bill (H.R. 4330) "categorically rejects any linkage between service and student financial assistance."

The two bills embody different approaches to youth service. While the Senate version seeks to recruit volunteers from all backgrounds, the House panel bill would recruit mostly disadvantaged youths. And while the Senate bill envisions national service as a new means to deliver services to needy Americans, the Hawkins bill focuses instead on how the servers themselves benefit. Although labeled a national service bill, the committee's approach is actually closer in spirit and design to a traditional youth jobs program.

The Committee's opposition to the pilot program is a serious obstacle to testing the feasibility of a civilian G.I. Bill that would be a catalyst for upward mobility for young Americans. Unless the entire House amends the Committee bill or accepts the Senate proposal in conference, national service will be defeated for the 101st Congress. As a result, a potentially major new avenue of expanded opportunities for young Americans would be closed.

Comparison of the Two Bills

Both the Senate bill and the House panel bill would:

** Promote "school-based service" in which Washington would offer grants to secondary and post-secondary schools that create or expand programs that integrate community service into their traditional curricula.*

** Establish the American Conservation and Youth Corps, which would give federal grants to state and local projects that employ disadvantaged youth in performing conservation work and in delivering social services.*

** Create and expand programs for retirees and other adults to volunteer in public schools.*

** Offer student loan forgiveness to college graduates who join the Peace Corps or VISTA, or who take low-paying jobs in non-profit community service organizations.*

In addition, the Hawkins bill would:

** Create a \$10 million "Youthbuild" program for disadvantaged youth that would combine compensatory education and construction skills training.*

** Offer grants to all 50 of the nation's governors "for initiatives involving non-school-based voluntary service."*

** Provide money to promote volunteerism in rural areas, and to fund model community service programs for school drop-outs.*

** Fund an increase in the number of foster grandparents participating in the Head Start program.*

** Establish a ROTC-style program for the Peace Corps, in which the federal government would pay for two years of college, up to \$40,000, for students who agree to serve three years in the Peace Corps after graduation.*

In addition to omitting the national service demonstration project, the Hawkins bill also drops a Senate provision establishing President Bush's "Points of Light Foundation" to promote volunteerism.

Background

The current resurgence of interest in national service dates back to May, 1988, when the Democratic Leadership Council (DLC) issued a detailed proposal for a nationwide "Citizens Corps," which it described as a new G.I. Bill expanded to include civilian as well as military service to the nation.

In October, 1988, during the presidential campaign, then-candidate George Bush issued his call for a "thousand points of light" of volunteerism. Then, in January of 1989, Sens. Nunn, Charles Robb, and Mikulski and Rep. Dave McCurdy introduced the Citizenship and National Service Act (S. 3, H.R. 660), based on the DLC proposal. Over 20 bills promoting youth service were subsequently introduced in the 101st Congress.

On March 1, after much wrangling with the Administration and Senate Republicans over cost, the Senate passed its bill by a lopsided vote of 78-19. Hearings on the Hawkins bill are pending before his committee.

The Demonstration Project

The Senate bill authorizes \$14 million in fiscal year 1990 and \$21 million in fiscal year 1991 for the creation of five full-time and five part-time national service pilot projects. They would employ 1,400 full-time participants and 7,200 part-time participants in various community service tasks. In return for their service, full-time volunteers would receive a modest living allowance and a \$5,000 voucher to pay for college, job training, or a down payment on a home. Part-time servers would work a minimum of nine hours a week at no pay, and would receive a voucher of up to \$2,000 for a year of service.

Volunteers would serve as tutors and teachers' aides; work in hospitals, hospices and community clinics; aid supervisors in child care centers; provide in-home care and other critical services to the elderly, disabled, and infirm; staff drug hot lines and shelters for the homeless; and help renovate houses, clean public spaces and build recreational facilities.

Volunteers would be supervised by either local or state government agencies or community-based private non-profit agencies. The bill also includes a senior citizen demonstration program, in which retirees would volunteer to deliver services or to help administer the national service program itself. Senior participants would receive a small living allowance but no voucher.

The sponsors of the original Nunn-McCurdy bill want to create a laboratory to judge the ultimate worth of a full-scale program. In a press conference announcing the compromise bill on July 27, 1989, Sen. Nunn stated: "I haven't dropped my original thinking on the subject, but I do think we ought to go slowly and determine what works."

The pilot program is designed to shed light on some of the questions surrounding national service. For instance, it would assess the value of the work performed and the ability of volunteers to meet previously unmet social needs. It would gauge the amount of training and supervision young volunteers need to deliver vital social services. The pilot project would also allow comparisons of the future educational and career paths of servers and non-servers.

In general, supporters of voluntary national service cite four main goals: 1) to provide a targeted and cost-effective approach for tackling our nation's most pressing unmet social needs; 2) to spur upward mobility for hard-working youths by awarding educational and housing benefits; 3) to strengthen America's global competitiveness by helping young people get a college education or skills training; and, 4) to give programmatic expression to the principle that the rights and responsibilities of citizenship must be balanced.

- This paper is not intended to support or hinder passage of any legislative proposal. It was prepared by Joel Berg, Policy Analyst at the Center for Civic Enterprise. The Center is a project of the Progressive Policy Institute.

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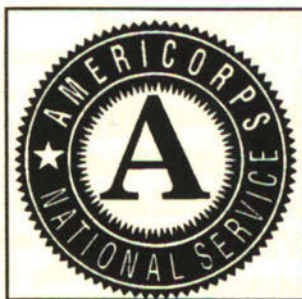
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U.S.D.A.-AMERICORPS

AMERICORPS NEWS FROM TENNESSEE

3RD QUARTER



Inside This Issue

THERE ARE 15 U.S.D.A.
AMERICORPS
MEMBERS IN THE
STATE OF TENNESSEE.

EACH MEMBER HAS
SUBMITTED AN ARTICLE
ON THEIR WORK AND
PROJECTS IN
AMERICORPS.

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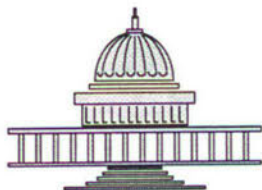
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California Commission on Improving Life Through Service

NATIONAL SERVICE UPDATE

June 20, 1997



On The National Front

Alumni Agents Needed

The Corporation for National Service recently announced the beginning of the 1997 nomination process for Alumni Agents. Alumni Agents are nominated from AmeriCorps programs to join the AmeriCorps Alums, Inc. national network.

Agents serve for three years and are responsible for acting as a liaison between AmeriCorps Alums, Inc. and the field. They represent the AmeriCorps program they served and the Members in their program and class. Agents keep the national organization informed about the activities of their peers and program. Agents are also enlisted to serve as leaders of program initiatives conducted by the national network, such as recruitment drives and service day events.

AmeriCorps programs should forward their nominations a month before the program completes the service year. All Agent names for the Class of 1997 should be submitted to AmeriCorps Alums, Inc. by no later than November 1, 1997.

For information on the program and how to nominate your 1997 Alumni Agent, call 202/337-2562 or Email - Acorpalums@aol.com.



From the State Capital

New Commission Web Page for AmeriCorps Programs

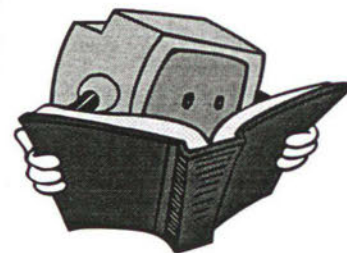
The Commission has recently divided its Internet web site into two sections. One section is for the general public and contains basic information about AmeriCorps and other national service programs. The address is <http://www.impactonline.org/caameric>.

The other section is designed specifically for California AmeriCorps Programs. It contains online items such as: the Program Director's Handbook, the AmeriCorps Provisions, Calendar of Events, Americans with Disabilities Act links, California Commission Program Forms, Fiscal Handbook, Web links, and much more. The address is: <http://www.impactonline.org/caameric/programs>.

In the coming months other features will be added including:

- Timelines for Programs
- Fundraising Links
- Member Handbook
- Interactive Commission Forms
- New AmeriCorps Program Guide and more. . .

Questions? or more information, call Rick or Mark at the State Commission 916/323-7646.



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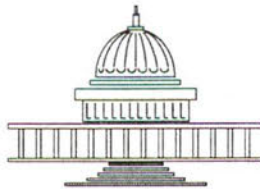
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California Commission on Improving Life Through Service

NATIONAL SERVICE UPDATE

July 18, 1997



On The National Front

National Service Funding Update

On July 15th, the U.S. House of Representatives accepted an amendment to the VA-HUD appropriations bill, to cut funding for AmeriCorps, Learn&Serve, and the Points of Light Foundation by 50%. The original bill had proposed \$402.5 million, which reflects current year funding. House Subcommittee Chairman Representative Jerry Lewis (CA) in accepting the amendment, flatly stated that national service will be fully funded in the final conference report despite the amendment. In another hearing, the House Labor-HHS appropriations subcommittee proposed level funding for AmeriCorps*VISTA and sizeable increases for National Senior Corps programs. In the Senate, the VA-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee proposed level funding for AmeriCorps, Learn&Serve, and the Points of Light Foundation.

In response to these events, Harris Wofford, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National Service, issued a message to the field, "... Last night's action by the House will not stand. On the same day that the House cut national service funding in half, the Senate appropriators proposed level funding ... the President will not approve any bill that eliminates or cuts AmeriCorps."

Please note that the funding bills being discussed are for the 1998/99 funding year. Current year and 1997/98 programs are already fully funded, and the grant approval process is underway. During the appropriation debate, funding for the President's America Reads initiative was not discussed.

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From the State Capital

National Service Program Training

The State Commission has lined up an outstanding group of inspirational and motivational speakers for the 1997 National Service Program Training - August 19th thru 21st. The 1995 and 1996 programs featured actor Richard Dreyfuss and Los Angeles community leader John Bryant, respectively. Here's the lineup:



A native of Louisiana, **John Raye** was raised as one of eleven children in a sharecropping family. From picking cotton with his parents to meatcutting and working in a saw mill, Mr. Raye is now a national spokesperson for Dudley Products, Inc., one of the nation's largest manufacturers of African-American hair and skin care products. He is best known for his motivational seminars on success, prosperity, and possibility.

Sascha Bittner is a 23 year old U.C. Berkeley student who is quadriplegic with a speech disability as a result of cerebral palsy. In her short lifetime, Sascha's dedicated work as a volunteer has opened the eyes of people across the country about the possibilities for individuals with disabilities. Honored in the U.S. and abroad, Sascha has become an inspirational role model and mentor to youth with disabilities.



Ray Gatchlian, is a fire station captain in Oakland, California; a long time volunteer; and community organizer. A recipient of a Kellogg Fellowship, Ray travelled worldwide and made several trips to El Salvador. During these visits, he brought several orphaned children to the United States for surgery unavailable in South America. An award-winning film and video producer, entertainer, and inspirational speaker, Ray has been honored on numerous occasions for heroism, volunteerism and his international human rights work.

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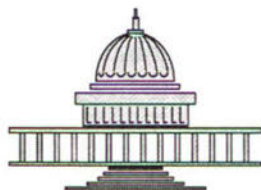
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California Commission on Improving Life Through Service

NATIONAL SERVICE UPDATE

September 5, 1997



On The National Front

New Recruitment & Marketing Ads

The Corporation for National Service (CNS) launched a nationwide marketing and recruitment campaign for AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs. New radio and television public service announcements, print ads, orientation/training videos, and tear-card posters have been distributed to media outlets across the country. Programs are encouraged to contact their local media outlets to see if they have received the public service announcements. AmeriCorps programs should have received copies of the print ads, a tear-card poster, and a copy of the public service announcement. Additional copies of all materials can be ordered by calling Heather Wurthman at 202/452-9401.

Programs can now contact the CNS Recruitment Contractor directly for AmeriCorps localized recruitment sorts and printed materials. Sorts are the names of people in the national database who have indicated an interest in joining AmeriCorps. Request/order forms have been sent to programs. California recruitment representatives include: Mr. Sean Whitten, Field Recruiter for the Pacific Cluster (415/561-5960); AmeriCorps Campus Representatives, Meika Loe at UC Santa Barbara and Saurabh Bajaj at UC Berkeley; and CNS-Pacific Cluster Recruitment Coordinator, Monica Gugel (202/606-5000, Ext. 200).

The State Commission is also available to provide a variety of resources to assist programs with their media and public relations efforts. Call 916/323-7646 for more information.

1121 L Street, Suite 103,
Sacramento, California 95814
(916) 323-7646 * FAX (916) 323-3227
E-Mail: commission@cilts.ca.gov
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From the State Capital

State Commissioner Greets Summit Runner



Commissioner Raymond Johnson presented Ms. Hoang Taing with a letter of support from Governor Pete Wilson on the West Steps of the State Capitol on August 19. Ms. Taing began her national *Run for A Million* at the Presidents' Summit for America's Future in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in April. During her cross-country journey, she has collected more than two million pledged volunteer hours for the United Way of America. The 120-day effort ended on Labor Day with ceremonies at the United Nations Plaza in San Francisco. Ms. Taing started her life in the United States, after her parents were murdered in the "Killing Fields" of Cambodia. Thanks to the goodness of volunteers, she was able to overcome many obstacles and go on to reach some significant milestones including: earning a master's degree; serving as a Presidential Intern; and becoming a motivational speaker. Commissioner Johnson is also the Executive Director of the State Office of Criminal Justice Planning.

National Service Begins Year 4

From October 18 - 25, thousands of AmeriCorps Members from across the state of California will be sworn-in to complete a year of community service. From Eureka to El Centro, a new team of AmeriCorps Members will take the pledge and spend the day working with other national and community service volunteers cleaning-up neighborhoods, feeding the homeless, visiting AIDS patients, and more. For an early preview of launch events see the *Getting Things Done* column in this UPDATE.

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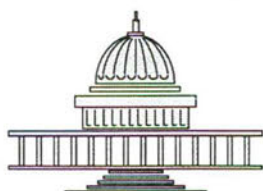
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California Commission on Improving Life Through Service

NATIONAL SERVICE UPDATE

October 3, 1997



On The National Front

98/99 AmeriCorps Funding

The Senate and House of Representatives Conference Committee on the VA/HUD Appropriations bill has concluded its discussions on the national service programs funded through the VA/HUD bill -- AmeriCorps*State and National, AmeriCorps*NCCC, Learn and Serve America, and the National Service Trust. Budget cuts made in the House of Representatives have been restored and conferees have agreed on a \$25 million increase over last year's funding level. This brings the total funding level to \$425.5 million. This increase, which is targeted for literacy activities, is the first increase for national service appropriations.

Additionally, the conference committee earmarked \$2 million of the Corporation's total budget for an increase in administration costs. This funding will further assist CNS as it continues to strengthen its management and financial controls. The conferees also agreed to increase the appropriations for the Corporation's Office of the Inspector General from \$2 million to \$3 million. The Learn and Serve Program, NCCC, and Points of Light Foundation remain at last year's funding levels. The conference report is scheduled to be filed shortly and conferees are optimistic that it will pass both Houses of Congress. The Labor-HHS conference committee which funds AmeriCorps*VISTA and the Senior Corps is scheduled to meet next week.

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From the State Capital

1997 Service and Volunteerism Conference YOUTH SUMMIT '97

Saturday, October 18, 1997

1:00 - 5:00PM

Burbank Hilton and Convention Center

Topics

**** Child Abuse:***

Breaking the Cycle

**** Literacy: The Power of the
Written Word***

**** Safer Schools, Safer Communities***

**** Teen Suicide and Depression***

Registration: 800/858-7743

Scholarships: 916/653-8190

**** * * * ****

***Registration Deadline
Extended !!***

for the

***'97 Service and Volunteerism Conference
October 16 -18, Burbank, Ca***

On-Site Registrations Will Be Accepted

CALL NOW!! 800/858-7743

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California Commission on Improving Life Through Service

NATIONAL SERVICE UPDATE Special Edition

97/98 Service & Volunteerism Conference Burbank, California - October 16 -18



Nelda Brown, of the California Department of Education served as Mistress of Ceremonies for the "Service as a Strategy" general session.

The 1997 Service and Volunteerism Conference was held in Burbank, California and sponsored by the California Commission, Department of Education, Volunteer Centers of California, Youth Service California, California Conservation Corps, and Service-Learning 2000. Close to 700 service advocates from across the state came together for a day of workshops, volunteer awards, and hands-on service projects. Special guests included: former First Lady Gloria Deukmejian; NBC-TV Anchor Colleen Williams; Volunteer Center Assistance League of Southern California, Executive Director Jim Leahy; and State Secretary of the Health and Welfare Agency, Sandra Smoley.



NBC-TV Anchor Colleen Williams, Jim Leahy, and Gloria Deukmejian.



Volunteer Center Awardees Victor Rios, Everett Durfee, and Heather Henkel pose for a photo with Health and Welfare Agency Secretary, Sandra Smoley.

State Commission Meets in Sacramento



Last month, the State Commission met at the Sierra Health Foundation in Sacramento, California. Five new Commissioners have recently been added to the State Commission. An update on those appointments from Governor Wilson will appear in the next National Service Update.

For more information on the Commission and submissions to the National Service Update, please contact the Office of Public Information:

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