

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3624

To amend the national service laws to prioritize national service programs and projects that are directly related to the response to and recovery from the COVID–19 public health emergency, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 6, 2020

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. REED, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KING, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. UDALL, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BROWN, Ms. HIRONO, and Ms. HARRIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

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## A BILL

To amend the national service laws to prioritize national service programs and projects that are directly related to the response to and recovery from the COVID–19 public health emergency, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Pandemic Response  
5 and Opportunity Through National Service Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

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

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

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

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

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

1 en services in partnership with nongovernmental or-  
2 ganizations and State governments.

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

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

14 (8) The novel coronavirus pandemic has in-  
15 fected and killed individuals in every State and terri-  
16 tory, causing more than 1,000,000 cases and 65,000  
17 deaths so far.

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

23 (10) More than 30,000,000 applications for un-  
24 employment benefits have been filed in recent weeks,

1 with weekly filings repeatedly exceeding historic  
2 record levels.

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

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

11 (13) To recover, the Nation also needs mean-  
12 ingful employment opportunities, as well as a signifi-  
13 cant expansion of the human capital working to ad-  
14 dress community needs around public health, behav-  
15 ioral health, hunger, education, and conservation.

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

22 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

23 The purposes of this Act are—

24 (1) to provide for 750,000 participants, over 3  
25 years, in national service programs, such as the

1 Public Land Corps (also known as the 21st Century  
2 Conservation Service Corps) programs and other  
3 AmeriCorps programs, that will provide services in  
4 response to the pandemic and economic crisis, in-  
5 cluding to help satisfy the projected need for as  
6 many as 300,000 additional public health workers;

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

10 (3) to stabilize such national service programs  
11 during economic crisis; and

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

14 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

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

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

22 (2) by inserting after paragraph (12) the fol-  
23 lowing:

24 “(13) COVID–19 DEFINITIONS.—

1           “(A) COVID–19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE  
 2           AND RECOVERY PERIOD.—The term ‘COVID–  
 3           19 emergency response and recovery period’  
 4           means the period beginning on the first day of  
 5           the COVID–19 public health emergency and  
 6           ending at the end of fiscal year 2023.

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

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

17          “(37) PUBLIC LAND CORPS.—The term ‘Public  
 18          Lands Corps’ means the Corps established in section  
 19          204 of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 (16  
 20          U.S.C. 1723).”.

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

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

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

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

4 “(21)(A) the term ‘COVID–19 emergency re-  
 5 sponse and recovery period’ means the period begin-  
 6 ning on the first day of the COVID–19 public health  
 7 emergency and ending at the end of fiscal year  
 8 2023; and

9 “(B) the term ‘COVID–19 public health emer-  
 10 gency’ means the public health emergency declared  
 11 by the Secretary of Health and Human Services  
 12 under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act  
 13 (42 U.S.C. 247d) on January 31, 2020, with respect  
 14 to COVID–19; and

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

18 **SEC. 5. PRIORITIZING RESPONSE SERVICES.**

19 (a) AMERICORPS STATE AND NATIONAL.—

20 (1) NATIONAL SERVICE PRIORITIES.—Section  
 21 122(f) of the National and Community Service Act  
 22 of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12572(f)) is amended—

23 (A) in paragraph (1)—

24 (i) in subparagraph (A), by adding at  
 25 the end the following: “For fiscal years

1           2020 through 2023, the Corporation shall  
 2           include, in the national service priorities,  
 3           the priorities described in paragraph (5).”;  
 4           and

5                   (ii) in subparagraph (B), by adding at  
 6           the end the following: “For fiscal years  
 7           2020 through 2023, each State shall in-  
 8           clude, in the State priorities, the priorities  
 9           described in section (5).”; and

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

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

17                   “(A) that propose activities directly related  
 18           to the response to and recovery from the  
 19           COVID–19 public health emergency, such as  
 20           the provision of—

21                           “(i) public health services, including  
 22                           contact tracing and support for isolation  
 23                           and quarantine activities;

24                           “(ii) emergency logistics;



1 “(iii) work that furthers the capacity  
2 of State (including territorial), tribal, and  
3 local health departments and the rec-  
4 ommendations of the Director of the Cen-  
5 ters for Disease Control and Prevention;

6 “(iv) workforce investment activities  
7 and reemployment services;

8 “(v) education, including enrichment  
9 and adult education and literacy activities;

10 “(vi) jobs for youth in preserving and  
11 restoring nature; and

12 “(vii) services to address food insecu-  
13 rity;

14 “(B) who—

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

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

23 “(C) to the maximum extent practicable, if  
24 the entities are proposing programs that serve,  
25 or proposing to give priority for positions to ap-

1       plicants from, underserved populations, such as  
2       economically disadvantaged individuals, minor-  
3       ity individuals, individuals who have had con-  
4       tact with the juvenile justice system, Indians,  
5       veterans, and individuals whose abilities are not  
6       typical, such as individuals with intellectual or  
7       developmental disabilities; and

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

10               “(i) were serving outside of the  
11               United States in the Peace Corps, the J.  
12               William Fulbright Educational Exchange  
13               Program referenced in section 112 of the  
14               Mutual Educational and Cultural Ex-  
15               change Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2460), or  
16               the program under this subtitle, subtitle E,  
17               or part A of title I of the Domestic Volun-  
18               teer Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4951  
19               et seq.); but

20               “(ii) ended their terms of service  
21               early, or returned to the United States be-  
22               fore the end of their terms of service, due  
23               to the COVID–19 public health emer-  
24               gency.”.

1 (b) AMERICORPS NCCC.—Section 157 of the Na-  
 2 tional and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.  
 3 12617) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (b)(1), by adding at the end  
 5 the following:

6 “(C) SURGE CAPACITY AND PRIORITY  
 7 PROJECTS.—

8 “(i) SURGE CAPACITY PROJECTS.—  
 9 The Corporation and the Director of the  
 10 Centers for Disease Control and Preven-  
 11 tion shall develop, and the Corporation  
 12 shall approve, a proposal for public health  
 13 surge capacity projects. In carrying out the  
 14 projects, the Corporation and the Director  
 15 shall develop and deploy public health  
 16 surge capacity teams.

17 “(ii) PRIORITY PROJECTS.—For fiscal  
 18 years 2020 through 2023, the Corporation  
 19 shall give priority to entities submitting  
 20 applications for projects under this subtitle  
 21 in the same manner as the Corporation  
 22 gives priority to entities submitting appli-  
 23 cations for national service programs  
 24 under section 122(f)(5).”; and

25 (2) in subsection (c)—

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

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

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

9 (c) AMERICORPS VISTA.—Section 109 of the Do-  
10 mestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4960)  
11 is amended by adding at the end the following: “For fiscal  
12 years 2020 through 2023, the Corporation shall give pri-  
13 ority to entities submitting applications for projects or  
14 programs under this part in the same manner as the Cor-  
15 poration gives priority to entities submitting applications  
16 for national service programs under section 122(f)(5) of  
17 the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42  
18 U.S.C. 12572(f)(5)).”.

19 **SEC. 6. STRENGTHENING OPPORTUNITY.**

20 (a) ALLOWANCES.—

21 (1) DOMESTIC VOLUNTEER SERVICE ACT OF  
22 1973.—Section 105(b) of the Domestic Volunteer  
23 Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4955(b)) is amend-  
24 ed—

25 (A) in paragraph (2)—

1 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
2 “95 percent” and inserting “175 percent”;  
3 and

4 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
5 “105 percent” and inserting “185 per-  
6 cent”; and

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

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

24 “(B) In the event that sufficient appropriations  
25 for any fiscal year (consistent with subparagraph

(A)) are not available to increase any stipend or allowance under this section or allowance under section 140 of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to the minimum amount specified in this section or under that section 140, respectively, the Director shall increase the stipend or allowance involved to such amount as appropriations for such year permit consistent with subparagraph (A).”.

(2) NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ACT OF 1990.—Section 158(b) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12618(b)) is amended—

(A) by striking “The Director” the first place it appears and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director”; and

(B) by striking “100 percent” and inserting “175 percent”.

(b) NATIONAL SERVICE EDUCATIONAL AWARDS.—Section 147(a) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12603(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “Except as provided” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided”;

(2) by striking “shall receive a national service educational award” and all that follows through “ap-

1       appropriations)” and inserting “shall be entitled to a  
 2       national service educational award equal to the  
 3       award amount specified in paragraph (2)”;

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

5               “(2) AWARD AMOUNT.—The award referred to  
 6       in paragraph (1), payable to an individual described  
 7       in such paragraph, shall be in an amount that is  
 8       equal to twice the amount of the national average of  
 9       the cost for in-State tuition and fees at public, 4-  
 10      year institutions of higher education, for the award  
 11      year for which the national service position is ap-  
 12      proved by the Corporation.

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

16      (c) TAX PROVISIONS.—

17              (1) INCOME TAX EXCLUSION FOR LIVING AL-  
 18      LOWANCE.—

19              (A) IN GENERAL.—Part III of subchapter  
 20      B of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of  
 21      1986 is amended by inserting after section  
 22      139H the following new section:

1 **“SEC. 139I. LIVING ALLOWANCE FOR NATIONAL SERVICE**  
 2 **PARTICIPANTS.**

3 “Gross income does not include the amount of any  
 4 living allowance provided under section 105(b) of the Do-  
 5 mestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4955(b))  
 6 or section 140(a) or 158(b) of the National and Commu-  
 7 nity Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12594(a),  
 8 12618(b)).”.

9 (B) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of  
 10 sections for part III of subchapter B of chapter  
 11 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is  
 12 amended by inserting after the item relating to  
 13 section 139H the following new item:

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

14 (C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments  
 15 made by this paragraph shall apply to taxable  
 16 years beginning after the date of the enactment  
 17 of this Act.

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

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

24 “(e) NATIONAL SERVICE EDUCATIONAL AWARDS.—  
 25 Gross income shall not include any payments from the Na-



1 tional Service Trust established under section 145 of the  
 2 National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.  
 3 12601), including the national service educational award  
 4 described in subtitle D of title I of such Act (42 U.S.C.  
 5 12601 et seq.).”.

6 (B) EXCLUSION OF DISCHARGE OF STU-  
 7 DENT LOAN DEBT.—Subsection (f) of section  
 8 108 of such Code is amended by adding at the  
 9 end the following new paragraph:

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

17 (C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments  
 18 made by this paragraph shall apply to taxable  
 19 years ending after the date of the enactment of  
 20 this Act.

21 **SEC. 7. INVITING PARTICIPATION.**

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

1       “(j) COORDINATION WITH OTHER YOUTH PRO-  
2 GRAMS.—

3               “(1) COVERED PROGRAMS.—The term ‘covered  
4 program’ means—

5               “(A) the YouthBuild program carried out  
6 by the Secretary of Labor under section 171 of  
7 the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act  
8 (29 U.S.C. 3226);

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

12               “(C) a youth conservation corps program  
13 under title I of the Act entitled ‘An Act to es-  
14 tablish a pilot program in the Departments of  
15 the Interior and Agriculture designated as the  
16 Youth Conservation Corps, and for other pur-  
17 poses’, approved August 13, 1970 (commonly  
18 known as the ‘Youth Conservation Corps Act of  
19 1970’; 16 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and

20               “(D) the National Guard Youth Challenge  
21 Program under section 509 of title 32, United  
22 States Code.

23               “(2) COORDINATION.—The Chief Executive Of-  
24 ficer, in coordination with the Federal agency rep-  
25 resentatives for covered programs, shall develop a

1        plan and make recommendations in the plan to im-  
 2        prove coordination between covered programs and  
 3        programs of the Corporation to meet the needs of  
 4        underserved youth, such as economically disadvan-  
 5        taged youth, minority youth, youth who left school  
 6        without a secondary school diploma, formerly incar-  
 7        cerated or court-involved youth, youth who are chil-  
 8        dren of an incarcerated parent, youth in foster care  
 9        (including youth aging out of foster care), migrant  
 10       youth, and other youth who are neither enrolled in  
 11       secondary or postsecondary school or participating in  
 12       the labor market.”.

13       (b) PLATFORM FOR NATIONAL SENIOR SERVICE  
 14       CORPS.—Title IV of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act  
 15       of 1973 is amended—

16                (1) by redesignating section 421 (42 U.S.C.  
 17                5061), amended by section 4(b), as section 401;

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

20                (3) by inserting after section 420 (42 U.S.C.  
 21                5059) the following:

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

23                “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Chief Executive Officer  
 24       of the Corporation shall establish an online service plat-  
 25       form with a gateway to connect volunteers in the National

1 Senior Service Corps with service projects and enable the  
2 volunteers to carry out distance volunteer services. The  
3 platform shall be linked to and placed prominently on the  
4 website of the Corporation. The Corporation may enter  
5 into a contract with a public entity to create the platform.

6 “(b) TRAINING RESOURCES AND INFORMATION.—

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

10 “(2) INFORMATION.—The Corporation shall  
11 provide information to regional offices of the Cor-  
12 poration about how to get volunteers in the National  
13 Senior Service Corps connected to the platform  
14 through the gateway.

15 “(3) GUIDANCE.—The Corporation shall issue  
16 guidance for the regional offices about how to trans-  
17 fer the programs of the National Senior Service  
18 Corps to the platform.

19 “(4) OUTREACH.—The Corporation shall pro-  
20 vide outreach services to promote the platform in-  
21 cluding outreach to institutions of higher education,  
22 the Department of Veterans Affairs for mentorship  
23 projects, and State and local governments for com-  
24 munity engagement projects.”.

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

4               “(4) OUTREACH AND PROMOTION CAMPAIGN.—

5                       “(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out public  
 6                       awareness functions under this subsection, the  
 7                       Corporation shall carry out an outreach and  
 8                       promotion campaign to promote programs  
 9                       under the national service laws with opportuni-  
 10                      ties to respond to the COVID–19 public health  
 11                      emergency, with the goal of maximizing aware-  
 12                      ness of those programs among individuals ages  
 13                      17 through 30.

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

16                               “(i) evaluates the outreach and pro-  
 17                               motion campaign; and

18                               “(ii) contains—

19                                       “(I) an analysis of the measures  
 20                                       and resources that would be required  
 21                                       for the Corporation effectively to no-  
 22                                       tify individuals who are ages 17  
 23                                       through 30 every 2 years of opportu-  
 24                                       nities under the national service laws

1 and steps to take to apply for those  
2 opportunities;

3 “(II) a description of how the  
4 Corporation would ensure those meas-  
5 ures would enable the Corporation to  
6 provide that notification to targeted  
7 individuals from diverse geographic  
8 areas, including individuals who are  
9 ages 17 through 30 living in rural  
10 areas and on Indian lands (as defined  
11 in section 3 of the Native American  
12 Business Development, Trade Pro-  
13 motion, and Tourism Act of 2000 (25  
14 U.S.C. 4302)); and

15 “(III) a recommendation regard-  
16 ing whether the Corporation should  
17 make the notifications described in  
18 subclause (I).”.

19 (d) VOLUNTEER GENERATION FUND.—Section  
20 198P(d)(2) of the National and Community Service Act  
21 of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12653p(d)(2)) is amended by adding  
22 at the end the following: “With respect to grants made  
23 with funds appropriated as an additional amount under  
24 section 501(a)(4)(F), the minimum grant amount shall be  
25 not less than \$250,000.”.

1 **SEC. 8. ENSURING AGILITY.**

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

5 (1) in the section heading, by inserting “;  
 6 **MATCHING FUNDS DURING COVID-19 RE-**  
 7 **SPONSE AND RECOVERY PERIOD**” after “**COM-**  
 8 **MUNITIES**”; and

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

10 “(c) **COVID-19 RESPONSE.**—Notwithstanding any  
 11 other provision of law, an entity that receives assistance  
 12 from the Corporation for any program under the national  
 13 service laws (including a State Commission and an entity  
 14 receiving subgrant funds) during the COVID-19 emer-  
 15 gency response and recovery period shall not be subject  
 16 to any requirements to provide matching funds for any  
 17 such program, and the Federal share of such assistance  
 18 for a recipient (including for a State Commission and a  
 19 subgrant recipient) may be 100 percent.”.

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

23 “(d) **DIRECT PLACEMENTS DURING THE COVID-19**  
 24 **RESPONSE AND RECOVERY PERIOD.**—

25 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding section  
 26 178(h), during the COVID-19 emergency response

1       and recovery period, the Corporation shall imple-  
2       ment a pilot program allowing State Commissions to  
3       directly place a portion of individuals who have ap-  
4       proved national service positions in State national  
5       service programs in a manner to be determined by  
6       the Corporation.

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

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

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



1       “(2) In preparing reports relating to programs under  
 2 this Act, the Director shall report on participants, costs,  
 3 and accomplishments under the program under this sub-  
 4 section separately.

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

8       (d) VISTA LIMITATION APPLICABILITY.—Section  
 9 108 of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (42  
 10 U.S.C. 4958) is amended—

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

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

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

1 this part, and such funds may be obligated regardless of  
 2 when grant recipients commenced such programs and  
 3 projects.”.

4 (e) AUGMENTATION AND EXPANSION GRANTS.—  
 5 Title VI of the National and Community Service Act of  
 6 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12501) is amended by adding at the end  
 7 the following:

8 **“SEC. 603. COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RECOV-**  
 9 **ERY PERIOD AUGMENTATION AND EXPAN-**  
 10 **SION GRANTS.**

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

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

20 “(g) TERM OF SERVICE DURING COVID-19 EMER-  
 21 GENCY RESPONSE AND RECOVERY PERIOD.—Notwith-  
 22 standing the aggregate limit under subsection (c), during  
 23 the COVID-19 emergency response and recovery period,  
 24 a participant may be eligible for 2 terms of service and

1 may receive a national service educational award for each  
 2 of those 2 terms of service.”.

3 (g) INCREASE IN LIMITATION ON GRANT  
 4 AMOUNTS.—

5 (1) INCREASE IN LIMITATION ON TOTAL GRANT  
 6 AMOUNT.—Section 189(a) of the National and Com-  
 7 munity Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12645c(a))  
 8 is amended by striking “\$18,000 per full-time equiv-  
 9 alent position.” and inserting “for each full-time  
 10 equivalent position, an amount equal to the sum  
 11 of—

12 “(1) \$7,500; and

13 “(2) the living allowance established under sec-  
 14 tion 140(b).”.

15 (2) WAIVER AUTHORITY FOR INCREASED LIM-  
 16 ITATION.—Section 189(e)(1) of the National and  
 17 Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.  
 18 12645c(e)(1)) is amended by striking “\$19,500”  
 19 and inserting “an amount equal to the sum of  
 20 \$10,000 plus the living allowance established under  
 21 section 140(b)”.

22 (h) INCREASE IN LIMITATION ON TOTAL GRANT  
 23 AMOUNT FOR EDUCATIONAL AWARD ONLY PROGRAM.—  
 24 Section 129A(b) of the National and Community Service  
 25 Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12581a(b)) is amended—

1           (1) by striking “\$800” and inserting “\$1,600”;  
2           and

3           (2) by striking “\$1,000” and inserting  
4           “\$2,000”.

5           (i) SEASONAL PROGRAM.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 (k) FLEXIBILITY.—

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

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

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

3 (l) FURTHER EXPEDITING RAPID ENROLLMENT.—

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

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

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

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

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

5 “(A) \$14,000,000,000, to provide financial  
 6 assistance under subtitle C of title I; and

7 “(B) \$7,525,000,000, to provide national  
 8 service educational awards under subtitle D of  
 9 title I for the total of the number of partici-  
 10 pants described in section 121(f)(1) for fiscal  
 11 years 2020 through 2023.”.

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

16 “(A) increase the number of the approved  
 17 positions to 750,000 over the period of fiscal  
 18 years 2021 through 2023; and

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

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



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

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

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

12 (2) in subparagraph (F), by striking “section  
 13 198P—” and all that follows and inserting “in addi-  
 14 tion to any amount appropriated before the date of  
 15 enactment of the Pandemic Response and Oppor-  
 16 tunity Through National Service Act, an additional  
 17 amount of \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2020.”.

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

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

1 Through National Service Act, an additional amount  
 2 of \$2,769,000,000 for fiscal year 2020.”;

3 (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “for a fis-  
 4 cal year, a portion” and inserting “a portion (from  
 5 the amounts appropriated under subparagraph (A)  
 6 before the date of enactment of the Pandemic Re-  
 7 sponse and Opportunity Through National Service  
 8 Act, and an additional portion of \$1,000,000,000,”;  
 9 and

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

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

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

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

1       ment of the Pandemic Response and Opportunity  
 2       Through National Service Act, an additional amount  
 3       of \$1,400,000,000 for fiscal year 2020.”; and

4               (2) in subsection (d), by striking the period and  
 5       inserting “, except that any additional amount ap-  
 6       propriated under an amendment made by the Pan-  
 7       demic Response and Opportunity Through National  
 8       Service Act shall remain available for obligation  
 9       through fiscal year 2023.”.

10       (f) NATIONAL SENIOR SERVICE CORPS.—Section  
 11   502 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5082) is amended by adding  
 12   at the end the following:

13       “(e) ONLINE SERVICE RESOURCES.—There are au-  
 14   thorized to be appropriated, to develop online service re-  
 15   sources to carry out parts A, B, C, and E of title II,  
 16   \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2010.”.

○