



Cultivating Opportunity and Recovery from the Pandemic through Service (CORPS) Act

The Congressional National Service Caucus introduces the **Cultivating Opportunity and Recovery from the Pandemic through Service (CORPS) Act**, which would expand national service positions to provide Americans with meaningful opportunities while supporting the needs of local communities and economies.

National service programs, administered through the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), connect individuals and organizations to help tackle challenges and create more equitable communities. Currently, the needs across the nation are expansive: students require extra tutoring to recover from learning loss, food banks must meet heightened demand, and millions of newly unemployed individuals seek workforce opportunities or a pathway to higher education. CNCS programs, including AmeriCorps, the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps, and AmeriCorps Seniors, must be expanded to meet the needs of this moment.

These roles offer members impactful opportunities that support the specific needs of local communities and economies. To encourage participation from Americans of all backgrounds, this legislation would increase AmeriCorps living stipends and education awards.

Key Provisions:

- Authorizes funding for an increased number of national service positions through fiscal year 2024 to grow programs to meet critical recovery challenges;
- Expands and builds on eligible service opportunities for AmeriCorps members, including:
 - Assisting educators in helping students overcome learning loss;
 - Expanding throughput at food banks and delivery services that combat nutrition insecurity;
 - Supporting outreach efforts to assist those experiencing homelessness; and
 - Promoting conservation, environmental resiliency, and natural resource preservation
- Ensures that service provides meaningful opportunities for more individuals by providing supplemental funding to raise the minimum AmeriCorps State & National living allowance to 175 percent of the federal poverty line and providing a total education award—used to cover the cost of attendance or pay down student loans—that is twice the value of the maximum Pell grant.
- Provides flexibilities for programs to grow and respond quickly to dynamic local recovery needs, including:
 - Creating a pilot program that allows state service commissions to directly place members, prioritizing positions located in rural and high-poverty communities or with community-based organizations that have not previously hosted AmeriCorps participants;
 - Permitting short-term or seasonal terms of service throughout the year;
 - Waiving the match requirement for AmeriCorps State & National programs; and
 - Temporarily broadening eligibility criteria for some Senior Corps programs.
- Prioritizes funding for:
 - Entities serving communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and using culturally competent and multilingual strategies; and

- Community-based organizations in rural or high-poverty areas or Tribal communities, especially where organizations propose to recruit participants to serve in their own communities.

The U.S. Senate companion legislation has been introduced by Senators Chris Coons (D-DE) and Roger Whicker (R-MS) they are joined by Senators Jack Reed (D-RI), Roy Blunt (R-MO), Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS), Cory Booker (D-NJ), Susan Collins (R-ME), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Marco Rubio (R-FL), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Angus King (I-ME), John Cornyn (R-TX), Mark Kelly (D-AZ), Bill Cassidy (R-LA), and Dick Durbin (D-IL).

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