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Subgroup/Office of Origin: Intergovernmental Affairs

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Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 9108

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Folder Title:

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For Immediate Release
Monday, June 20, 1994

Contact: Diana Aldridge
(202) 606-5000, Ext. 182

AmeriCorps National Service



**White House and Cabinet Members Announce First Wave of AmeriCorps
National Service Programs Covering 47 States and Washington, D.C.**

**Program Winners Include Scores of National Organizations
and Fifteen Federal Agencies**

At a White House press briefing today the Administration announced the first wave of AmeriCorps programs that will operate national service projects across the country beginning this fall.

AmeriCorps -- the new national service initiative signed into law by President Clinton last September -- will establish a "domestic Peace Corps," involving thousands of young Americans who will work through AmeriCorps programs to perform critical service in urban and rural communities nationwide.

AmeriCorps will be launched in September and will engage up to 20,000 AmeriCorps Members by the end of the year. In exchange for one or two years of service, AmeriCorps Members will receive educational awards to finance their higher education or pay back their college loans.

The AmeriCorps program winners -- selected through an ongoing nationwide competition by the Corporation for National Service -- will comprise the **AmeriCorps National Service Network**. The **57 programs** announced today will operate service projects involving more than **7,000 AmeriCorps Members**, serving in **hundreds** of urban and rural communities in **47 states and the District of Columbia**.

All AmeriCorps programs and AmeriCorps Members will work within the AmeriCorps national service priority areas of **education, public safety, human needs, and the environment**.

(more)

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

Page Two

The broad range of AmeriCorps program winners include national non-profit organizations, multi-city and multi-state partnerships, schools and universities, inter-denominational coalitions, private sector alliances, and federal agencies. All 57 programs competed with hundreds of AmeriCorps applicants reviewed by the Corporation during a four-month competition process.

The White House announcement was made by Eli Segal, Assistant to the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National Service which oversees AmeriCorps.

Five Cabinet Members whose agencies will run AmeriCorps programs also spoke at the briefing, including Attorney General Janet Reno, Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Henry Cisneros, and Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency Carol Browner.

The Cabinet Members discussed the objectives and potential impact of their respective AmeriCorps projects, and emphasized the unprecedented agency-wide outreach that AmeriCorps represents.

Additional federal agencies selected for AmeriCorps programs include the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Labor, the Department of Energy, the Department of the Navy, the Department of Veterans Affairs, Legal Services Corporation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, and the National Institute for Literacy.

The 57 AmeriCorps program winners announced today represent approximately the first one-third of what is expected to be as many 200 AmeriCorps programs involving 20,000 AmeriCorps Members operating by the end of the year.

The remaining two-thirds will be selected through a competitive process on a state-by-state basis over the next two months and will be announced by the White House late this summer.

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Please see the attached list of 57 national organizations and federal agencies selected to run AmeriCorps programs comprising the AmeriCorps National Service Network.

THE AMERICORPS NATIONAL SERVICE NETWORK

As of June 20, 1994

ORGANIZATIONS:

ACORN Housing Corporation
Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs
Boston University School of Public Health
Children's Health Fund
City Year
Congress of National Black Churches
Council of Great City Schools
Council of State Governments
Delta Service Corps
Environmental Careers Organization, Inc.
Green Corps
Habitat for Humanity International, Inc.
I Have a Dream Foundation
Kansas City Consensus
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
Magic Me America
Mid-Atlantic Network of Youth and Family Services
National Association of Child Care
Resource and Referral Agencies
National Association of Community Health Centers
National Center for Family Literacy
National Community AIDS Partnership
National Council of Educational Opportunities
National Council of La Raza
National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Organization for Victims' Assistance
Navajo Nation
New York University Faculty Resource Network
Northeastern University Center for Sports in Society
Philadelphia Bar Foundation
Public Allies
Public Education Fund Network
Summerbridge National
Teach for America
The ARC
The ASPIRA Association, Inc.
University of Texas at Austin
US Catholic Conference/Migration and Refugee Services
Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation/
Urban School Service Corps
YMCA of the USA
Youth Volunteer Corps of America
YouthBuild, USA

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FEDERAL AGENCIES:

Department of Agriculture
Department of Energy
Department of Health and Human Services
Department of Housing and Urban Development
Department of the Interior
Department of Justice
Department of Labor
Department of the Navy
Department of Transportation
Department of Veterans Affairs
Environmental Protection Agency
Legal Services Corporation
National Endowment for the Arts
National Institute for Literacy
Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation



AmeriCorps and Federal Agencies

AmeriCorps -- the new national service initiative signed into law by President Clinton in September, 1993 -- will establish a "domestic Peace Corps" involving thousands of young Americans who will work through AmeriCorps programs to perform critical service in urban and rural communities nationwide.

AmeriCorps programs -- selected through an ongoing national competition by the Corporation for National Service -- will comprise the **AmeriCorps National Service Network**. The first wave of AmeriCorps programs, announced by the White House on June 20, include national nonprofit organizations, multi-city and multi-state partnerships, schools and universities, inter-denominational coalitions, private sector alliances, and **15 federal agencies**.

The 15 federal agencies selected to operate AmeriCorps programs will involve approximately 2500 AmeriCorps Members working within the critical AmeriCorps National Service Priority Areas of Education, Public Safety, Human Needs, and the Environment.

Department of Agriculture

AmeriCorps Members: 1,200 Sites: 35

The Department of Agriculture's AmeriCorps grant will fund initiatives in three areas: anti-hunger, rural development, and public land restoration. Through the first initiative, AmeriCorps Members will increase public awareness of food stamp and school breakfast programs, lead nutrition campaigns, and create urban gardens and farmers' markets in low-income communities. The anti-hunger initiative is a collaboration among the Department of Agriculture, local hunger agencies, and youth corps and will operate in Los Angeles, CA; Washington, DC; Milwaukee, WI; the delta area in Mississippi, and across the state of Vermont.

Through the Rural Development Project, AmeriCorps Members will help communities protect watersheds, assess water quality, provide disaster relief, improve housing and more. The rural development sites include: Maine, Vermont, northwestern New York, South Carolina, and select areas of Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Through USDA's third initiative, focused on public lands, AmeriCorps Members will rehabilitate park facilities, blaze trails, lead environmental education seminars, and conduct other projects specific to each of the following sites: western Kansas, western Oklahoma, Texas (coast region), Atlanta, GA; Boston, MA; East St. Louis, IL; New Jersey (statewide), Washington, D.C.; Chicago, IL; Portland, OR; San Bernadino, CA; Six Rivers National Forest, CA; Olympic National Forest, WA; Rogue River National Forest, OR; Arizona (national forests statewide); Bienville National Forest, MS; Green Mountain National Forest, VT; White Mountain National Forest, NH; and flood regions in the midwest.

Contact: Joel Berg 202-720-6350.

Department of Energy

AmeriCorps Members: 72 Sites: One multistate site

The Department of Energy is forming the AmeriCorps Salmon Corps, which will help restore the salmon habitat throughout the Columbia River Basin in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. Most of the AmeriCorps Members will represent the local Native American population. The Salmon Corps is a collaborative effort among the Earth Conservation Corps, Intertribal Fish Commission, and the Department of Energy. Contact: Howlie Davis 202-586-7970.

Environmental Protection Agency

AmeriCorps Members: 135 Sites: 10

EPA's AmeriCorps program will focus on public awareness and risk reduction initiatives related to environmental degradation in low-income communities. AmeriCorps Members' activities will include radon testing, lead poisoning prevention, river clean up, ground water management, and more. EPA AmeriCorps Members will work in San Francisco, CA; Newark, NJ; Atlanta, GA; Pierce County WA; El Paso, TX; statewide Alaska; Washington, DC; Boston, MA; Providence RI; and Oregon (statewide). Contact: Helga Butler 202-260-4179

Department of Health and Human Services

AmeriCorps Members: 230 Sites: 7

The Health and Human Services programs focus on human needs, through community health outreach initiatives, and education, through assistance to Head Start centers. In health outreach, AmeriCorps Members will work in child immunization and prenatal care programs for people without access to primary care providers. In education, AmeriCorps Members will work in Head Start centers, assisting with tutoring, meal planning, and parent outreach. A third program, run by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, will involve AmeriCorps Members providing personal assistance services to people with disabilities. Health outreach sites: Chicago, IL; Pittsburg and Philadelphia, PA. Contact: John Wescott 301-443-6880. Head Start sites: Rosebud, SD; Flathead Reservation, MT; Wauchula, Bowling Green, Indiantown, Okeechobee, FL; Fort Totten, ND. Contact: Gail Collins 202-205-8347. Personal assistance services sites: AL, GA, PA (statewide). Contact: Bob Williams 202-690-7025

Department of Housing and Urban Development

AmeriCorps Members: 100 Sites: To be determined

The Department of Housing and Urban Development is designing an AmeriCorps initiative to assist in its HOPE 6 Urban Revitalization Demonstration Program, which involves public housing residents in improving their housing conditions through community service initiatives. AmeriCorps Members will be recruited from housing developments and will work in those communities in restoration and conservation projects. AmeriCorps Members will receive tutoring, mentoring, and counseling support during their term of service. Contact: Kevin Marchman 202-401-8812.

Department of the Interior

AmeriCorps Members: 530

Sites: 6

The Department of Interior's AmeriCorps program will involve young people in conservation and restoration of public lands, wetlands, forests and rivers; monitoring air and water quality; and surveying endangered species and vegetation areas. DOI's initiative is a collaboration among the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and Bureaus of Land Management and Reclamation, as well as local environmental organizations. DOI Sites: Everglades, FL; Alamo, TX; Metropolitan Water District of Southern California; Fort Ord, CA; Denver, CO. **Contact: Sue Kemnitzer 202-208-4009**

National Institute for Literacy

AmeriCorps Members: 83

Sites: 4

The National Institute for Literacy, an independent Federal agency administered by the Secretaries of Education, Labor, and Health and Human Services, has created the Literacy AmeriCorps Program. The Institute is working in partnership with local literacy groups to recruit and train AmeriCorps Members to assist in family literacy programs. The wide variety of activities aim to improve reading and writing skills of mothers on welfare, populations for whom English is a second language, and families who are homeless. Sites: Pittsburgh, PA; Seattle, WA; Houston, TX; and select areas of Louisiana. **Contact: Carolyn Staley 202-632-1500**

Department of Justice

AmeriCorps Members: 210

Sites: 7

The Department of Justice and the Department of Education have designed an AmeriCorps program to address public safety. Programs will follow the "weed and seed" strategy for public safety, which calls for increased law enforcement, community policing, economic revitalization, and substance abuse prevention, intervention and treatment. AmeriCorps Members will work with police officers, educators, and community officials in dozens of initiatives including community policing, home security, victims assistance, neighborhood revitalization, drug prevention, conflict resolution and more. DOJ Sites: Trenton, NJ; Philadelphia, PA; San Antonio and Fort Worth, TX; Seattle, WA; Madison, WI. **Contact: Kathleen Kennedy Townsend 202-307-5933**

Department of Labor

AmeriCorps Members: 56

Sites: 8

The Department of Labor's AmeriCorps program will involve members in "Youth Fair Chance" initiatives across the country. These programs will provide opportunities for young people of low-income communities to serve as mentors and tutors for other youth in their neighborhoods. Their wide range of activities will include increasing school attendance, reducing gang activity, assisting in college preparation, and increasing drug prevention and treatment efforts. DOL Sites: TBA **Contact: David Lah 202-219-5782**

Legal Services Corporation

AmeriCorps Members: 54

Sites: To be determined

The Legal Services Corporation will bring together lawyers, paralegals, social workers, and educators in forming the National Service Legal Corps. The NSLC will work in legal services offices across the country on such issues as housing, child care, and domestic violence. The Legal Services Corporation will administer this program in collaboration with NAPIL, the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, the Project Advisory Group, and local legal service groups to provide NSLC training and evaluation. **Contact: Leslie Russell 202-336-8824**

Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation

AmeriCorps Members: 30

Sites: To be determined

The Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation's AmeriCorps program will form the NeighborWorks Community Corps, through which AmeriCorps Members will help in community restoration projects across the country. Activities will include workshops on purchasing affordable homes, property maintenance training, and neighborhood restoration. **Contact: Ronald Walker 202-376-3216**

National Endowment for the Arts

AmeriCorps Members: 60

Sites: 3

The National Endowment for the Arts' AmeriCorps grant will help young writers use their literary talents to benefit other youths. In partnership with the Associated Writing Program, the NEA will help AmeriCorps Members lead reading and writing workshops for hundreds of elementary students in low-income area schools and young people in homeless shelters and youth centers. NEA AmeriCorps Sites: San Francisco, CA; Bronx, NY; Washington, DC. **Contact: A.B. Spellman 202-682-5421**

Department of the Navy

AmeriCorps Members: 133

Sites: 1

In Collaboration with Texas A&M University, the National Guard, and the Department of Defense Civil Military Cooperation Directorate, the Navy Department has designed a residential program called the AmeriCorps Seaborn Conservation Corps. AmeriCorps Members will be based on ship while addressing environmental needs in Galveston Bay. Following nine months of service, AmeriCorps Members will be placed in community apprenticeships where they will be able to use the marine industry skills they acquired through this project toward securing full-time employment. Site: Galveston, TX. **Contact: Colonel Jack Davis 703-740-4403**

Department of Transportation

AmeriCorps Members: 60

Sites: 3

In partnership with local youth corps, the Department of Transportation's AmeriCorps program will work on transportation issues in Olympia, WA; Baltimore, MD; and Washington, D.C. AmeriCorps Members will make transportation facilities more accessible for seniors and people with disabilities, turn abandoned railroad areas into recreational grounds, and increase awareness of public transportation benefits. **Contact: Timothy Belz 202-366-1111**

Department of Veterans Affairs

AmeriCorps Members: To be determined

Sites: 2

The Department of Veterans Affairs has formed a partnership with the National Coalition for the Homeless to create an AmeriCorps program focused on the needs of veterans who are homeless. AmeriCorps Members will help in obtaining needed medical care, accessing drug abuse prevention and treatment, and receipt of vocational training for homeless veterans. Members also will renovate two Houston homes and a ranch to house homeless veterans. Sites: Los Angeles, CA; Houston, TX. **Contact: Marcelle Habibion 202-273-5058**

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

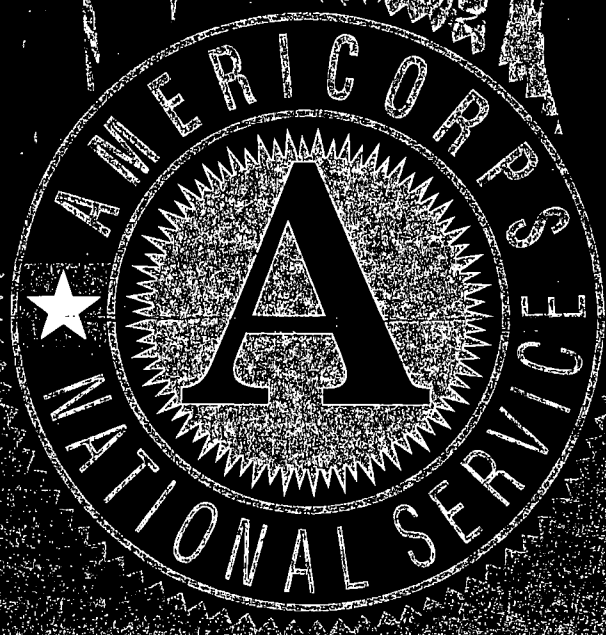
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AMERICORPS

COMING SOON TO COMMUNITIES EVERYWHERE



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1-800-94-ACORPS

AMERICORPS

COMING SOON TO COMMUNITIES EVERYWHERE



*Youth Corps members
with the President at the
White House for the signing
of AmeriCorps National
Service legislation.*

AmeriCorps is the new domestic Peace Corps where thousands of young people will soon be getting things done through service in exchange for help financing their higher education or repaying their student loans.

Starting this fall, thousands of AmeriCorps members will fan out across the nation to meet the needs of communities everywhere. And the kinds of things they will help get done can truly change America—things like immunizing our infants... tutoring our teenagers... keeping our schools safe... restoring our natural resources ...and securing more independent lives for our ill and our elderly.

AmeriCorps...

the new National Service

movement that will

get things done.

Watch for

AmeriCorps, coming

soon to your community...

and find out more

by calling:

1-800-94-ACORPS.

Los Angeles Times

Friday June 3 1994

Rappers, TV, Ads Are Enlisted to Sell Service Program

White House has launched huge campaign to get young people interested in the new AmeriCorps effort.

By ELIZABETH SHOGREN
TIMES STAFF WRITER

WASHINGTON—A beaming President Clinton, flanked by young people, is shown striding across the White House South Lawn. Everyone is clapping.

"AmeriCorps—Coming Soon To Communities Everywhere," says the advertisement, which White House officials hope will be as effective at getting participants for national service as Smokey Bear has been at reducing forest fires.

AmeriCorps is the President's signature domestic "peace corps" program. Starting in September, it will send young Americans into communities to "get things done"—like immunizing infants, tutoring teen-agers and making schools and neighborhoods safe.

In return, workers—expected to number 20,000 the first year—will receive a low wage, health benefits and stipends of \$4,725 for each year of service that they can use for education or training.

Even though 60,000 people have called to inquire about signing up for the program, Eli Segal, the President's national service czar, says he is a little nervous.

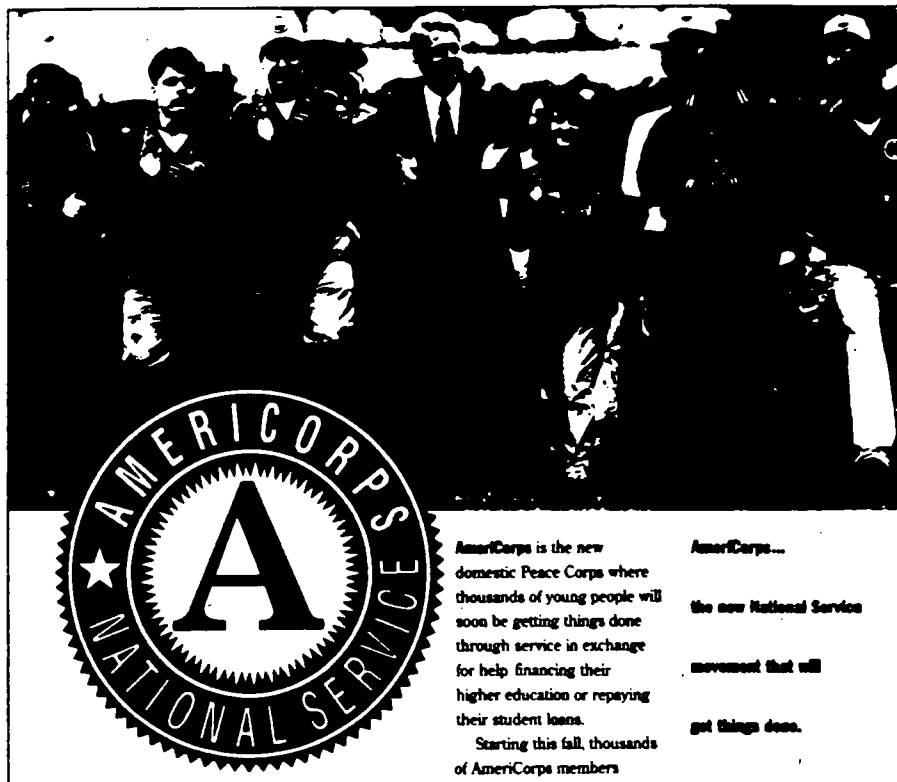
"If we throw a party and no one comes, then we haven't thrown a party," he said.

To make sure that does not happen, the Corporation for National Service, the independent agency Segal heads, has begun a sales campaign.

The first step was coming up with a logo, and that meant the "30-something" agency officials had to design a logo cool enough to appeal to those in their teens and 20s.

The corporation chose a design featuring a letter "A" swimming in a gold sun, encircled with the words: "AmeriCorps National Service" in blue block print.

After emblazoning the logo on T-shirts, badges, patches and bumper



President Clinton figures prominently in many of the new AmeriCorps ads.

stickers, it was time to take the campaign on the road to college campuses.

To promote the visits, the corporation enlisted rap artist LL Cool J. In a public-service announcement recorded for college radio stations, he urges students: "Find out how you can be one of the 20,000 young people committed to rebuilding our communities. AmeriCorps, the new national service movement that will get things done."

Then Administration officials, accompanied by rock or rap groups, hit the campuses of UCLA, Harvard University, the University of Minnesota and Morehouse College in Atlanta last month. Smaller events announcing AmeriCorps took place at 50 other campuses.

Segal also gave his pitch to national magazines from *Elle* to *Rolling Stone* to *Money*, hoping they would help launch national service by running articles in their September editions.

Negotiations are under way with Ogilvy & Mather Worldwide to have the advertising agency design public-service announcements for radio and TV. Popular bands are being asked to talk up the program at concerts through the summer.

And the Administration is trying to set up partnerships between local TV stations and AmeriCorps projects in their

area, so they can keep viewers informed of what workers are accomplishing.

This emphasis on accomplishment is important because for the program to expand—or continue to exist after the first few years—Segal will have to be able to show Congress that it is having a real impact.

Segal said he has some concern that the campaign will create such demand that many interested young people will be turned away from the program. On the other hand, he said, he does enjoy entertaining the thought that his "product" could end up being as popular as the "Cabbage Patch Kids" doll craze.

Advertising campaigns for federal programs serve dual goals. One is to stimulate people to do what the government wants. The other is to sell the impression to the public that the government is doing what it promised.

For that reason, it is perhaps more than coincidence that Clinton figures so largely in the public-service ads being distributed to magazines and newspapers across the country.

"We always start with the assumption that this would not happen if Bill Clinton was not the President of the United States," Segal said. "What is unique about this is that the President of the United States is so committed to it."

The Washington Post

Youth Service Corps Officials Prepare For Recruiting Blitz

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1993

By Mary Jordan
Washington Post Staff Writer

Former inner-city gangsters and Stanford University honor students are among those expected to sign up in the new year for one of President Clinton's new programs: youths performing community service to pay for college tuition.

In January, radio and television advertisements are to begin telling thousands of students how they can enroll in AmeriCorps and get paid for work ranging from comforting AIDS patients to tutoring preschoolers.

In interviews last week with AmeriCorps leaders, details of one of Clinton's most visible campaign promises emerged for the first time. All 20,000 of the students to be selected next year will earn an \$8,000 wage (roughly \$4.25 an hour), plus health and child care benefits. If they successfully complete the 12-month program, the youths also will get \$4,725 in college or vocational school tuition or loan forgiveness. The government will write a check to the school of their choice.

Program officials expect a blizzard of applications from students, even though the compensation will be considerably lower than proposals floated during Clinton's campaign.

The first step is next month's media campaign, which will include spots on MTV, an effort that program officials hope will help make AmeriCorps as well known as the Peace Corps. In April and May, nonprofit service groups such as Teach for America, which brings recent college graduates into needy elementary school classrooms, will be selected to participate.

The winning service groups will then pick the students who will work for them. Some students will go to work next summer, with the big kickoff in September.

"One of our objectives is to create a national ethic of service," said Eli Segal, president of the Corporation for National and Community Service that oversees AmeriCorps.

Congress approved \$300 million for national service in 1994. The White House hopes funding will escalate, and that likely will depend on whether the program's initial reviews are good.

According to Clinton, youths who "look like America" will be selected. Most are expected to be between the ages of 17 and 25. Some will get involved in environmental work, others in public safety, education or health programs.

In addition to AmeriCorps, two smaller service programs are part of the national service corporation. One is the Civilian Community Corps (CCC),

modeled after the popular 1930s program that gave people jobs on public works projects, such as planting trees and fixing parks.

The CCC will involve 800 students, and all will be housed on military bases. Former military personnel will work as instructors. Youths participating in this program do not have to have a high school degree and will be selected as early as February.

"The focus will be on civilian needs," said CCC director Donald Scott. Students will work at "creating green space in parks, tree-planting projects and erosion control," among other projects, Scott said.

The other part of the service corporation is VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) formed in 1964 and located a few blocks from the White House at 1100 Vermont Ave. NW. VISTA's 3,400 volunteers will earn the same as AmeriCorps students, and will do much the same kind of community work.

By the end of this month, a toll-free hot line (1-800-94-ACORPS) will begin giving potential applicants basic information about the AmeriCorps program and help link students to specific programs in particular cities.

Each Cabinet-level agency also will be eligible to apply for AmeriCorps funds.

All states have or will set up a community service commission to help select and monitor the AmeriCorps programs. The commissions also will help distribute the federal funds. About \$11 million in federal money has been set aside for the state commissions, and they are expected to get some local funding too.

The national office will cost an additional \$14 million a year to operate. How it fares in its first year is considered crucial for the eventual success of AmeriCorps.

Some critics of the program say they worry it will not attract middle- and upper-class students because the pay is so low. Others are concerned about just the opposite, that only well-off students will be able to join. And many are waiting to see if worthwhile work will get done.

USA TODAY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1993

Launching national service policy

By Dennis Kelly
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — They aren't officially taking applications yet for President Clinton's national service plan — but they're already getting thousands of letters of interest.

The people running the Corporation for National and Community Service — just a few blocks from the White House — say that's an indication of high interest the program has generated. But it also leaves them nervous about expectations the program has created.

"There are moments of real anxiety about all that is expected. We feel a real need to get this done quickly," says Eli Segal, president of the corporation, the newly christened umbrella group overseeing Clinton's national service plan and a host of existing community service agencies. "We've got to go back to Congress and ask for appropriations (again) next year. The fear is how much needs to be done and how much we need the local communities to buy into this."

But the vision for Clinton's national service program is certainly heady stuff.

Administrators see young



SEGAL: Feels pressure to get service program working soon

workers fixing up dilapidated homes or escorting the elderly to grocery stores in crime-infested neighborhoods. They see college students working in Head Start and early childhood education programs, all the time earning money that will help pay their college bill.

Those daydreams have been there ever since Clinton touted national service as one way to help young people earn money for college.

But the daydreaming has stopped, and the program is

now gearing up the process of making it work.

Regulations for the program will be published in January. Local and national groups then will compete for grants beginning in the spring and learn who gets funded between May and August. By the end of 1994, the Clinton administration expects to have 20,000 working in community service jobs and earning awards of \$4,725 per year in the program toward a college education or vocational training.

The \$1.5 billion program intends to have 100,000 participants over three years.

The part of the national and community service corporation devoted to Clinton's plan is called AmeriCorps. Anyone 17 or over will be able to earn the \$4,725 award toward college or vocational training by working with the non-profit groups that are awarded grants in the application process, or by working with one of two existing service agencies, the Civilian Community Corps or Volunteers in Service to America, better known as VISTA.

Those hired get a \$7,400 per year stipend — about minimum wage — plus health care and child care if needed, along

with the education award.

Programs that qualify will have to meet the educational, human, environmental or public safety needs of their communities. What those are will be up to commissions forming in each state — a "bottom-up" approach that Segal says will let communities decide what kinds of service are in their best interest.

Still, Shirley Sagawa, nominated as managing director of the corporation, says the corporation will help provide the program a "national identity." That will include a common oath taken by participants, a logo, as well as training and monitoring of program quality. The corporation even plans to hire some investigative-journalist types as "circuit riders" to help ensure programs are delivering on promises.

She says the program will also work hard to ensure that program participants "look like America." That's meant to allay concerns that AmeriCorps would be dominated either by low-income groups forced into national service as the only way to pay for college or by students from high-income families getting subsidies from the federal government.

How to get information

People who think they'd like to apply for one of the 20,000 national service slots available next year can get information now, but applications won't be officially taken for a while.

To get information on AmeriCorps, call the Corporation for National and Community Service at 202-606-3000 and then, if you have a touch-tone phone, dial 4 at the list of menu options. You can leave your name and address and you'll be sent a brochure.

This month, the corporation will announce a toll-free 800 number. Then in May and August when 300 to 400 non-profit groups are selected to offer the national service jobs, the toll-free number will get you to an operator who can tell you about programs in your area. Local and national agencies that win grants will do the hiring.

Those interested also can write the corporation at 1100 Vermont Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20525, Attn: AmeriCorps.

The Boston Globe

• FRIDAY, MAY 13, 1994

A meeting of young and old minds

DAVID NYHAN

Vince Nobile has a shaved head, a Yamaha trombone and the right attitude.

His ska band, Bim Skala Bim, pumped up the volume and the energy level Tuesday on a sunny acre abutting the north end of Harvard Yard. The kids of America, represented by several hundred T-shirted and dungareed youths, were still vibrating.

This was the closest that the spirit of John Harvard, represented by a solemn statue of the founder seated, ponderously, 100 yards south, would ever get to a mosh pit.

"We played one of our tunes, 'Eight Track Mind,' about backwards thinking and it's time to get with the '90's," said Nobile. "It's a message to wake up. Then we did 'Digging a Hole.' You know: when you're on a good thing, keep it goin'. It's up to the people to keep it movin'." No kidding.

Suitably pumped by Bim Skala Bim, the future leaders, followers and in-betweeners of America's next century listened politely to the four-foot-groups pitch-persons of the new volunteer movement, the community service crowd.

In case you haven't noticed - you'd never know it if you get your news from television - the smarter, abler and higher-minded of America's young are set to embark on a vast experiment in community service. The concept was embraced by

the young after it was enabled by the Clinton administration.

The label slapped on this new set of government-encouraged programs approved by Congress is AmeriCorps, which has all the requisite logos, fact sheets (every 17-year-old or older who's accepted for a one- or two-year hitch gets a weekly stipend, health insurance and \$4,750 a year toward college), and a catch-all number, 1-800-94-ACORPS.

A fledgling federal agency, the Corporation for National Service, linked up with Rock the Vote for four rallies around the country. This

The smarter and higher-minded of America's young are set to embark on a vast experiment in community service.

one put the administration's youngest insider - George Stephanopoulos, born in '61, Kennedy's first year as president - alongside one of the oldest - Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, 56 next month.

Babbitt, who might be nominated to the Supreme Court today, was a student at Harvard in 1965, when Stephanopoulos was three. He told the young crowd what it was like then, with JFK fresh in his grave, blacks battling fire hoses in the

South and TV news just emerging from its Stone Age. "I was a student on this campus, watching TV, seeing the streets of Selma, Alabama, and Martin Luther King Jr.," said Babbitt. "Events were gathering for the civil rights march to Montgomery."

To his audience, the saga was almost as remote as Julius Caesar's Gallic wars. "Something seized me," Babbitt continued. "I walked off this campus and went to Selma, Ala., for several weeks." He joined the Movement, a young white guy from Arizona hanging around small Southern towns where blacks couldn't vote, eat at a restaurant or use the john. Babbitt became a '60's guy, working for VISTA and Head Start. "It was the most important thing I've ever done in my life," said a fellow who's been governor, a Cabinet officer, a not-too-shabby candidate for president and maybe soon a judge.

No Harvard crowd is ever short of a cadre of boot-licking careerists. Could it be true that a Cabinet officer and maybe a Supreme Court judge would get a bigger kick out of integrating a lunch counter in Mississippi than getting a cushy job in D.C.?

But the young prefer hearing from the young. Stephanopoulos, Clinton's MTV Man, is a heart-throb to fanzine-style groupies of the 12-13 bracket. He plugged Clinton's agenda, linking it to the youth revolt the young love to hear about. "Elections matter. What you do matters. Government can do something, govern-



DOROTHY AFILL ILLUSTRATION

Bruce Babbitt went from Harvard Yard to Selma, Ala. Will his next stop be the Supreme Court?

ment can work to change people's lives for the better."

Bruce Babbitt nodded vigorously; 29 years after bolting Harvard Law School for Selma and the Movement, he's got a shot at going on the Supreme Court. You don't need to be a weatherman, or a trombonist in a ska band, to know that things change if enough people want them to change. Clinton may be ham-handed with foreign policy, but he's gangbusters on national service. In the marathon now underway in the nation between cynicism and idealism, the race is to the young. Where they go, this country goes.

David Nyhan is a Globe columnist.

The Dallas Morning News

Texas' Leading Newspaper

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Dallas, Texas, Monday, February 28, 1994

6 Sections MF

25 Cents

National service's time has come



RICHARD REEVES

"This is one of the best-kept secrets in the country," said Bruce Corwin, the chairman of Metropolitan Theatres Corp., as he listened to Eli Segal, the man President Clinton chose to create and run national service programs. "I want to put this up on my screens."

A generous offer, considering that Metropolitan owns 800 screens in movie theaters across California. And it is true that the new National and Community Service Trust Act, signed into law by the president in September, has gotten lost in the clouds of media attention to Whitewater, Bosnia and Tonya Harding.

But President Clinton has his domestic Peace Corps. "A dream," he said. In case anyone might miss the connection, he used the same pen President John Kennedy used to sign the executive order that created the Peace Corps back in 1961.

Now Mr. Segal, a businessman who was Mr. Clinton's campaign chief of staff, is on the road campaigning for himself — for his agency, officially the Corporation for National and Community Service. The corporation's management mandate includes the 3,400 members of VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America), created by President Lyndon Johnson in 1964, and a new 800-member Civilian Community Corps, young people working in national forests and parks. What's new is AmeriCorps.

AmeriCorps will begin recruiting 20,000 young men and women in May. Before that, Mr. Segal and a very small staff will be out collecting applications from non-profit organizations putting together programs to employ AmeriCorps members. Government agencies from states as big as California to small towns in Idaho can also apply for AmeriCorps workers, but emphasizing private-sector involvement was the price of winning conservative support for national service. The idea that every unit of the society must be geared to the needs and whims of the "private sector," must "pay for itself" or, even better, be a "profit center" has become imbedded in the American mentality these days. Doing good or investing in the future is no longer enough; government has to make money, too.

So, in Los Angeles, Mr. Segal met with representatives of government agencies, schools, the United Way and others looking for bright-eyed help in teaching literacy or cleaning up streets, even in helping old ladies cross them without being mugged. In the spirit of the times, local sponsors will put up 15 percent of AmeriCorps costs.

AmeriCorps members will be paid twice for a year of their time and energy. First they will get something like the minimum wage for 40 hours a week. Then they will receive grants of \$4,725 toward college tuition or other skill training for each year of service. (There will also be summer corps programs for 3,500 students a year.)

The total budgeted (but not yet appropriated) for the service programs over the next three years is \$1.5 billion. That would cover total service corps membership by then of 100,000 — if Congress can be persuaded each year that every project is serving a larger (profitable) purpose than just reinforcing the idealism of the young and the good of the community.

But I suspect that Mr. Clinton and Mr. Segal are right. This is the best they can get now. If AmeriCorps works — that is, if local communities approve of the work done — it will expand, possibly, one day, into universal national service.

The first syndicated column I wrote, 15 years ago this month, argued that such national service was an idea whose time had come. I was wrong then — and often later too — but something like this is better than nothing. "National service can tell us what it is to be an American," said Mr. Segal, and I still hope he and the rest of us can make that happen — show one another that there is more to life in these United States than marketing and consuming.

Richard Reeves' column is distributed by the Universal Press Syndicate.

USA TODAY

NO. 1 IN THE USA . . . FIRST IN DAILY READERS

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1994

Reducing crime as a summer job

Clinton service program kicks off today with grants for 90 projects

By Dennis Kelly
USA TODAY

Police cadets will tote two-way radios to watch over New York City parks; grandmas and grandpas will provide safe havens for kids in Orlando; and young people will become escorts for seniors in St. Louis.

These are some of the 90 projects that will be awarded grants today to take part in President Clinton's \$10 million Summer of Safety national service plan.

You remember the national service plan, right? It grew out of Clinton's campaign promise to help students earn money for college in return for community service. Well, the full-blown AmeriCorps project — involving 20,000 participants — starts this September. But a precursor — focusing on service that helps reduce crime — gets started June 21 with approximately 7,000 young and old people alike involved in the 90 programs named today.

And because the Summer of Safety projects are just eight to 10 weeks long, the benefits participants receive are scaled back compared with the full-year AmeriCorps pro-

gram. The summer workers will get minimum wage of about \$170 a week, and about half will get \$1,000 awards that can be applied to college or vocational training, says Eli Segal, head of the Corporation for National Service. They also will get some health care and child care benefits.

The local programs are doing the recruiting of the paid workers and volunteers, but those interested can get information on available opportunities by calling AmeriCorps in Washington, D.C., at 800 942-2677. (A tip: Be patient.)

"We wanted to show that national service could partner with these summer programs to allay some of the fear of crimes (in the country)," Segal says.

The summer effort will place the young and "young in spirit" in projects that involve either community policing, providing safe havens or safe corridors to school, or offering victim assistance. Examples:

► The New York City Police Department will add 100 to the ranks of its cadet program. These young people will be unarmed, but will help patrol parks and public housing areas to make life safer.

"They're not going to be out there enforcing the laws," says police Lt. John Clarke. Rather, they'll be "eyes and ears" for the police.

"If you're in the park and you need somebody there with a radio to call police or call an ambulance, you'll agree it helps," Clarke says.

► The St. Louis Safety Service Corps Partnership will add 40 helpers to provide escort services for seniors in public housing "so they can do their shopping and walk in the park again," Segal says.

► Orlando, Fla., will place 140 senior citizens in a Senior Summer Corps. The program creates a "Grandma's House" concept in which a home of a trained senior citizen in each block of a high crime area can be a safe haven for young people threatened in any way by crime.

Shirley Sagawa, managing director, the Corporation for National Service, says the application process for the full-scale AmeriCorps program continues. The organization will name winners of about a third of those grants at the end of May. The remainder will be announced in August.