



National Service Initiatives

Expand AmeriCorps to 100,000.

1. Policy Description. We propose expanding the AmeriCorps program from its current level of 50,000 members per year to 76,000 members in 2000 and then to 100,000 members by 2001. This expansion will target activities that are focused on the needs of children and youth, including summer programs, after-school programs, tutoring and mentoring. This expansion of 25,000 members in FY 2000 would include:

- High School: a new initiative to expand AmeriCorps to 10,000 high schools students serving full time in the summer and part-time (5 hrs/week) during the school year. These high school students will tutor, mentor, staff after-school programs and provide special assistance to at-risk children in summer programs such as Head Start. In exchange, students will be eligible for an AmeriCorps education award, and receive the equivalent of minimum wage for their full-time summer service.
- Summer: adding 15,000 to a summer program targeted at college students. AmeriCorps currently has a summer-only component that is very popular with college students seeking meaningful summer employment.
- Full-time: supporting the addition of 5,000 other full-time AmeriCorps members.

2. Cost. This expansion will cost \$132 million in FY 2000 and \$170 million in FY 2001 over the current funding level for AmeriCorps.

3. Unresolved Issues. We are still discussing the blend of high school, summer and full-time AmeriCorps participants. The second year expansion (in 2001) relies heavily on the summer program. We are also still considering which grade levels to target with the high school program (11th and 12th grade, only 12th grade etc.). We are also looking at whether to make the service cross-generational i.e. high schoolers also serving in senior centers.

4. Status. We have worked with the Corporation for National Service, OMB, NEC, the First Lady's office, Education and Treasury on this proposal. OMB is skeptical of the ability of the Corporation accommodate a large expansion of its program, particularly with full-time AmeriCorps members.

Experience Corps: Seniors for Schools.

1. Policy Description. We now have the largest, healthiest senior population in the Nation's history. At the same time, growing numbers of young people are in desperate need of responsible adult intervention. We propose expanding an existing demonstration program to create a senior corps allowing 40,000 seniors to serve in afterschool programs, and as tutors and mentors and in child care centers in their communities. Of this total, 10,000 will serve between 15-20 hours per week, and the remainder will serve 3-5 hours per week. In exchange, seniors would be eligible for small incentives, including awards to participate in senior learning programs. Evaluations from the demonstrations show increased test scores among the participating students and heightened senior involvement in the local schools.

2. Cost. \$40 million for the first year, funded as a demonstration program through the national senior service corps.

3. Unresolved Issues. We are still looking at the range of incentives that could be provided to seniors.

4. Status. Staff from the Corporation for National Service, Treasury, OMB, the First Lady's office, NEC and Education all worked on the design of this proposal. While OMB did not fund this, their staff was very supportive of this proposal and of the demonstration upon which this is based.

1,000 Service-Learning Leader Schools

1. Policy. This initiative proposes to build upon the President's "Leader schools" program which designates schools with exemplary service-learning activities in order to help create 1,000 schools with outstanding service-learning programs. Research has shown that high-quality service-learning has a positive impact on student achievement and behavior. Moreover, as states (MD and soon CA) and large school systems (Chicago) move to require or strongly encourage service, these schools can serve as models for state and local investments in service programs.

2. Cost. \$30 million in FY 2000.

3. Unresolved issues. We have not resolved how this program would deliver services to high schools to enable them to be designated "leader" schools. This proposal envisions the delivery of technical assistance, coordinators and other support to enable schools to implement high-quality service programs.

4. Status. CNS and NEC are highly supportive of a service-learning initiative provided that the emphasis is on the development of high-quality programs, and not merely the requirement that students perform some type of service. Education is doing some internal consultations on recommendation as to how to best encourage the development of 1,000 high quality programs.