

Subtitle I--Energy Conservation Corps

SEC. 1811. GENERAL AUTHORITY.

The Corporation for National and Community Service (in this subtitle referred to as the `Corporation') shall make grants to States for the creation or expansion of full-time or part-time Energy Conservation Corps programs. Notwithstanding provisions identified in this subtitle, the Corporation shall apply the provisions of subtitle C of this subchapter in making grants under this section as necessary.

SEC. 1812. APPLICATION.

(a) In General- To be eligible to receive a grant under this subtitle, a State shall invite applications from within the State to receive an Energy Conservation Corps grant.

(b) Process- The State shall then prepare and submit a State application to the Corporation at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Corporation may reasonably require. The Corporation shall consult with state and local Conservation Corps in the development of the application guidelines.

(c) Disadvantaged Youth- To acknowledge the focused enrollment of disadvantaged youth and young adults in the Energy Conservation Corps, the Corporation shall--

(1) allow a higher cost-per-member to enable Energy Conservation Corps programs to provide the necessary supportive services to ensure the success of the participants; and

(2) allow for greater flexibility in retention rates.

(d) Consideration of Residential Corps- The Corporation shall allow for equal consideration of residential Corps program opportunities since residential Corps thrive in rural areas that commonly lack opportunities for young adults, enable the participation for emancipated foster youth, gang involved youth, and others lacking a safe and stable home environment, allow for more structured time for work, training, education and counseling, and provide disaster response-ready crews immediately upon request.

(e) Equitable Treatment- In the consideration of applications, the Corporation shall ensure the equitable treatment of both urban and rural areas.

SEC. 1813. FOCUS OF PROGRAMS.

(a) In General- Programs that receive assistance under this subtitle may carry out activities that--

(1) meet an identifiable public need with specific emphasis on projects in support of energy conservation, infrastructure and transportation improvement, and emergency operations, including--

(A) improving the energy efficiency of housing for elderly and low-income people;

(B) building energy-efficient `green' housing for elderly and low-income people;

(C) environmental education and energy conservation education for elementary and secondary school students and the public;

(D) reusing and recycling including deconstruction;

(E) the repair, renovation, or rehabilitation of an existing infrastructure facility including, but not limited to, rail, mass transportation, ports, inland navigation, schools and hospitals;

(F) transportation enhancements;

(G) recreational trails improvements, including those that enable alternative means of transportation and ensure safe use;

(H) transformation of military bases affected by the Base Realignment and Closing process (BRAC) to green the space;

(I) tree planting and reforestation;

(J) renewable resource enhancement; and

(K) assisting in emergency operations, such as disaster prevention and relief; and

(2) provide opportunities for youth and young adults, especially disadvantaged youth, to be trained for careers related to the activities listed in paragraph (1), including those that will be part of the emerging field of `green collar' jobs.

(b) Goals of the Energy Conservation Corps- The goals of the Energy Conservation Corps are to--

(1) promote clean energy use and preserve, protect, and sustain the environment;

(2) provide young adults with opportunities to become better citizens, students and workers through meaningful service to their communities and the nation;

(3) mobilize youth and young adults, especially disadvantaged youth, to promote energy conservation and mitigate threats to the environment; and

- (4) provide a pathway to responsible adulthood and productive, unsubsidized employment in the private sector.

SEC. 1814. TRAINING AND EDUCATION SERVICES.

All applicants must describe how they intend to--

- (1) assess the skills of Corpsmembers;
- (2) provide life skills and work skills training;
- (3) provide training and education;
- (4) develop agreements for academic study with--
 - (A) local education agencies;
 - (B) community colleges;
 - (C) 4-year colleges;
 - (D) area charter high schools and vocational-technical schools; and
 - (E) community-based organizations;
- (5) provide career and educational guidance; and
- (6) Recruit participants without high school diplomas.

SEC. 1815. PREFERENCE FOR CERTAIN PROJECTS.

In the consideration of applications the Corporation shall give preference to programs that are discrete and--

- (1) meet an identifiable public need;
- (2) instill a work ethic and a sense of public service in the participants;
- (3) involve youth operating in crews or a team-based structure; and
- (4) enhance skills development and educational level and opportunities for the participants.

SEC. 1816. PARTICIPANTS.

(a) In General- Age enrollment in programs that receive assistance under this subtitle shall be limited to individuals who, at the time of enrollment, are not less than 18 years nor more than 25 years of age, except that summer programs may include individuals not less than 14 years or more than 21 years of age at the time of the enrollment of such individuals.

(b) Participation of Disadvantaged Youth- Programs that receive assistance under this subtitle shall ensure that at least 50 percent of the participants are economically disadvantaged youth.

(c) Special Corpsmembers- Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, program agencies may enroll a limited number of special

Corpsmembers over age 25 so that the Energy Conservation Corps may draw on their special skills to fulfill the purposes of this subtitle.

SEC. 1817. USE OF VOLUNTEERS.

The use of volunteer services under this section shall be subject to the condition that such use does not result in the displacement of any participant.

SEC. 1818. COOPERATION AMONG STATES FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE.

(a) Agreements Between States- States operating an Energy Conservation Corps may enter into a compact with participating states to provide for mutual cooperation to manage any emergency or disaster that is duly declared by the affected state.

(b) Participating State Responsibilities-

(1) The authorized representative of a participating state may request assistance of another party by contracting the authorized representative of that state. The provisions of this agreement shall only apply to requests for assistance made by and to authorized representatives.

(2) There shall be frequent consultation between state officials who have assigned emergency management responsibilities and other appropriate representatives of the party states with affected jurisdictions and the United States Government, with free exchange of information, plans, and resource records relating to emergency capabilities.

SEC. 1819. FEDERAL SHARE.

The federal share of the cost of carrying out an Energy Conservation Corps program for which a grant is made under this subtitle is 76 percent of the total cost of the program.

SEC. 1820. BEST PRACTICES.

(a) Training and Technical Assistance- The Corporation shall provide technical assistance to grantees that request assistance and shall disseminate best practices that emerge from the Energy Conservation Corps.

(b) Contract- In providing training and technical assistance, the Corporation shall contract with a national organization with a proven track record of developing and sustaining Corps, working with the

Conservation Corps model, and engaging young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

SEC. 1820A. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) In General- There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2008 through 2010 to achieve the purposes of this subtitle.

(b) Allocation- Of the amounts appropriated to carry out this subtitle for each fiscal year--

- (1) 90 percent shall be for grants to eligible entities;
- (2) 5 percent shall be technical assistance, and dissemination of best practices; and
- (3) 5 percent shall be for evaluation.

SEC. 1820B. LEARN AND SERVE AMERICA.

(a) In General- To promote Learn and Serve programs that have the potential to reach every student in our public education network and private schools through school-based green service-learning, the Corporation shall establish a competitive grant program for the creation or expansion of such service learning programs.

(b) Application- To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a State Education Agency, Local education Agency, or nonprofit organization shall submit an application with such information and in such time as the Corporation may require.

(c) Authorization of Appropriations- For this purpose, there are authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2009 and such sums as may be necessary thereafter.

SEC. 1820C. NATIONAL SENIOR SERVICE CORPS.

(a) In General- To promote National Senior Service Corps programs that have the potential to both involve seniors in providing meaningful volunteer opportunities the Corporation shall establish a competitive grant program for the creation or expansion of National Senior Service Corps programs that--

- (1) make effective use of the talents and experience of seniors, particularly baby boomers, in programs and projects involving seniors in the improvement of the energy efficiency of housing for elderly and low-income people;
- (2) building or helping to supervise energy-efficient 'green' housing for elderly and low-income people; the repair, renovation, or rehabilitation of an existing infrastructure facility

including, but not limited to, rail, mass transportation, ports, inland navigation, schools and hospitals; transportation enhancements; recreational trails improvements, including those that enable alternative means of transportation and ensure safe use;

(3) volunteering in schools to teach or other support environmental education and energy conservation education for elementary and secondary school students and the public; and

(4) assisting in such other activities as the National Senior Service Corps may identify.

(b) Eligibility- To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a program in the National Senior Service Corps shall submit an application with such information and in such time as the Corporation may require.

(c) Authorization- For this purpose, there is authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2009 and such sums as may be necessary thereafter.

Subtitle II--Training and Technical Assistance

SEC. 1821. TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

Title I is further amended by adding at the end the following new subtitle:

Subtitle J--Training and Technical Assistance

SEC. 199N. TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) In General- The Corporation shall conduct, either directly or through grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements, including through State Commissions on National and Community Service, appropriate training and technical assistance to--

(1) programs receiving assistance under the national service laws; and

(2) entities (particularly those in rural areas and underserved communities)--

(A) that desire to carry out or establish national service programs;

(B) that desire to apply for assistance under the national service laws; or

(C) that desire to apply for a subgrant under the national service laws.

^ (b) Activities Included- Such training and technical assistance activities may include--

^ (1) providing technical assistance to those applying to carry out national service programs or those carrying out national service programs;

^ (2) promoting leadership development in national service programs;

^ (3) improving the instructional and programmatic quality of national service programs;

^ (4) developing the management and budgetary skills of those operating or overseeing national service programs, including to increase the cost effectiveness of the programs under the national service laws;

^ (5) providing for or improving the training provided to the participants in programs under the national service laws;

^ (6) facilitating the education of national service programs in risk management procedures, including the training of participants in appropriate risk management practices;

^ (7) training of those operating or overseeing national service programs in volunteer recruitment, management, and retention to improve the abilities of such individuals to use participants and other volunteers in an effective manner which results in high quality service and the desire of participants or volunteers to continue to serve in other capacities after the program is completed;

^ (8) training of those operating or overseeing national service programs in program evaluation and performance measures to inform practices to augment the capacity and sustainability of the program;

^ (9) training of those operating or overseeing national service programs to effectively accommodate people with disabilities to increase the participation of people with disabilities in national service programs. Such activities may utilize funding from the reservation of funds to increase the participation of individuals with disabilities as described in section 129(k);

^ (10) establishing networks and collaboration among employers, educators, and other key stakeholders in the community to further leverage resources to increase local participation and to coordinate community-wide planning and service;

^ (11) providing training and technical assistance for the National Senior Service Corps, including providing such training and technical assistance to programs receiving assistance under section 201 of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973; and

˘ (i) not more than 60 percent shall be available to provide financial assistance under part I of subtitle B of title I;

˘ (ii) not more than 25 percent shall be available to provide financial assistance under part II of such subtitle; and

˘ (iii) not less than 15 percent shall be available to provide financial assistance under part III of such subtitle.

˘ (C) SUMMER OF SERVICE- Of the amount appropriated under subparagraph (A) for a fiscal year, up to \$10,000,000 shall be for summer of service grants and up to \$10,000,000 shall be deposited in the National Service Trust to support summer of service educational awards, consistent with section 118(c)(8).

˘ (2) SUBTITLES C, D, AND H-

˘ (A) IN GENERAL- There are authorized to be appropriated to provide financial assistance under subtitles C and H of title I, to administer the National Service Trust and disburse national service educational awards and scholarships under subtitle D of title I, and to carry out such audits and evaluations as the Chief Executive Officer or the Inspector General of the Corporation may determine to be necessary, \$485,000,000 for fiscal year 2008, and such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2012.

˘ (B) PROGRAMS- Of the amount appropriated under subparagraph (A) for a fiscal year, up to 15 percent shall be made available to provide financial assistance under subsections (b) and (c) of section 126, and under subtitle H of title I.

˘ (C) SUBTITLE C- Of the amount appropriated under subparagraph (A), the following amounts shall be made available to provide financial assistance under section 121 of subtitle C of title I:

˘ (i) For fiscal year 2008, not more than \$324,000,000.

˘ (ii) For fiscal year 2009, not more than \$357,000,000.

˘ (iii) For fiscal year 2010, not more than \$397,000,000.

˘ (iv) For each of fiscal years 2011 through 2012, such sums as may be necessary.

- ˘ (D) PRIORITY- Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, in obligating the amounts made available pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subparagraph (C), priority shall be given to programs carried out in areas for which the President has declared the existence of a major disaster, in accordance with section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170), as a consequence of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.
- ˘ (3) SUBTITLE E- There are authorized to be appropriated to operate the National Civilian Community Corps and provide financial assistance under subtitle E of title I, \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2008 and such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2012.
- ˘ (4) ADMINISTRATION-
 - ˘ (A) IN GENERAL- There are authorized to be appropriated for the administration of this Act, including financial assistance under sections 126(a) and 196B, \$51,000,000 for fiscal year 2008 and such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2012.
 - ˘ (B) CORPORATION- Of the amounts appropriated under subparagraph (A) for a fiscal year--
 - ˘ (i) up to 69 percent shall be made available to the Corporation for the administration of this Act, including to provide financial assistance under section 196B; and
 - ˘ (ii) the remainder shall be available to provide financial assistance under section 126(a).
- ˘ (5) TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE- Of the amounts appropriated for a fiscal year under subtitles B, C, and H of title I of this Act and under titles I and II of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973, the Corporation shall reserve up to 2.5 percent to carry out subtitle J of this Act. Notwithstanding subsection (b), amounts so reserved shall be available only for the fiscal year for which they are reserved.
- ˘ (b) Availability of Appropriations- Funds appropriated under this section shall remain available until expended.'