

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

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To authorize a grant program that strengthens the capacity of community development financial institutions through alignment with national service participants.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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## **A BILL**

To authorize a grant program that strengthens the capacity of community development financial institutions through alignment with national service participants.

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 “Economic Mobility  
5       Corps Act of 2019”.

**6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7       (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

8           (1) There exists a network of over 1,000 Treas-  
9       ury-certified community development financial insti-

1       tutions located in all 50 States, the District of Co-  
2       lumbia, Guam, and the Commonwealth of Puerto  
3       Rico.

4           (2) Community development financial institu-  
5       tions are mission-driven financial lenders that pro-  
6       vide critical and responsible financial products and  
7       services that benefit low-income and distressed com-  
8       munities, economically disadvantaged people, and  
9       community businesses.

10          (3) Community development financial institu-  
11       tions need more talent and human capacity to better  
12       meet the needs of the low-income and distressed  
13       communities, economically disadvantaged popu-  
14       lations, and community businesses that they serve.

15          (4)(A) National service programs, carried out  
16       through the Corporation for National and Commu-  
17       nity Service, are national, State, and local service  
18       programs provided through a network that connects  
19       over 70,000 Americans each year in intensive service  
20       to improve lives, strengthen communities, and in-  
21       spire civic engagement.

22          (B) Economic opportunity is one of the Cor-  
23       poration's focus areas for national service corps or  
24       programs.

6 (B) Residents of low-income communities, espe-  
7 cially youth and young adults, can be empowered  
8 through their national service, and can help provide  
9 future leadership for community development finan-  
10 cial institutions and for the communities they serve.

17 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are to—

## 17 SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

18 In this Act:

12 (A) a covered community development fi-  
13 nancial institution with an approved application  
14 under section 5; or

15 (B) an organization, with an approved ap-  
16 plication under section 5, that places partici-  
17 pants with covered community development fi-  
18 nancial institutions and provides technical man-  
19 agement to those institutions.

## 20 (4) PARTICIPANT.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “participant”  
22 means an individual in an approved national  
23 service position.

24 (B) RULE.—A participant shall not be  
25 considered to be an employee of an eligible enti-

1               ty or a covered community development financial  
2                institution receiving assistance under this  
3                Act.

10 SEC. 4. INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT FOR THE ECONOMIC  
11 MOBILITY CORPS ACT OF 2018.

12 (a) INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Executive Officer  
14 shall enter into an interagency agreement under sec-  
15 tion 121(b)(6) of the National and Community Serv-  
16 ice Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12571(b)(6)) with the  
17 Secretary that is similar to an interagency agree-  
18 ment described in section 121(b)(1) of such Act (42  
19 U.S.C. 12571(b)(1)), regarding the grant program  
20 described in section 5, except that funds appro-  
21 priated under this Act may be used as if appro-  
22 priated for the purposes for which funds may be  
23 provided through grants under section 121(a) of the  
24 National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42  
25 U.S.C. 12571(a)). Except as otherwise provided in

1       this Act, the provisions of the National and Commu-  
2       nity Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12501 et seq.),  
3       other than paragraphs (1) through (5) of section  
4       121(b) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 12571(b)), that apply  
5       to a national service program supported under that  
6       section 121(b) shall apply to the grant program de-  
7       scribed in section 5.

8               (2) AMENDMENT TO THE NCSA.—Section  
9       121(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 12571(b)) is amend-  
10       ed by adding at the end the following:

11               “(6) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL IN-  
12       STITUTION GRANT INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT.—  
13       Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Corporation  
14       shall enter into an interagency agreement similar to  
15       an interagency agreement described in paragraph  
16       (1) with the Secretary of the Treasury under this  
17       subsection regarding the community development fi-  
18       nancial institution grant program described in sec-  
19       tion 5 of the Economic Mobility Corps Act of  
20       2019.”.

21               (b) APPROVED NATIONAL SERVICE POSITIONS.—

22               (1) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Executive Officer  
23       shall approve positions for Economic Mobility Corps  
24       projects as approved national service positions in ac-  
25       cordance with subtitle C of title I of the National

1 and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.  
2 12571 et seq.).

3 (2) DISTRIBUTION OF ASSISTANCE AND AP-  
4 PROVED POSITIONS UNAFFECTED.—Nothing in this  
5 Act shall be construed to affect the distribution of  
6 assistance or approved national service positions  
7 under section 129 of the National and Community  
8 Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12581). Funds ap-  
9 propriated under section 8 shall be used for the  
10 costs associated with that assistance or those posi-  
11 tions, for the program carried out under section 5.

12 (c) TREATMENT OF FUNDS APPROPRIATED.—

13 (1) NATIONAL SERVICE TRUST.—For purposes  
14 of subsection (a)(1) and (b) of section 145 of the  
15 National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42  
16 U.S.C. 12601(a)(1)), a portion of the funds appro-  
17 priated under this Act, as determined by the Chief  
18 Executive Officer based on the number of partici-  
19 pants selected for Economic Mobility Corps projects,  
20 shall be treated, respectively, as funds appropriated  
21 to the Corporation and made available to carry out  
22 subtitle D of title I of the National and Community  
23 Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12601 et seq.) and  
24 as funds appropriated to the Trust established under  
25 such section.

## 6 SEC. 5. ECONOMIC MOBILITY CORPS GRANT PROGRAM.

7       (a) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Executive Officer, in  
8 consultation with the Secretary, shall award grants, on a  
9 competitive basis, to eligible entities to enable such eligible  
10 entities to place participants at placement sites for the  
11 purpose of engaging them in Economic Mobility Corps  
12 projects.

13 (b) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant  
14 under this Act, an entity shall submit an application re-  
15 garding an Economic Mobility Corps project to the Chief  
16 Executive Officer at such time, in such manner, and con-  
17 taining such information, as the Chief Executive Officer  
18 may require, including—

19 (1) a description of the long-term goals and ob-  
20 jectives for the project involved and the benchmarks  
21 that the eligible entity will use to determine whether  
22 to place participants with a covered community de-  
23 velopment financial institution and to evaluate the  
24 performance of the covered community development  
25 financial institution in carrying out the project; and

9 (c) PRIORITY.—In making grants under this Act, the  
10 Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Sec-  
11 retary, shall give preferential consideration to entities pro-  
12 posing to serve rural communities or veterans.

13 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—

18 (A) to develop a training orientation, in  
19 which each selected participant will take part;  
20 and

21 (B) to identify and encourage individuals,  
22 including those who are residents in the com-  
23 munity to be served or otherwise reflect the de-  
24 mographics of the community, to serve as par-  
25 ticipants in community investment, including

1           the activities described in paragraph (3), in the  
2           projects.

3           (2) ASSISTANCE.—An eligible entity that re-  
4           ceives a grant under this section for an Economic  
5           Mobility Corps project shall use the grant funds to  
6           provide assistance, consistent with subtitle C of title  
7           I of the National and Community Service Act of  
8           1990 (42 U.S.C. 12571 et seq.), for the project, in-  
9           cluding assistance for participants selected for the  
10           project in carrying out the activities described in  
11           paragraph (3).

12           (3) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out those activi-  
13           ties, each selected participant shall—

14           (A) strengthen the capacity of, and expand  
15           the direct services provided by, the covered  
16           community development financial institution,  
17           which services may include financial counseling,  
18           financial services, job placement, small business  
19           financing, affordable rental housing financing,  
20           commercial facility financing, community facil-  
21           ity financing, single family home financing, and  
22           foreclosure prevention services; and  
23           (B) provide such direct services.

1 **SEC. 6. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—As a condition on receipt of any  
3 funds for a project under this Act, each eligible entity shall  
4 agree to prepare and submit a report at such time, in such  
5 manner, and containing such information as the Chief Ex-  
6 ecutive Officer, in consultation with the Secretary, may  
7 require.

8 (b) CONTENT.—In preparing the report the eligible  
9 entity shall, at a minimum—

10 (1) collect and present data on the degree to  
11 which the covered community development financial  
12 institution has made progress toward meeting the  
13 long-term goals and objectives described in the enti-  
14 ty's application and the performance of the covered  
15 community development financial institution on the  
16 benchmarks described in the application;

17 (2) collect and present demographic data about  
18 the participants; and

19 (3) describe the target area and, if appropriate,  
20 target population engaged and served by the covered  
21 community development financial institution, includ-  
22 ing whether the covered community development fi-  
23 nancial institution serves a rural community or vet-  
24 erans.

**1 SEC. 7. ECONOMIC MOBILITY VISTA ACTIVITIES.**

2       Section 103(a)(9) of the Domestic Volunteer Service  
3   Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4953(a)(9)) is amended to read  
4   to read as follows:

5               “(9) in developing and carrying out—  
6                       “(A) financial literacy, financial planning,  
7                           budgeting, saving, and reputable credit accessi-  
8                           bility programs in low-income communities, in-  
9                           cluding those programs that educate individuals  
10                           about financing home ownership and higher  
11                           education; and

12               “(B) foreclosure prevention programs (in-  
13                           cluding programs at community development fi-  
14                           nancial institutions under section 103 of the  
15                           Community Development Banking and Finan-  
16                           cial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4702)  
17                           and at other nonprofit organizations), which  
18                           programs are in low-income communities and  
19                           educate individuals about financing home own-  
20                           ership and higher education;”.

**21 SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

22       There are authorized to be appropriated to the Cor-  
23   poration, \$1,000,000, for fiscal year 2020 and each of the  
24   4 succeeding fiscal years.