

The Promoting Service through AmeriCorps (PSA) Act of 2024

This bill reauthorizes the programs administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), operating as AmeriCorps, as authorized by two statutes: the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (NCSA; P.L. 101-610), as amended, and the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (DVSA; P.L. 93-113), as amended.

TITLE I—PROGRAM MODERNIZATION

Harmonize program requirements and flexibilities and modernize the agency.

Subtitle A—Program Flexibilities

Sec.101.Expansion of national service positions with shorter periods of service.

Increase flexibility of service terms and improve access to service experiences by creating a 1,500-hour position with an AmeriCorps education award that is 88% the value of a 1,700-hour position.

Sec.102.National civilian community corps term extension authority.

Maintain term flexibilities for National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) made by the *CARES Act* to enable more targeted disaster response, better meet community needs, and expand opportunities to serve. Allow AmeriCorps to extend NCCC service terms of members engaged in priority activities, including disaster relief or recovery, allowing NCCC to meet unanticipated national priorities in addition to disaster response.

Sec.103.Increased age eligibility range for the national civilian community corps.

Maintain the changes to NCCC age eligibility enacted by the *CARES Act*, increasing the upper age eligibility from 24 to 26.

Sec.104.Timekeeping

Directs AmeriCorps and the OIG to each review timekeeping practices and report on the feasibility of adjusting documentation practices, plus provide any additional recommendations for improvement.

Sec.105.Administrative costs.

Increase the cap on federal share of grantee administrative costs from 5% to 10% which is the standard indirect cost rate.

Sec.106.Spending Flexibility

Maximize agency resources by allowing the agency to reinvest unobligated, expiring appropriations, as well as interest earnings in the National Service Trust Fund, into core operations, technology modernization, AmeriCorps grants, and other grantee support.

Sec.107.Volunteer generation fund.

Harmonize VGF funding structure with AmeriCorps State and National grant requirements by clarifying that match requirements shall not exceed 75 percent CNCS share and standardizing the federal share cap on administrative costs to 10% in line with the standard indirect cost rate.

Subtitle B—Organizational Modernization

Sec.111.Office of alumni engagement

Create an Office of Alumni Engagement to facilitate alumni's interaction with current and future AmeriCorps members and the broader service community beyond their terms of service in order to promote a broader culture of service and strengthen member recruitment and support.

Sec.112.Clarification regarding 5-year terms for all board of directors appointees.

Standardize Terms such that each Board Member serves a five-year term that runs with the calendar and is based on each Board Member's date of appointment.

TITLE II—MEMBER EXPERIENCE

Improve membership experience by standardizing and improving the flexibility of program benefits to promote recruitment and retention into national service programs.

Sec.201.Educational awards.

Allow education awards to be transferred to anyone designated and provide that transferred awards don't count toward the aggregate education award limit. Currently, an individual who is 55 or older can transfer an award to a designated individual, who is an American citizen and a child, foster child, or grandchild of the transferor. This provision would remove the age limit for transferor and the relational limitation for transferee.

Sec.202.Workforce development.

To address immediate workforce needs across multiple sectors, allow members to pursue workforce development opportunities by increasing flexibility of the Segal Education Award. Increase the time limit on using the award to ten years and allow use for non-traditional educational opportunities, such as industry credentialing.

Sec.203.Increasing Education Award limit.

Provide a four "full-time equivalent" Education Award limit on AmeriCorps State and National members, aligning with the four-time limit on terms of service.

Sec.204.Alignment of benefits.

Align AmeriCorps State and National with benefit flexibilities already applicable to AmeriCorps VISTA, allowing a reduced payment in lieu of the Segal Education Award as an option for members.

Sec.205.Non-competitive hiring eligibility.

Provide federal non-competitive hiring eligibility for AmeriCorps members who complete a full-time term of service (currently only applies to VISTA).

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec 302. Authorization of Appropriations

Reauthorizes the National and Community Service Act of 1993 and the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 for the period of 2025 to 2029.