

The Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education Act *Calling Americans to Serve at a Critical Time*

America is facing unprecedented challenges – the economy, health care, energy, schools in need of improvement and more. With our public needs intensifying in this recession, there's no better time to support and energize community service and volunteerism to help our country get through this economic crisis, restore confidence and prepare our nation for the future.

President Obama has called on Congress to create new opportunities for Americans to build a stronger country by helping students perform better in school, prepare Americans for green and innovative 21st century jobs, rebuild cities in times of disaster, improve communities and much, much more. This legislation answers his call. It will launch a new era of service that will give Americans of all ages an opportunity to invest through service in our nation's recovery. Specifically, the bill:

Creates 175,000 New Service Opportunities and Rewards Americans for Commitment

- Grows the number of volunteers nationwide to 250,000, up from 75,000. The bill also links the full-time education award to the maximum authorized Pell Grant award amount in order to keep up with rising college costs.

Provides Incentives for Middle and High School Students to Engage in Service

- Establishes the Summer of Service program that engages middle and high school students in volunteer activities in their communities and allows them to earn a \$500 education award to be used for college costs.

Makes High School Students Part of Solution to Challenges in their Communities

- Establishes Youth Engagement Zones, a new service-learning program to help bridge partnerships between community based organizations and schools in high-need, low-income communities to engage high school students and out-of-school youth in service-learning to address specific challenges their communities face.

Recognizes and Supports Colleges and Universities Engaged in Service

- Establishes the Campuses of Service to support and recognize institutions of higher education with exemplary service-learning programs and assists students in the pursuit of public service careers.

Boosts Opportunities for Disadvantaged Youth

- Expands opportunities for disadvantaged youth, including those with disabilities, to become more involved with service and strives to include people of all ages and those from diverse background in volunteerism.

Creates Green and Other New Service Corps to Meet Key Needs in Low-Income Communities

- Establishes four new service corps to address key needs in low income communities, including a **Clean Energy Corps** to encourage energy efficiency and conservation measures, an **Education Corps** to help increase student engagement, achievement and graduation, a **Healthy Futures Corps** to improve health care access, and a **Veterans Service Corps** to enhance services for veterans.

Broadens Scope of Collaborative Service Efforts

- Expands the focus of the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) to include disaster relief, infrastructure improvement, environmental and energy conservation, and urban and rural development.
- Encourages service partnerships with other federal agencies.

Recruits Scientists and Engineers to Service to Keep America Competitive

- Recruits scientists, technicians, mathematicians and engineers into national service to help keep America competitive.

Establishes an Alumni Reserve to Respond in Emergencies

- Establishes an alumni corps of former participants who can be called to service during times of disaster and other emergencies.

Expands Service Opportunities for Older Americans and Public-Private Partnerships

- Creates two new fellowships to engage social entrepreneurs, boomers and retirees, the private sector and Americans from all generations in service.
 - **ServeAmerica Fellowships:** ServeAmerica Fellows are individuals who propose their own plans for serving in their communities to address national needs and are matched up with a service sponsor.
 - **Silver Scholarships and Encore Fellowships:** These programs offer boomers and seniors, age 55 or older, opportunities to transition into service post-career as well as entrance into new careers in the public or nonprofit sector.

Creates a nationwide community-based infrastructure to leverage investments in service

- Builds a nationwide service infrastructure through community-building investments, social entrepreneurship, and programs to support and generate new volunteers.
 - **Community Solutions Fund:** Creates a Community Solutions Fund pilot program that awards competitive matching grants to social entrepreneur venture funds in order to provide community organizations with the resources to replicate or expand proven solutions to community challenges.
 - **Volunteer Generation Fund:** Provides grants to improve the quality and capacity of organizations to work with volunteers, and to create innovations in volunteerism in the areas of recruitment, training and management.

Establishes Call to Service Campaigns

- Includes a Call to Service Campaign to launch a national campaign to encourage all people to engage in service as well as designates September 11th as a National Day of Service and Remembrance.