



## Service-Learning United United in Our Support of Service-Learning

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### Serve America, S. 277— Service-Learning Highlights *March 23, 2009*

This week, both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate are working on landmark legislation to dramatically expand opportunities for all Americans to support. Together, the **GIVE Act (H.R. 1388)** and **Serve America (S.277)** will play a vital role in giving more young people the opportunity to learn and serve as part of their lives and educations. Both bills propose to increase authorized funding levels for service-learning and Learn and Serve America from \$43 million to \$97.

Some of the important reforms for service-learning include:

- **Increases the overall authorized funding level for Learn and Serve America from its traditional funding level of \$43 million to \$97 million.** Ensures every state has at least \$75,000 to provide service-learning opportunities for K-12 students through school-based programs.

Of the \$97 million, the Corporation has the authority to take up to \$47,970,00 million to support the following new expansion programs for Learn and Serve America:

- \$970,000 **Service-Learning Impact Study**, the new Subtitle B, Part IV
- \$20 million **Summer of Service** (\$10 million program and \$10 million education awards)
- \$7 million **Campuses of Service**
- \$20 million **Youth Engagement Zones**

If the Corporation were to exercise its authority to fund all of the programs listed above at the maximum levels referenced in the bill, the following approximate amounts are available to support General Programs based upon the approved authorized funding levels:

- Part I – Programs for Elementary and Secondary School Students, \$29.4 million (currently receive about \$18 million)
  - Part II – Higher Education, \$12.3 million (currently receive about \$10 million)
  - Part III – Innovative and Community-Based Service-Learning Programs and Research, \$7.4 million (currently receive about \$5)
- **Establishes a Summer of Service Program** to engage K-12 youth in year-round opportunities to learn through service. Allows participants to earn a \$500 education award to be used for college expenses.
  - **Strengthens Ties to Formal Education and Quality Classroom Instruction.** Articulates a stronger connection between the Corporation for National and

Community Service and the U.S. Department of Education to advance service-learning. Places an increased emphasis on ongoing professional development.

- **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.
- **Establishes Youth Engagement Zones to Prepare K-12 Youth to be Solutions to Specific Challenges in their Communities,** competitive grants for local school-community partnerships that commit to engage a majority of K-12 youth—and all high school students—in a comprehensive continuum of service-learning opportunities in school and community-based programs.
- **Establishes a Semester of Service Program** that allows K-12 youth to earn academic credit for service-learning programs tied to academic standards and of at least 70 hours in duration with a third of the time spent in the community.
- **Recognizes Global Youth Service Day** and authorizes the Corporation and other federal departments and agencies to organize activities and make grants to public or private nonprofit organizations to organize activities on GYSD.
- **Authorizes support for additional activities** to involve students service-learning activities that promote: STEM curricula; energy conservation; emergency and disaster preparedness; expanding access to technology; as well as programs that involve high-school age youth in mentoring younger students.