

TITLE IV--RELATED AGENCIES
CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE
OPERATING EXPENSES
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The amended bill includes \$796,662,000 for the operating expenses of the programs administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) instead of \$768,905,000 as proposed by the House and \$804,489,000 as proposed by the Senate. The amended bill includes language specifying funding amounts for domestic volunteer service programs and national and community service programs as proposed by the House. The Senate did not specify funding levels in the bill. As proposed by the House, the amended bill includes language allowing one percent of grant funds also to be used for electronic management of the grants cycle. The Senate did not propose similar bill language.

DOMESTIC VOLUNTEER SERVICE PROGRAMS

The amended bill includes language that none of the funds provided for program operating expenses may be used to provide stipends or monetary incentives to program participants or volunteer leaders who exceed the income guidelines in the Domestic Volunteer Service Act. Both the House and Senate bills proposed similar language.

The amended bill does not include language proposed by the Senate that all prior year unobligated balances from the "Domestic Volunteer Service Programs, Operating Expenses" account shall be transferred to and merged with this appropriation. The House bill did not propose similar language.

NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS

National Service Trust

Within the total for National and Community Service programs, the amended bill includes language, as proposed by the House, designating that not more than \$55,000,000 of grants under the National Service Trust may be used to administer, reimburse, or support national service programs instead of \$65,000,000 as proposed by the Senate.

AmeriCorps Grants

The amended bill includes language, similar to Senate report language, allowing the transfer of any deobligated funds from closed out AmeriCorps grants to the National Service Trust. The House did not propose similar language.

The amended bill does not include language proposed by the Senate setting aside funding for grants under the National Service Trust program for activities under the AmeriCorps Education Awards Program. The House bill did not propose similar language.

The amended bill does not include language proposed by the Senate that up to \$4,000,000 shall be to support national service scholarships for high school students performing community service. The House did not propose similar language.

The amended bill does not include language proposed by the Senate that of the amount provided for educational awards, \$7,000,000 shall be held in reserve as defined by the Strengthen AmeriCorps Program Act. The House did not propose similar language.

Innovation, Assistance, and Other Activities

Within the amount for Innovation, Assistance, and Other Activities, the amended bill includes the following: \$500,000 for Martin Luther King grants; \$5,000,000 for Disability grants; \$850,000 for the Service-Learning Clearinghouse and Exchange; and \$4,879,000 for National Service Outreach and Innovation activities.

Also within the total for Innovation, Assistance, and Other Activities, the amended bill includes \$8,000,000 for merit-based competitive grants for supporting and expanding volunteerism. The Appropriations Committees expect that previous partnership grantees, such as the Points of Light Foundation, America's Promise, and Communities in Schools, will be eligible to compete for these grants and recommend that consideration be given to national programs that build alignment among youth-serving organizations and other sectors to promote coordination of services for disadvantaged youth to achieve better outcomes.

The amended bill does not include language proposed by the Senate setting aside not more than \$10,466,000 for quality and innovation activities. The House did not propose similar language.

National Civilian Community Corps

The amended bill includes language designating that funding for the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) shall be available until September 30, 2009. Neither the House nor the Senate proposed similar language.

The amended bill includes language, as proposed by the Senate, that of the amount provided for NCCC, no less than \$5,000,000 shall be for the acquisition, renovation, equipping, and startup costs for campuses--one located in Vinton, Iowa and the other in Vicksburg, Mississippi. As proposed by the Senate, these center sites should be restored based on CNCS' 2005 geographic assessment and

its more specific site evaluation in October 2006. The Appropriations Committees expect that an NCCC class will be operating out of each facility by the end of fiscal year 2008 as proposed by the Senate. The House did not propose similar language.

Learn and Serve America

The amended bill does not include language proposed by the House designating funding for service-learning programs to remain available until September 30, 2009. The Senate bill did not include similar language.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The amended bill includes \$68,964,000 for the Corporation for National and Community Service salaries and expenses, as proposed by the House, instead of \$69,520,000 as proposed by the Senate.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

The amended bill includes \$5,932,000 for the Office of Inspector General (OIG) instead of \$5,512,000 as proposed by the House and \$6,900,000 as proposed by the Senate. The OIG is directed to continue reviewing the management of the National Service Trust and to continue reviewing the annual Trust reports and to notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on the accuracy of the reports as proposed by the Senate. The House did not propose similar language.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

CHANGES THROUGH RULEMAKING

The amended bill includes language that CNCS shall make any changes to program requirements, service delivery, or policy only through public notice and comment rulemaking to include service delivery changes in the administration and/or governance of national service programs. Both the House and Senate proposed similar language.

PROFESSIONAL CORPS

The amended bill includes language proposed by the House allowing professional corps programs to apply for a certain waiver to allow applicants to apply through State formula. The Senate did not propose similar language.

DONATED SERVICES

The amended bill includes language proposed by the House to allow CNCS to solicit and accept compensated and commercial services of organizations and individuals (other than participants) to assist in carrying out the duties of CNCS under the national service laws and that such an

individual shall be subject to the same protections and limitations as volunteers. The Senate did not propose similar language.

COMBINED MATCHING OF GRANTS

The amended bill includes language proposed by the House specifying that AmeriCorps programs receiving grants under the National Service Trust program shall meet an overall minimum share requirement of 24 percent for the first three years that they receive funding and thereafter shall meet certain requirements as provided in the Code of Federal Regulations, without regard to the operating costs match requirement. The Senate did not propose similar language.

MANAGING STATE FORMULA GRANTS

The amended bill includes language that formula-based grants to States and territories to operate AmeriCorps programs may be made if the application describes certain criteria related to positions and qualifications and makes assurances with regard to subgrants prior to the execution of any subgrants. Neither the House nor the Senate proposed similar language.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDITS

The amended bill does not include language proposed by both the House and Senate that the Inspector General shall conduct random audits of grantees that administer activities under the AmeriCorps programs and shall levy sanctions. The Appropriations Committees expect the Inspector General to continue conducting independent and objective audits and investigations to prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse as established in the Inspector General Act of 1978.

TRANSFER AUTHORITY

The amended bill does not include language proposed by the Senate to permit CNCS to transfer not to exceed one percent of any discretionary funds between activities. The House did not propose similar language.

CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

The amended bill includes language as proposed by the House that prohibits funds made available to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting by this Act to be used to apply any political test or qualification in selecting, appointing, promoting, or taking any other personnel action with respect to officers, agents, and employees of the Corporation. The Senate bill did not include a similar provision.