

CALL TO SERVICE

WE ARE CALLING ON MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO MAKE A SERVICE YEAR A COMMON EXPECTATION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR AMERICANS OF ALL BACKGROUNDS.

A service year is a sustained full-time term of service, ranging from six months to two years, supported by a modest living allowance and other benefits, that provides Americans opportunities to partner with communities to apply sustainable solutions to urgent problems while improving their own lives.

In most cases, service year programs are funded through a combination of public and private sources, with most public funding coming from AmeriCorps, the Peace Corps, and YouthBuild, and private funding coming from foundations, corporations, faith-based organizations, and individual gifts.



Through a service year, Americans develop essential workplace skills that set them on the path toward higher education or employment, and instill in them leadership skills and a shared sense of purpose through service. At scale, this experience has the potential to empower the next generation of Americans, developing purpose-driven leaders who understand the challenges facing our nation and share the commitment to make a difference for decades to come.

Service years yield a triple bottom line by:

BRINGING UNPRECEDENTED SKILLS AND WILLPOWER

to partner with communities to find sustainable solutions, help students at risk of dropping out to succeed in school, preserve the environment, improve health, and tackle other important challenges.



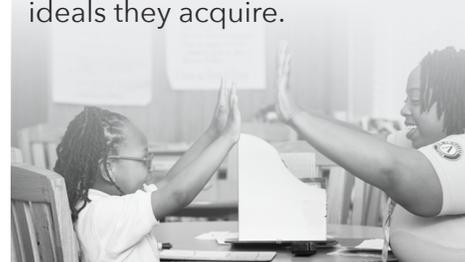
UNITING THE NATION

by facilitating a culture of service and a common experience open to Americans of all backgrounds - service years can unite the most diverse nation in history.



OFFERING A TRANSFORMATIVE OPPORTUNITY

for those who serve, connecting them to careers, higher education, or professional pursuits, and cultivating generations of leaders, innovators, and patriots committed to the skills and ideals they acquire.



To help realize the potential of Americans and unleash a powerful force for good, we are calling on members of Congress to:



- 1 **Make national service a national priority**, starting by dramatically increasing the number of full-time service positions through the three successful federally supported civilian national service programs – AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, and YouthBuild – and asking every federal agency to create a service year corps to tackle important challenges cost-effectively.



- 2 **Deepen the impact of service year opportunities as a pathway to higher education and careers** by increasing education awards and loan forgiveness for those who serve, making those education awards tax-free, creating incentives for higher education institutions to recognize and reward service years, and recruiting service year alumni into federal jobs.



- 3 **Encourage states, communities, higher education institutions, and nonprofit organizations, as well as international agencies, to create service year positions to solve locally identified problems by partnering with the Service Year Exchange**, a new private sector technology platform designed to connect individuals who want to serve with certified publicly and privately funded service year positions.

The Service Year Policy Council:

