



TO: Interested Parties

FR: Ben Greenfield, Change Research

RE: Americans To Expand National Service Programs To Help Unify Country

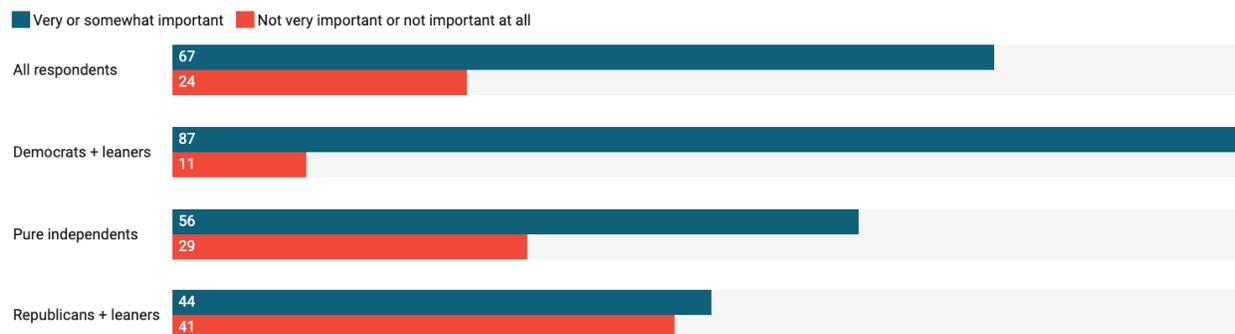
A new survey of 2,325 adults nationwide shows that Americans overwhelmingly feel that it is important for the Biden administration to prioritize initiatives that will bring the country together, and by just as overwhelming margins, they think that national service programs are an excellent way to do so. And Americans want to see action from the federal government to make that happen: 77% of respondents, including strong majorities of those in both parties, want Congress to pass legislation expanding national service opportunities.

Americans do not just want these programs to thrive for abstract reasons; they want them to be available to themselves and those close to them. 44% of respondents between 18 and 28 consider themselves likely to serve in a national service program -- including 60% of people of color between 18 and 28. And 62% of those over 28 would be likely to recommend such programs to their child or another young person in their lives.

Americans Want Healing, See National Service Programs As A Great Way To Accomplish It

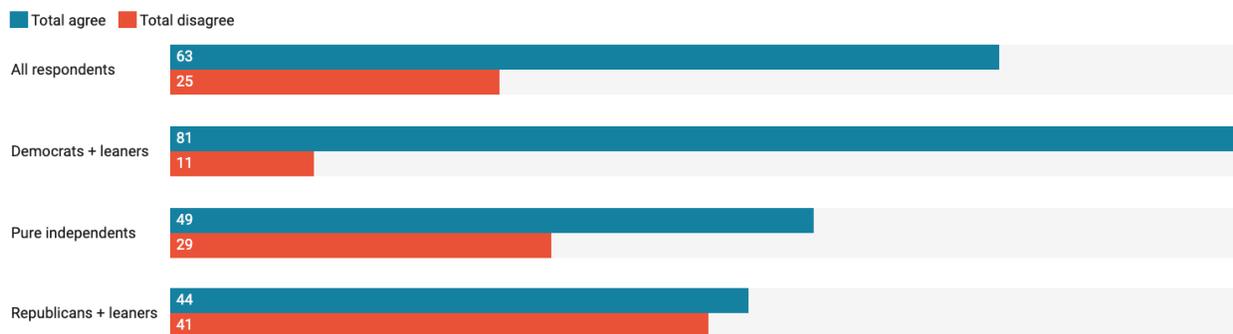
67% of respondents feel that it is important for the Biden administration to prioritize programs that have the ability to heal divides in the country, while just 24% say it is not important. Significant numbers of Americans on all sides of the political divide want reconciliation: 44% of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, along with 87% of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents, as well as 55% of independents who lean toward neither party, say it's important to prioritize initiatives that heal divides.

How important is it to you that President-elect Biden prioritize programs or proposals that have the ability to heal divides in the country?



And Americans think national service programs are an excellent way to achieve that goal. 63% agree, and 25% disagree, that national service programs are a good way to heal divides, with pluralities of each partisan group agreeing.

Do you agree or disagree that national service programs, like AmeriCorps, are a good way to help heal divides in the country?



77% Want Congress To Expand National Service Opportunities

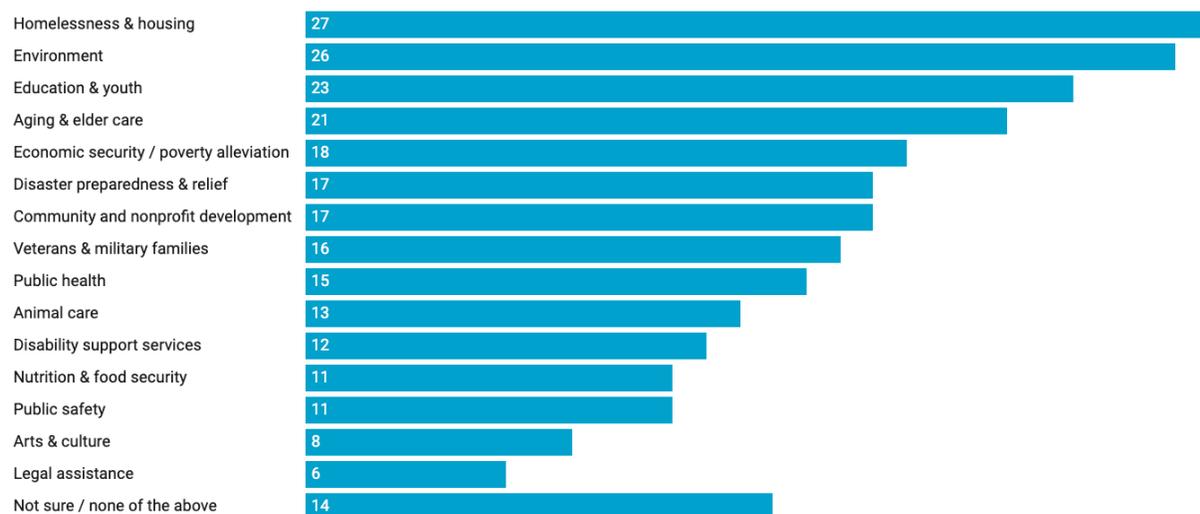
Overall, 77% of adults nationwide would support legislation from Congress to expand opportunities in national service programs. This includes overwhelming support from Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents (93%) as well as a strong majority of Republicans and leaners (59%) and 73% of independents who lean toward neither party.

Support also transcends demographics: among both genders, all racial and ethnic groups, every age bracket, and every income bracket, over 70% of each group supports action.

Additionally, 54% think national service should be a high or medium priority for the Biden administration, while 32% think it should be a low priority and 14% are unsure. 78% of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents think it should be at least a medium priority.

Americans Think Young People Could Benefit Wide Variety Of Fields

Americans believe that many different fields would benefit from young people’s work. Homelessness and housing scores highest on this measure, with 27% ranking it in their top 3; the environment is close behind, at 26%. Next are education, at 23%, and elder care, at 21%. Overall, 9 different fields appeared in the top 3 fields for 15% or more of respondents.



Biden Could Influence Views Of National Service, As Could Trusted Members Of Congress

Respondents were asked whether they'd feel more positive or negative about civilian national service programs if a variety of specific individuals or categories of people urged people to join such programs. President-Elect Biden's influence trails only those of members of Congress who share respondents' values; his overall numbers are also tied with military leaders'.

And Biden is statistically tied with like-minded members of Congress among Americans age 18 to 28. These young Americans would also be influenced not only by military and political leaders, but also by celebrities on social media and TV, who hold significantly more sway with younger respondents than older ones.

The following chart depicts the percentage of Americans whose views would be more positive if an individual or group urged young people to join national service programs:

	All respondents	18-24 year olds	25-28 year olds
Other Congressional representatives who share the same values as me	50	46	45
President-Elect Biden	42	44	48
Military leaders	42	36	35
My Congressional representative	40	36	42
My governor	38	34	41
Religious leaders	38	34	35
Community leaders who look like me	36	36	38
My mayor	34	37	38
Journalists in the paper, TV, or radio	33	34	35
CEOs or business leaders	33	32	34
Community leaders who don't look like me	32	32	35
President Trump	30	26	27
Celebrities communicating with their followers on social media	29	38	36
Celebrities on TV	27	33	35

OTHER KEY FINDINGS

- 44% of Americans between 18 and 28 years old are somewhat or very likely to serve in a national service program.
- Young people of color are far more likely to express interest in a national service program than white 18 to 28 year olds. 60% of 18 to 28 year olds of color would be likely to participate, while 34% of white 18 to 28 year olds would. 69% of young African Americans, 58% of young Latinos/Latinas, and 49% of Asian American 18 to 28 year olds would be likely to serve.

- Those with a potential interest in a national service program are driven most by the ability to give back or make a difference: 38% rate this among their top three reasons for serving. The next most-cited things they'd hope to gain are experience and skills (26%), personal growth or direction (25%), it being personally rewarding (21%), help in getting a job (19%), and the ability to get to know people different from themselves (19%).
- 62% of Americans age 29 or older would be likely to recommend a national service program to their child or another young person in their lives.
- 76% of all adults say it is their responsibility as Americans to volunteer in their communities or for the country.
- 93% have engaged in some individual civic actions in the past year, such as voting in local elections, donating to charitable causes, or writing to their representatives. 72% have engaged in at least three such activities in the last year.
- 86% have engaged in some social civic actions in the past year, such as attempting to persuade others in their lives on an issue they care about, volunteering, or attending a town hall. 46% have engaged in at least three such activities in the past year.
- 64% think their local government generally tries to do what is right, while 54% say the same about their state government, and just 34% say the same about the federal government. 82% say the people in their community generally try to do what's right.

A summary of the survey's methodology can be found [here](#).