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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

NATIONAL SERVICE AND GOVERNORS

The national service initiative offers a vital opportunity for Governors and States. The President has worked hard to develop a program in which States are full partners with Washington in establishing standards and allocating funds. Together, the President and Governors can make this popular and historic national program into a local success. National service can help meet needs that States cannot otherwise afford to fill, and more broadly, it can fight cynicism about government and show that it can work again.

Governors will be absolutely essential to the success of the national service initiative: at least two-thirds of funds, or \$1 billion, will be allocated through States. The legislation asks Governors to establish State Commissions on National and Community Service, and to appoint their bipartisan boards. As soon as Commissions are established and approved, the Corporation will provide funding to pay up to 85 percent of their costs. (States may also use other existing entities on a transitional basis in lieu of Commissions.)

States can begin essential work immediately: drawing civic organizations into the program and generating applications. The State Commissions, like the Corporation, will "pick winners" among programs instead of running programs themselves. States that perform up to high standards will receive additional funds: one-half of funds going to States will be distributed on a population basis, and one-half on a competitive basis.

The Corporation for National and Community Service will work together with all of the States to make national service a success. Success will be defined by a few simple terms:

- Measurable results. A good national service program will have a clear, positive impact in meeting the unmet needs of local communities: immunizing infants, tutoring young people, reducing crime, cleaning up pollution, and so on. The Corporation will establish national priorities and performance goals to focus programs within the broad areas of education, environment, human needs and public safety.
- Diverse participation. We want young men and women from every education level, race, region and religion to participate in national service.
- Bringing Americans together. National service should provide direct service that everyone agrees is important -- not support political organizing and advocacy. It should also offer a renewed spirit of citizenship -- in addition to specific skills.
- A market for quality. Every program will have to compete for funds and demonstrate their excellence in order to receive funding. Programs will need to match a portion of federal funding and will be encouraged to attract support outside government -- from businesses, foundations, and civic groups.

The White House and the Corporation will continue to work as partners with Governors to make the program a success for everyone involved. We look forward to interested Governors from both parties becoming involved in these ongoing consultations.