

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

EXAMPLES OF NATIONAL SERVICE PLACEMENTS

Education

- Head Start programs.

The success of the Head Start expansion will depend on the ability of centers to employ quality teaching personnel. National service participants could provide invaluable assistance in Head Start and other child care programs. They would receive training in the summer after college, with early childhood development education sponsored by a higher education institution in partnership with a child care resource agency.

In the fall, participants would be assigned in groups as assistant teachers in Head Start centers and other child care facilities for low-income families, where experienced teachers would act as their mentors. Assistant teachers would work with small groups of children, developing their cognitive and social skills through sustained attention and education. In addition, the participants would provide services to parents -- literacy training, parenting education, etc. The assistant teachers would periodically meet to receive additional training, and move on to more challenging tasks when suitable.

- Urban/rural schools.

In Chapter 1 schools that most need help, an "army" of national service participants in a variety of roles could significantly further the goals of your school reform plan. Working together, an institution of higher education, a nonprofit organization, and an education agency could use the summer before service to train young people at different education levels to serve in the fall in selected schools where interest was great.

Throughout the year, participants would receive mentoring from the most experienced and talented teachers. Some could work with parents to ensure their involvement in their children's education. Others would serve as math or reading tutors. A third group would act as service-learning coordinators, arranging experiential community service activities to instill the service ethic in youths and involve schools in their communities. Participants who became interested in teaching careers would be able to receive additional training while serving. As part of the "army" of servers, a few certified teachers might enter the schools in fields like special and bilingual education.