

## NATIONAL SERVICE INITIATIVE

### Focus of Service

- National service must address unmet educational, environmental, human, or public safety needs.
- The Corporation and State Commissions must establish priorities among these needs that programs must address.
- National service must improve the life of the participants, through citizenship education and training.
- Participants may not displace or duplicate the functions of existing workers.

### Corporation for National Service

#### *Structure*

- The national service program will be administered by a government Corporation for National Service, created by combining two existing independent federal agencies, the Commission on National and Community Service and ACTION.
- The Corporation will be responsible for administering all programs authorized under the National and Community Service Act and Domestic Volunteer Service Act, including VISTA and the Older American Volunteer Programs. The Corporation will also fund training and technical assistance, service clearinghouses and other activities.
- The Corporation will have authority to combine the functions of the two sets of programs in order to reduce bureaucracy, but will maintain the distinct operational features of the VISTA and Older American Volunteer programs.
- Current ACTION employees will transfer into the Corporation within the civil service system, but other employees will be governed by a more flexible, merit-based, competitive personnel system exempt from certain civil service requirements.
- In order to build private and non-government support, the Corporation may solicit and accept private funds.

#### *Governance*

- The Corporation will have a fifteen-member volunteer Board of Directors appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. It will be bipartisan, representing a broad range of viewpoints, and include persons experienced in national service and similar programs; experts in providing educational, environmental, human, or public safety service; and at least one person between the ages of 16 and 25. Board members will serve for a term of 5 years.