

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4220

To amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to establish a National Climate Service Corps to help communities withstand and respond to changes in the Earth’s climate with respect to natural disasters, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 29, 2021

Ms. CHU (for herself, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. POCAN, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to establish a National Climate Service Corps to help communities withstand and respond to changes in the Earth’s climate with respect to natural disasters, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Climate Serv-
5 ice Corps and Careers Network Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Every region of the United States is con-
2 fronting the effects of climate change and related
3 natural disasters, including extreme heat and
4 droughts, heavy rains and flooding, hurricanes and
5 tornadoes, acidification of the oceans and sea level
6 rise, wildfires, and mudslides, among other effects.

7 (2) These changes affect the health, agriculture,
8 food supply, infrastructure, energy supply, water
9 quality and water supply, and have the potential to
10 reduce the standard of living and quality of life in
11 the United States.

12 (3) The Fourth National Climate Assessment
13 estimates that low-income communities will be dis-
14 proportionately impacted by climate change through
15 higher rates of adverse health conditions, greater ex-
16 posure to environmental hazards, and more severe
17 impacts and longer recovery from natural disasters.

18 (4) The Fourth National Climate Assessment
19 estimates that—

20 (A) climate change will shrink the Amer-
21 ican economy by up to 10 percent by the year
22 2100 and will result in losses up to
23 \$141,000,000,000 from heat-related deaths,
24 \$118,000,000,000 from sea level rise, and

1 \$32,000,000,000 from infrastructure damage;
2 and

3 (B) proactive adaptation initiatives yield
4 benefits in excess of their costs in both the near
5 term and long term.

6 (5) The frequency and severity of natural disas-
7 ters taking place each year is steadily and signifi-
8 cantly increasing. In 1970, there were 78 registered
9 natural disasters. In 2017, there were 335 natural
10 disasters, impacting approximately 96,000,000 peo-
11 ple and costing the United States more than
12 \$306,000,000,000.

13 (6) Service and Conservation Corps, which are
14 descended from the Civilian Conservation Corps of
15 the 1930s, are trained for and have experience with
16 the four stages of disaster: mitigation, preparedness,
17 response, and recovery.

18 (7) During the COVID–19 pandemic, climate
19 change did not stop. The existing network of 137
20 Service and Conservation Corps continued to re-
21 spond to the needs of their communities. This in-
22 cluded fighting wildfires to controlling erosion.

1 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL CLIMATE SERVICE CORPS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 122(a) of the National
3 and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12572(a))
4 is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as
6 paragraphs (5) and (6), respectively; and

7 (2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-
8 lowing new paragraph:

9 “(4) NATIONAL CLIMATE SERVICE CORPS.—

10 “(A) PURPOSE.—

11 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The recipient may
12 carry out national service projects through
13 a Climate Service Corps that improves
14 community adaptation, mitigation, pre-
15 paredness, response, and recovery from
16 natural disaster and other trends related
17 to climate change through activities such
18 as those described in subparagraph (B)
19 and improves performance on the indica-
20 tors described in subparagraph (C).

21 “(ii) SELECTION PRIORITY.—In se-
22 lecting national service projects to carry
23 out under this paragraph, the recipient
24 shall, to the extent practicable, carry out
25 projects in communities that are dispropor-
26 tionately impacted by climate and severe

1 weather events, including from commu-
2 nities of color, low-income communities,
3 and tribal communities.

4 “(B) ACTIVITIES.—

5 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A Climate Service
6 Corps described in this paragraph may
7 carry out activities, including—

8 “(I) assessing community resil-
9 ience to the effects of climate change;

10 “(II) supporting climate adapta-
11 tion and mitigation of the negative ef-
12 fects of climate change;

13 “(III) environmental sustain-
14 ability and resiliency;

15 “(IV) emergency preparedness;

16 “(V) promoting sustainable and
17 resilient communities;

18 “(VI) assisting with recovery
19 from disasters to rebuild in a manner
20 that provides improved resilience or
21 adaptation for future climate impacts;

22 “(VII) assisting with prevention,
23 recovery, or restoration of wildland,
24 rangeland, and wildland-urban inter-
25 face areas from the effects of wildfire

1 and associated impacts due to the ef-
2 fects of climate change; or

3 “(VIII) other relevant activities,
4 as determined by the Corporation.

5 “(ii) PARTICIPATION.—In addition to
6 the requirements for participants under
7 section 137, in carrying out national serv-
8 ice projects under this paragraph, the re-
9 cipient shall, to the extent practicable—

10 “(I) select as participants indi-
11 viduals who are at least 16 but not
12 more than 30 years of age (including
13 out of-school youth and other dis-
14 advantaged youth (such as individuals
15 who are aging out of foster care, indi-
16 viduals who have limited English pro-
17 ficiency, homeless individuals, and in-
18 dividuals with disabilities)), and vet-
19 erans who have not reached the age of
20 36, at the time of beginning the term
21 of service; and

22 “(II) provide each participant
23 with team-based, highly structured,
24 and adult-supervised work experience,
25 education, career guidance, and coun-

1 seling, and employment training, sup-
2 port services, and mentoring.

3 “(C) NATIONAL CLIMATE SERVICE CORPS
4 INDICATORS.—The indicators for a Climate Re-
5 siliency Service Corps program described in this
6 paragraph are—

7 “(i) the number of acres, miles,
8 homes, buildings or infrastructure projects
9 built, improved, or treated for improved re-
10 silience and adaptation;

11 “(ii) the number of individuals edu-
12 cated about and prepared for disasters and
13 other trends related to climate change;

14 “(iii) the number of individuals as-
15 sisted, including those rescued, evacuated,
16 or provided shelter;

17 “(iv) the number of tons of debris col-
18 lected;

19 “(v) the number of homes or buildings
20 treated, including those boarded up,
21 tarped, mucked, or gutted during disaster
22 response;

23 “(vi) the number of acres, homes, or
24 buildings restored during disaster recovery;

1 “(vii) the number of trees and plants
2 planted;

3 “(viii) the number of infrastructure
4 projects undertaken to improve resilience
5 against future natural disasters;

6 “(ix) the number of economically dis-
7 advantaged individuals with access to job
8 training and other skill enhancement;

9 “(x) the number of economically dis-
10 advantaged individuals with access to in-
11 formation about job placement services;

12 “(xi) the number of individuals receiv-
13 ing education or training in environ-
14 mentally conscious practices;

15 “(xii) any additional indicator relating
16 to natural disaster and other trends that
17 the Corporation establishes, in consultation
18 (as appropriate), with the Secretaries of
19 the Departments of the Interior, Agri-
20 culture, Commerce, and Defense, the Di-
21 rector of the Federal Emergency Manage-
22 ment Agency, and the Administrator of the
23 Environmental Protection Agency; and

24 “(xiii) any additional local indicator
25 applicable to a particular recipient and on

1 which an improvement in performance is
2 needed related to climate change.

3 “(D) LIVING ALLOWANCE.—Notwith-
4 standing section 140(a), no participant shall re-
5 ceive a living allowance that is less than the
6 equivalent of \$15 per hour.”.

7 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 122 of the
8 National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
9 12572), as amended by subsection (a), is further amend-
10 ed—

11 (1) in paragraph (b)(3), by striking “or (5)”
12 and inserting “(5), or (6)”; and

13 (2) in paragraph (c)(1), by striking “(5)” and
14 inserting “(6)”.

15 **SEC. 4. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Each recipient of a subgrant
17 under section 122(a) of the National and Community
18 Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12572(a)) that receives
19 such subgrant for the purpose of establishing a National
20 Climate Service Corps in a subdivision of a State shall
21 ensure that such Corps forms an Environmental Justice
22 Task Force (in this section referred to as the “Task
23 Force”) to advise and consult on community-based
24 projects and recruitment.

1 (b) DUTIES.—Each Task Force shall have an advisory
 2 sory role in agenda-setting and shall prioritize projects
 3 that address environmental justice and benefit communities
 4 nities that have suffered systemic racial, social, and economic
 5 injustices, and face a disproportionate burden of adverse
 6 human health or environmental effects.

7 (c) COMPOSITION.—Each Task force shall include—

- 8 (1) local elected officials;
- 9 (2) local educators;
- 10 (3) faith-based leaders;
- 11 (4) veterans advocates;
- 12 (5) State and local service corps leadership; and
- 13 (6) community leaders.

14 **SEC. 5. COOPERATION AMONG STATES FOR EMERGENCY**
 15 **RESPONSE.**

16 (a) AGREEMENTS BETWEEN STATES.—States that
 17 provide subgrants to State or nonprofit entities that engage
 18 in National Climate Service Corps activities under
 19 section 122(a)(4) of the National and Community Service
 20 Act of 1990, added by section 3(2), or States that have
 21 nonprofit organizations receiving funding under the national
 22 service laws (as defined in section 101 of the National
 23 and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
 24 12511)) and that are engaging in similar activities (referred
 25 to as “participating States”) may enter into a com-

1 pact with other participating States to provide for mutual
2 cooperation to manage any emergency or disaster that is
3 duly declared by the affected State.

4 (b) PARTICIPATING STATE RESPONSIBILITIES.—

5 (1) REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE.—The author-
6 ized representative of a participating State may re-
7 quest assistance of the National Climate Service
8 Corps or of such nonprofit organizations of another
9 participating State by contacting the authorized rep-
10 resentative of that State. The provisions of the com-
11 pact described in subsection (a) shall only apply to
12 requests for assistance made by and to such author-
13 ized representatives.

14 (2) CONSULTATION.—The State officials of par-
15 ticipating States shall ensure—

16 (A) that there is frequent consultation be-
17 tween State officials who are assigned emer-
18 gency management responsibilities, and other
19 appropriate representatives of the participating
20 States, with the relevant officials of affected ju-
21 risdictions and with the relevant officials of the
22 Federal Government; and

23 (B) the free exchange of information,
24 plans, and resource records relating to emer-
25 gency capabilities.

1 **SEC. 6. CLIMATE RESILIENCY AMERICORPS VISTA.**

2 Section 103(a) of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act
3 of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 4953(a)) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (12), by striking “and” at the
5 end;

6 (2) in paragraph (13), by striking the period at
7 the end and inserting “; and”; and

8 (3) after subsection (13), by adding the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(14) in addressing the capacity of low-income
11 communities to implement projects that increase re-
12 silience to shocks and stressors resulting from cli-
13 mate change.”.

14 **SEC. 7. NONCOMPETITIVE HIRING AUTHORITY.**

15 A qualified corps member under section 122 of the
16 National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
17 12572) shall be eligible for appointment in the competitive
18 service in the same manner as a Peace Corps volunteer
19 as prescribed in Executive Order 11103 (22 U.S.C. 2504
20 note, relating to Providing for the Appointment of Former
21 Peace Corps Volunteers to the Civilian Career Services).

22 **SEC. 8. CLIMATE CAREERS NETWORK.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Corporation (acting through
24 the Employers of National Service initiative), in consulta-
25 tion with the Departments of Energy, Agriculture, Edu-
26 cation, Labor, Interior, Transportation, Housing and

1 Urban Development, the Environmental Protection Agen-
2 cy, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,
3 and other relevant Federal agencies, as determined to be
4 appropriate by the Corporation, shall establish a program
5 to be known as the “Climate Careers Network” to carry
6 out the activities described in subsection (b) for the pur-
7 poses of—

8 (1) addressing the challenge of job placement in
9 a clean energy economy; and

10 (2) supporting individuals—

11 (A) who have completed service in the Na-
12 tional Climate Service Corps; and

13 (B) of all ages and backgrounds who want
14 to get involved in growing green industries in
15 the United States.

16 (b) ACTIVITIES OF THE CLIMATE CAREERS NET-
17 WORK.—The activities described in this subsection are as
18 follows:

19 (1) Creating and maintaining a database that
20 outlines opportunities for individuals who have com-
21 pleted service in the National Climate Service Corps
22 and other individuals, and that includes information
23 related to opportunities for those individuals in a
24 clean energy economy.

1 (2) Establishing direct partnerships between
2 the Climate Careers Network program and existing
3 infrastructure for relevant training and job place-
4 ment in order to connect individuals with new jobs
5 and lifelong careers, such as partnerships with 2 or
6 more of the following:

7 (A) Labor organizations or joint labor
8 management organizations.

9 (B) Employers.

10 (C) High schools and adult education pro-
11 grams.

12 (D) Nonprofit organizations with dem-
13 onstrated success in areas of clean energy and
14 climate change mitigation activities.

15 (E) Institutions of higher education.

16 (F) Community development organizations.

17 (G) State and local workforce development
18 boards established under title I of the Work-
19 force Innovation and Opportunity Act (29
20 U.S.C. 3111 et seq.).

21 (H) Career and technical education pro-
22 viders, including those that award credentials
23 and build career pathways.

24 (I) Other entities that may provide rel-
25 evant direct employment opportunities.

1 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

2 (1) CORPORATION.—The term “Corporation”
3 means the Corporation for National and Community
4 Service established under section 191 of the Na-
5 tional and Community Service Act of 1990 (42
6 U.S.C. 12651).

7 (2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
8 term “institution of higher education” has the
9 meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the
10 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

11 **SEC. 9. MATCHING FUNDS WAIVER.**

12 The matching funds requirements under section
13 212(a)(1) of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 (16
14 U.S.C. 1729(a)(1)) and section 121(e) of the National and
15 Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12571(e))
16 shall be waived for projects carried out using amounts
17 made available under this Act or the amendments made
18 by this Act.

19 **SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

20 There are authorized to be appropriated—

21 (1) \$2,000,000,000 for each of fiscal years
22 2022 through 2026 to carry out section 3;

23 (2) \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022
24 through 2026 to carry out section 8; and

1 (3) for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026,
2 such sums as may be necessary to provide national
3 service educational awards under subtitle D of title
4 I of the National and Community Service Act of
5 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12601 et seq.) for the members of
6 the National Climate Service Corps for such fiscal
7 year.

8 **SEC. 11. NATIONAL CLIMATE SERVICE CORPS DEFINED.**

9 In this Act, the term “National Climate Service
10 Corps” means the National Climate Service Corps de-
11 scribed in section 122(a)(4) of the National and Commu-
12 nity Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12572(a)(4)), as
13 added by section 3.

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