



Congressional Budget Justification

FISCAL YEAR 2019

Agency

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) was established by the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993. Its mission is to engage Americans of all ages and backgrounds in community based service that improves lives, strengthens communities, and fosters civic engagement by providing grants to organizations that host members for specific service projects. CNCS executes this mission primarily through its AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs.

These programs are run through a combination of efforts by the National Office (Headquarters), State Offices, and State Service Commissions. The State Service Commissions administer CNCS's AmeriCorps State and National formula grant funds. There are State Commissions in 49 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico.

FY 2019 Agency Budget Request

The 2019 Budget delivers on the President's promise to advance the safety and security of the American people without adding to the deficit, and does so by setting priorities and redefining the role of the Federal Government. As part of this framework, the Budget proposes to eliminate CNCS, returning responsibility to fund national service and volunteerism to the private and nonprofit sectors.

The FY 2019 Budget request of \$122.6 million will support the orderly shutdown of CNCS operations. The request includes \$87.4 million for salaries and expenses. The salaries and expenses funding will provide \$56.8 million for staff salaries during the year and the costs associated with staff buyouts, early retirements, and reductions in force; \$17.1 million for agency operations; and \$13.5 million for facility operations until the agency closure is complete at the end of FY 2019.

The Budget request includes \$24.1 million for the final year of AmeriCorps NCCC operations and \$7.6 million for managing existing programs during their final year.

The Budget request provides \$3.6 million for the orderly shutdown of the Office of Inspector General, as part of the proposal to eliminate CNCS.

While awaiting congressional action on this Budget request, CNCS will continue its reform planning and related activities as required by the Administration under Executive Order 13781: Comprehensive Plan for Reorganizing the Executive Branch. CNCS will reach out to stakeholders to solicit input to inform the development of its reform plan, which will be focused on administrative changes the agency can make to improve its efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability.

AmeriCorps State and National

With funds distributed by States, Territories, Tribes, and community-based organizations, members serve full or part-time on projects that align with certain priority areas including disaster services, economic opportunity, and education.

AmeriCorps VISTA

AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) was created to support efforts to reduce poverty and build economic opportunity throughout the country. It accomplishes this goal primarily by providing full-time members to community organizations and public agencies working to solve local challenges.

AmeriCorps NCCC

AmeriCorps NCCC is a 10-month residential national service program for people ages 18–24. AmeriCorps NCCC members are deployed to address community needs, which include responding to natural disasters, building homes for low-income families, and helping to keep at risk youth engaged in school.

State Service Commission Support Grants

Congress created CNCS in 1993 as a shared federal-state partnership with a central role for governors in designing and implementing national service through governor-supported State Service Commissions. More than 1,000 private citizens serve as governor-appointed commissioners, leading and guiding national service efforts in their states by identifying local needs, directing federal and state resources, ensuring oversight and accountability, tracking performance and community impact, and leading citizen service efforts in their states and territories.

National Service Trust

The National Service Trust provides Education Awards for eligible AmeriCorps members who successfully complete their terms of service in an AmeriCorps program.¹

Senior Corps RSVP

RSVP engages the skills, talents, and experience of volunteers age 55 and older to meet a wide range of community needs. RSVP volunteers help seniors live independently in their homes, tutor and mentor at-risk youth, help communities recover from disasters, and expand economic opportunities for veterans and their families.

Senior Corps Foster Grandparent Program

The Foster Grandparent Program is an intergenerational program first established in 1965 that connects volunteers age 55 and over with opportunities to provide one-on-one mentoring, nurturing, and support to children with special or exceptional needs, or who are at an academic, social, or financial disadvantage.

Senior Corps Senior Companion Program

The Senior Companion Program engages volunteers, age 55 and over, in providing in-home support and friendship to adults who have difficulty with daily living tasks such as shopping or paying bills.

¹ The budget proposes a rescission of \$150 million in excess reserve Trust balances not required for Education Awards.

Volunteer Generation Fund

The Volunteer Generation Fund supports CNCS's mission to improve lives and strengthen communities by strengthening volunteer management practices across the country. This includes helping nonprofit and voluntary organizations broaden their volunteer base, more effectively recruit and retain volunteers, expand opportunity for those who serve, and increase their impact on community challenges.

Innovation, Demonstration, and Other Activities

Call to Service initiatives

CNCS aims to engage more Americans in service to meet pressing community needs including the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Day of Service and the September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance.

Evaluation

CNCS's Office of Research and Evaluation coordinates the agency's learning agenda, which includes building its evidence base, and facilitating the use of evaluation to inform important decisions. To this end, the office conducts research and evaluation on CNCS service programs; helps build the capacity of agency-funded partners to conduct and understand evaluations; and facilitates evidence-based and evidence-informed grantmaking.

Office of Inspector General

The Office of Inspector General provides an independent assessment of Corporation operations, primarily through audits, inspections and investigations, with a goal of detecting and preventing fraud, waste, and abuse.

Table 1. FY 2019 CNCS Budget Summary (dollars in thousands)

Budget Item	FY 2017 Enacted	FY 2018 CR Annualized	FY 2019		
			President's Budget	\$ Difference (FY18-FY19)	% Difference (FY18-FY19)
Operating Expenses	\$736,029	\$736,029	\$31,689	(\$704,340)	(95.7%)
AmeriCorps					
AmeriCorps State and National	\$386,010	\$386,010	\$2,341	(\$383,669)	(99.4%)
AmeriCorps VISTA	\$92,364	\$92,364	\$4,910	(\$87,454)	(94.7%)
AmeriCorps NCCC	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$24,087	(\$5,913)	(19.7%)
State Service Commission Support					
Grants	\$16,538	\$16,538	\$0	(\$16,538)	(100.0%)
Senior Corps	\$202,117	\$202,117	\$351	(\$201,766)	(99.8%)
Foster Grandparents Program	\$107,702	\$107,702	\$117	(\$107,585)	(99.9%)
Senior Companion Program	\$45,512	\$45,512	\$117	(\$45,395)	(99.7%)
Retired Senior Volunteer Program	\$48,903	\$48,903	\$117	(\$48,786)	(99.8%)
Volunteer Generation Fund	\$3,800	\$3,800	\$0	(\$3,800)	(100.0%)
Innovation, Demonstration, & Other	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$0	(\$1,200)	(100.0%)
Evaluation	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0	(\$4,000)	(100.0%)
National Service Trust²	\$206,842	\$206,842	\$0	(\$206,842)	(100.0%)
Salaries and Expenses	\$81,737	\$81,737	\$87,389	\$5,652	6.9%
Office of Inspector General	\$5,750	\$5,750	\$3,568	(\$2,182)	(37.9%)
CNCS Total³	\$1,030,358	\$1,030,358	\$122,646	(\$907,712)	(88.1%)

² The FY 2019 budget proposes a rescission of \$150 million in excess reserve Trust balances not required for Education Awards.

³ Totals may not add due to rounding.

FY 2019 Budget Bill Language and Analysis

OPERATING EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the Corporation for National and Community Service (referred to in this title as "CNCS") to carry out the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 (referred to in this title as "1973 Act") and the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (referred to in this title as "1990 Act"), \$31,689,000: Provided, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law—(1) CNCS may not incur obligations under subtitle B, subtitle C (except as needed to fulfill the requirements of sections 141(d) and (e)), subtitle F, section 193A(g)(3) of subtitle G, or subtitles H and J of the 1990 Act; (2) CNCS may not approve any national service positions under section 123 of the 1990 Act; (3) \$24,087,000 shall be available to carry out subtitle E of the 1990 Act; (4) CNCS may not assign volunteers under Title I of the 1973 Act; and (5) CNCS may not incur obligations under Title II of the 1973 Act.

Note.—A full-year 2018 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the budget was prepared; therefore, the budget assumes this account is operating under the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2018 (Division D of P.L. 115–56, as amended). The amounts included for 2018 reflect the annualized level provided by the continuing resolution.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of administration as provided under section 501(a)(5) of the 1990 Act and under section 504(a) of the 1973 Act, including payment of salaries, authorized travel, hire of passenger motor vehicles, the rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia, the employment of experts and consultants authorized under 5 U.S.C. 3109, and not to exceed \$2,500 for official reception and representation expenses, \$87,389,000.

Note.—A full-year 2018 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the budget was prepared; therefore, the budget assumes this account is operating under the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2018 (Division D of P.L. 115–56, as amended). The amounts included for 2018 reflect the annualized level provided by the continuing resolution.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$3,568,000.

Note.—A full-year 2018 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the budget was prepared; therefore, the budget assumes this account is operating under the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2018 (Division D of P.L. 115–56, as amended). The amounts included for 2018 reflect the annualized level provided by the continuing resolution.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(including transfer authority and cancellation)

SEC. 401. AmeriCorps programs receiving grants under the National Service Trust program shall meet an overall minimum share requirement of 24 percent for the first 3 years that they receive AmeriCorps funding, and thereafter shall meet the overall minimum share requirement as

provided in section 2521.60 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations, without regard to the operating costs match requirement in section 121(e) or the member support Federal share limitations in section 140 of the 1990 Act, and subject to partial waiver consistent with section 2521.70 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 402. In addition to the requirements in section 146(a) of the 1990 Act, use of an educational award for the purpose described in section 148(a)(4) shall be limited to individuals who are veterans as defined under section 101 of the Act.

SEC. 403. For the purpose of carrying out section 189D of the 1990 Act—

- (a) entities described in paragraph (a) of such section shall be considered "qualified entities" under section 3 of the National Child Protection Act of 1993 ("NCPA");*
- (b) individuals described in such section shall be considered "volunteers" under section 3 of NCPA; and*
- (c) consistent with Public Law 92-544, State Commissions on National and Community Service established pursuant to section 178 of the 1990 Act are authorized to receive criminal history record information.*

(TRANSFER AUTHORITY)

SEC. 404. Only for purposes of effectuating a transfer of appropriated funds from any account under the heading "Corporation for National and Community Service" to any executive agency under 31 U.S.C. 1531, the term "executive agency" as used in section 1531 shall apply to the Corporation for National and Community Service.

(CANCELLATION)

SEC. 405. Of the unobligated balances available in the National Service Trust Fund, identified by the Treasury Appropriation Fund Symbol 95X8267, \$150,000,000 are hereby permanently cancelled.

Table 2. Bill Language Analysis

Language Provision/Change	Explanation
Operating Expenses	The agency is proposed for elimination in FY 2019. Funding is included only for the purposes of orderly winding down AmeriCorps State and National, NCCC, and VISTA terms of service.
National Service Trust	The agency is proposed for elimination in FY 2019, National Service Trust balances remain available for future payment of outstanding obligations. Therefore no new funding is needed for the National Service Trust.
Salaries And Expenses	The agency is proposed for elimination in FY 2019. Funding is provided for the orderly shutdown of agency operations in FY 2019.
Office Of Inspector General	The agency is proposed for elimination in FY 2019. Funding is provided for the orderly shutdown of OIG operations in FY 2019.
Administrative Provisions	
<p>New Sec. 404 added: Only for purposes of effectuating a transfer of appropriated funds from any account under the heading "Corporation for Community Service" to any executive agency under 31 U.S.C. 1531, the term "executive agency" as used in section 1531 shall apply to the Corporation for National and Community Service.</p>	<p>The agency is proposed for elimination in FY 2019. This language facilitates the orderly winding down of CNCS operations in FY 2019 by making the funding transfer authorities under 31 U.S.C. 1531 applicable to CNCS appropriations.</p>
<p>New Sec. 405 added: Of the unobligated balances available in the National Service Trust Fund, identified by the Treasury Appropriation Fund Symbol 95X8267, \$150,000,000 are hereby permanently cancelled.</p>	<p>The agency is proposed for elimination in FY 2019. The National Service Trust provides Education Awards for eligible AmeriCorps members who successfully complete their terms of service in an AmeriCorps program. This language rescinds \$150 million in excess reserve balances not required for liquidating Trust obligations.</p>

Table 3. CNCS Salaries and Expenses (dollars in thousands)

Budget Item	FY 2017	FY 2018 CR	FY 2019	\$ Difference (FY18-FY19)	% Difference (FY18-FY19)
	Enacted	Annualized	President's Budget		
Salaries	\$42,471	\$42,471	\$43,000	\$529	1%
Other personnel compensation	\$755	\$755	\$0	(\$755)	(100%)
Civilian personnel benefits	\$11,979	\$11,979	\$13,812	\$1,833	15%
Total personnel compensation	\$55,205	\$55,205	\$56,812	\$1,607	3%
Travel and transportation of persons	\$1,650	\$1,650	\$1,650	\$0	0%
Rental payments to GSA	\$5,900	\$5,900	\$12,000	\$6,100	103%
Communication, utilities, and miscellaneous services	\$856	\$856	\$856	\$0	0%
Other services	\$17,930	\$17,930	\$15,875	(\$2,055)	(11%)
Supplies and materials	\$196	\$196	\$196	\$0	0%
Total, Salaries and Expenses⁴	\$81,737	\$81,737	\$87,389	\$5,652	6.9%
Full Time Equivalents	451	451	291	(160)	(35%)

⁴ Totals may not add due to rounding.