

TITLE 42--THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

CHAPTER 129--NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Sec. 12501. Findings and purpose

(a) Findings

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Throughout the United States, there are pressing unmet human, educational, environmental, and public safety needs.

(2) Americans desire to affirm common responsibilities and shared values, and join together in positive experiences, that transcend race, religion, gender, age, disability, region, income, and education.

(3) The rising costs of postsecondary education are putting higher education out of reach for an increasing number of citizens.

(4) Americans of all ages can improve their communities and become better citizens through service to the United States.

(5) Nonprofit organizations, local governments, States, and the Federal Government are already supporting a wide variety of national service programs that deliver needed services in a cost-effective manner.

(6) Residents of low-income communities, especially youth and young adults, can be empowered through their service, and can help provide future community leadership.

(b) Purpose

It is the purpose of this chapter to--

(1) meet the unmet human, educational, environmental, and public safety needs of the United States, without displacing existing workers;

(2) renew the ethic of civic responsibility and the spirit of community throughout the United States;

(3) expand educational opportunity by rewarding individuals who participate in national service with an increased ability to pursue higher education or job training;

(4) encourage citizens of the United States, regardless of age, income, or disability, to engage in full-time or part-time national service;

(5) reinvent government to eliminate duplication, support locally established initiatives, require measurable goals for performance, and offer flexibility in meeting those goals;

(6) expand and strengthen existing service programs with demonstrated experience in providing structured service opportunities with visible benefits to the participants and community;

(7) build on the existing organizational service infrastructure of Federal, State, and local programs and agencies to expand full-time and part-time service opportunities for all citizens; and

(8) provide tangible benefits to the communities in which national service is performed.

References in Text

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (b), was in the original ``this Act'', meaning Pub. L. 101-610, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 3127, as amended, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out below and Tables.

Amendments

1993--Pub. L. 103-82 amended section generally, substituting provisions relating to findings and purposes for former provisions setting forth the purposes of this chapter.

Short Title of 2002 Amendment

Pub. L. 107-117, div. B, Sec. 1301(a), Jan. 10, 2002, 115 Stat. 2339, provided that: ``This section [enacting subchapter III of this chapter] may be cited as the `Unity in the Spirit of America Act' or the `USA Act'.''

Short Title of 1994 Amendment

Pub. L. 103-304, Sec. 1, Aug. 23, 1994, 108 Stat. 1565, provided that: ``This Act [amending sections 4953, 5024, 12591, 12602, 12615, 12619, 12622, 12651d, 12653, and 12655n of this title and enacting provisions set out as a note under section 4953 of this title] may be cited as the `King Holiday and Service Act of 1994'.''

Short Title of 1993 Amendment

Section 1(a) of Pub. L. 103-82 provided that: ``This Act [see Tables for classification] may be cited as the `National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993'.''

Short Title of 1992 Amendment

Pub. L. 102-384, Sec. 1, Oct. 5, 1992, 106 Stat. 1455, provided that: ``This Act [amending sections 12511, 12522, 12523, 12525, 12526, 12541, 12550, 12612, 12614, 12615, 12622, 12639, 12651, and 12681 of this title] may be cited as the `National and Community Service Technical Amendment Act of 1992'.''

Short Title of 1991 Amendment

Pub. L. 102-10, Sec. 1, Mar. 12, 1991, 105 Stat. 29, provided that: ``This Act [enacting section 12645 of this title, amending sections 5091m, 12511, 12521, 12522, 12524, 12527, 12531, 12542 to 12544, 12548, 12553, 12575, 12576, 12602, 12638, and 12651 of this title, and repealing section 12556 of this title] may be cited as the `National and Community Service Technical Amendments Act of 1991'.''

Short Title

Section 1(a) o