

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Notice of Opportunity To Administer the President's Student Service Awards

AGENCY: Corporation for National and Community Service.

ACTION: Notice of opportunity to administer the President's Student Service Awards.

SUMMARY: The Corporation for National Service (the Corporation) seeks an organization or collaboration of organizations that is capable of administering the President's Student Service Awards program. Public or private nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply. The non-monetary awards will recognize students and other school-aged youth who serve in their communities across the country. This recognition program will help make citizen service a common expectation among elementary, secondary, and college students throughout America.

Students and other school-aged youth who receive the President's Student Service Award may render service to their communities through a service-learning program sponsored by a school, college, or university, through a program sponsored by a community-based organization, or through their own initiative as individual community service volunteers. For students age 12 or older, a criterion will be performing service of 100 hours or more within a one-year period.

The President's Student Service Awards program does not involve Federal financial assistance to the organization or organizations selected to administer the program. The selected organization or collaboration of organizations is expected to raise or provide any up-front costs that are required, with future operation of the program conducted on a self-sustaining basis as described in this Notice.

The selected organization or organizations will furnish the necessary personnel, materials, services and facilities to administer the program, including purchase and/or production of all award materials; distribution of award materials; promotion; self-evaluation, quarterly and annual budget and demographic reports; and other administrative duties that will be determined in a Memorandum of Agreement and subsequent annual plans. The selected organization or organizations will be expected to provide input regarding program design, implementation, and promotion, and

will also be expected to coordinate as necessary with other organizations or entities engaged in the promotion of service.

DATES: All proposals must be received by the Corporation at the address set out below by 3:30 p.m. (E.S.T.) February 20, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Proposals shall be submitted to the Corporation at the following address: Corporation for National Service, Attn: Dr. Marilyn Smith, 1201 New York Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20525.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, contact the Corporation for National Service, Dr. Marilyn Smith at (202) 606-5000, ext. 209. This notice may be requested in an alternative format for the visually impaired. The Corporation's T.D.D. number is (202) 565-2799.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Corporation is a Federal government corporation that encourages Americans of all ages and backgrounds to engage in service to the community. This service is to address the nation's educational, public safety, environmental and other human needs to achieve direct and demonstrable results. In doing so, the Corporation fosters civic responsibility, strengthens the ties that bind us together as a people, and provides educational opportunity for those who make a substantial commitment to service. This year, over one million students will participate in Corporation-supported Learn and Serve America service-learning programs, in which service projects are integrated into the curriculum of schools, institutions of higher education, and community youth programs.

The Corporation has authority, under the National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 12653(n), 12653b and under Executive Order 12819 (October 28, 1992), to make Presidential awards to young individuals who provide significant service to their communities. Under this authority, the Corporation implemented the President's Youth Service Awards program from 1992 through 1994. The President's Youth Service Awards, co-sponsored by the Points of Light Foundation and carried out by the American Institute for Public Service, provided non-monetary recognition awards to young people engaged in voluntary service to the community. Through this notice, the Corporation seeks an organization or collaboration of organizations to implement a successor

program to the President's Youth Service Awards.

Purpose and Design of the President's Student Service Awards

The purpose of the President's Student Service Awards is to recognize outstanding service and service-learning performed by students and other school-aged youth across the country, from elementary school through higher education, and to assist in making service a common expectation of all young Americans.

Earlier this year, the conveners of the Presidents' Summit in Philadelphia, including President Clinton, former Presidents Bush, Carter, and Ford, and General Colin Powell, declared: "We have a special obligation to America's children to see that all young Americans have:

1. Caring adults in their lives, as parents, mentors, tutors, coaches;
2. Safe places with structured activities in which to learn and grow;
3. A healthy start and healthy future;
4. An effective education that equips them with marketable skills; and
5. An opportunity to give back to their communities through their own service."

The fifth goal has been specified to include, among other aims for the year 2000, two million additional young people engaging in at least 100 hours of service each year. In many instances, such service may be focused on providing the other four conditions for success to children and youth lacking them.

Appropriate recognition can be a critical factor in encouraging students and school-aged youth to render that measure of service. There are a number of existing programs that recognize outstanding service by young people, including: National Service Scholarships administered by the Corporation for National Service; the Yoshiyama Award for Exemplary Service to the Community administered by the Hitachi Foundation; the J.C. Penney Golden Rule Award; the Jefferson Awards administered by the American Institute for Public Service; the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards; and the Do Something Brick Awards.

The Corporation anticipates that the President's Student Service Awards will be based on principles and procedures for implementation in communities as agreed upon in a Memorandum of Agreement between the Corporation and the selected organization or organizations. Potential awarding organizations in each community may include: schools, state and local

education agencies, colleges and universities, youth-serving organizations, faith-based organizations, state commissions on national and community service; public and nonprofit organizations, profit-making businesses, labor unions, civic or service clubs, or neighborhood associations. Awarding organizations will certify that an individual has served at least 100 hours, over a year's period, in efforts designed to have a significant impact on meeting the needs of local communities. Individuals under the age of 12 who perform outstanding service may be eligible for recognition even if they do not meet the minimum requirement of 100 hours.

The types of service recognized could include: activities connected with service-learning courses or programs or service requirements in a school district, school, class, or institution of higher education; volunteer work with community or youth organizations; service through churches, synagogues, or other faith-based organizations; involvement in service-oriented school organizations; individual efforts to help others and improve a local community; and programs in which older young people tutor, mentor, coach, or otherwise serve younger people. The broad-based nature of this program, similar to the President's Physical Fitness Award program, is intended to include the largest possible number of students who make a substantial commitment to service.

Each award winner will receive a token of recognition (for example, a pin and a certificate) from the President. The award will involve no monetary benefit to the awardee. Any nominal fee set to cover the costs of production and distribution of awards will be paid by the local awarding organization or other sources, not by the award winner. Any fees will be subject to the approval of the Corporation.

The award program may also include additional recognition for some awardees, such as attendance at recognition events sponsored by the Corporation, the selected organization or organizations, other organizations including the Points of Light Foundation and, potentially, the White House. Other levels of recognition for service that goes substantially beyond the 100-hour criterion may be developed. Local communities will also be encouraged to establish their own recognition events or processes. The Corporation will provide the names of award winners to Governors, Mayors, the media, and other individuals interested in recognizing these individuals.

Requirements of the Memorandum of Agreement

The Corporation anticipates entering into a Memorandum of Agreement with the selected organization or organizations by April 1, 1998, with an expected project period between April 1, 1998 and September 30, 1999. It is likely that the Memorandum of Agreement will include an option to renew on an annual basis for up to five years, after which the Corporation may conduct a new competition for an organization to administer the program.

The organization or organizations selected under this notice will: (1) complete a final program design and implementation plan for approval by the Corporation; (2) publicize the program to local communities, schools, colleges, universities, and other educational institutions, and to civic, non-profit, youth-serving, and other interested organizations throughout the country; (3) distribute the awards to recipients; (4) respond to inquiries from all parties related to these awards; (5) manage the program in a manner to assure it is self-financing and sustainable; (6) collaborate with other service-promoting organizations to encourage youth service throughout the country; and (6) comply with reporting and other requirements of the Memorandum of Agreement.

Finances

The primary intent of the President's Student Service Awards is to promote and improve citizen service by our Nation's youth. It is not intended to be a profit-making activity. The selected organization or collaboration of organizations assumes full financial responsibility for the program. This includes award inventory, staffing, and facilities.

The Memorandum of Agreement will specify the fees or charges that may be set in this program, including a Corporation-approved "charge for services" representing a fixed percentage of the net difference between the program's total revenue and total expenses. The amount of the "charge for services" approved by the Corporation will be determined based upon compliance with the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement and other relevant considerations. Unless otherwise approved by the Corporation, any annual revenues in excess of costs are to be used to support the next year's President's Student Service Award program.

The selected organization will account for all costs and revenues associated with the operation of the

program according to the standards stated in the Memorandum of Agreement. The selected organization's performance under the Memorandum of Agreement will also be subject to oversight review and evaluation, including financial audit, by the Corporation's Chief Executive Officer, Inspector General, or their designees. The Corporation and its Inspector General will have access to any documents and records of the selected organization that are deemed necessary to carry out these oversight, evaluation, or audit activities.

Selection Criteria

All eligible interested parties must submit a proposal of no more than 30 pages, double-spaced. Selection will be based on the following criteria, in descending order of importance:

1. Experience of the organization or organizations, and demonstrated capacity, to administer a national awards program of this size and magnitude, including the ability to disseminate information widely and quickly. This includes the key individuals who will carry out the projects, and the facilities and resources, including computer-based telecommunication devices, available to the organization or organizations. This also includes the organization or organizations' capability to develop and administer an annual budget and to collect and manage funds.
2. Proposed plan for administering the President's Student Service Award program, including financial aspects such as defraying the costs of start-up, award materials, promotion, distribution, and program management.
3. Background concerning the organization or organizations' nonprofit or public status, history, mission, size in terms of budget and personnel, and familiarity with national and community service.

Dated: January 16, 1998.

Thomas L. Bryant,

Acting General Counsel, Corporation for National Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Long-Range Air Power Panel Meeting

AGENCY: Under Secretary of Defense, Acquisition and Technology.

ACTION: Notice.
