

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1394

To amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to establish the Clean Energy Corps to mobilize young people to promote energy conservation and mitigate threats to the environment.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 9, 2009

Mr. INSLEE (for himself and Mr. SARBANES) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

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## A BILL

To amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to establish the Clean Energy Corps to mobilize young people to promote energy conservation and mitigate threats to the environment.

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 “Clean Energy Corps  
5       Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO THE NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY**  
 2 **SERVICE ACT OF 1990.**

3 Title I of the National and Community Service Act  
 4 of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12511 et seq.) is amended by adding  
 5 at the end the following:

6 **“Subtitle J—Clean Energy Corps**

7 **“SEC. 199P. GENERAL AUTHORITY.**

8 “The Corporation for National and Community Serv-  
 9 ice (in this title referred to as the ‘Corporation’) shall  
 10 make grants to States and eligible entities for the creation  
 11 or expansion of full-time or part-time Clean Energy Corps  
 12 programs.

13 **“SEC. 199Q. APPLICATION.**

14 “(a) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a grant  
 15 under this subtitle, a State or eligible entity shall submit  
 16 an application to the Corporation at such time, in such  
 17 manner, and containing such information as the Corpora-  
 18 tion may reasonably require.

19 “(b) PROCESS.—The Corporation shall consult with  
 20 state and local Conservation Corps in the development of  
 21 the application guidelines.

22 “(c) DISADVANTAGED YOUTH.—To acknowledge the  
 23 focused enrollment of disadvantaged youth and young  
 24 adults in the Clean Energy Corps, the Corporation shall—

25 “(1) allow a higher cost-per-member to enable  
 26 Clean Energy Corps programs to provide the nec-

1        necessary supportive services to ensure the success of  
2        the participants; and

3            “(2) allow for greater flexibility in retention  
4        rates.

5        “(d) CONSIDERATION OF RESIDENTIAL CORPS.—The  
6        Corporation shall allow for equal consideration of residen-  
7        tial Corps program opportunities since residential Corps  
8        thrive in rural areas that commonly lack opportunities for  
9        young adults, enable the participation for emancipated  
10       foster youth, gang involved youth, and others lacking a  
11       safe and stable home environment, allow for more struc-  
12       tured time for work, training, education and counseling,  
13       and provide disaster response-ready crews immediately  
14       upon request.

15       “(e) EQUITABLE TREATMENT.—In the consideration  
16       of applications, the Corporation shall ensure the equitable  
17       treatment of both urban and rural areas.

18       **“SEC. 199R. FOCUS OF PROGRAMS.**

19       “(a) IN GENERAL.—Programs that receive assistance  
20       under this subtitle may carry out activities that—

21            “(1) meet an identifiable public need with spe-  
22        cific emphasis on projects in support of energy con-  
23        servation, infrastructure and transportation improve-  
24        ment, and emergency operations, including—

1           “(A) improving the energy efficiency of  
2           housing for elderly and low-income people;

3           “(B) building energy-efficient “green”  
4           housing for elderly and low-income people;

5           “(C) environmental education and energy  
6           conservation education for elementary and sec-  
7           ondary school students and the public;

8           “(D) reusing and recycling including  
9           deconstruction;

10          “(E) the repair, renovation, or rehabilita-  
11          tion of an existing infrastructure facility includ-  
12          ing, but not limited to, rail, mass transpor-  
13          tation, ports, inland navigation, schools and  
14          hospitals;

15          “(F) transportation enhancements;

16          “(G) recreational trails improvements, in-  
17          cluding those that enable alternative means of  
18          transportation and ensure safe use;

19          “(H) transformation of military bases af-  
20          fected by the Base Realignment and Closing  
21          process (BRAC) to green the space;

22          “(I) tree planting and reforestation;

23          “(J) renewable resource enhancement; and

24          “(K) assisting in emergency operations,  
25          such as disaster prevention and relief; and

1 “(2) provide opportunities for youth and young  
2 adults, especially disadvantaged youth, to be trained  
3 for careers related to the activities listed in para-  
4 graph (1), including those that will be part of the  
5 emerging field of “green collar” jobs.

6 “(b) GOALS OF THE CLEAN ENERGY CORPS.—The  
7 goals of the Clean Energy Corps are to—

8 “(1) promote clean energy use and preserve,  
9 protect, and sustain the environment;

10 “(2) provide young adults with opportunities to  
11 become better citizens, students and workers  
12 through meaningful service to their communities and  
13 the Nation;

14 “(3) mobilize youth and young adults, especially  
15 disadvantaged youth, to promote energy conservation  
16 and mitigate threats to the environment; and

17 “(4) provide a pathway to responsible adulthood  
18 and productive, unsubsidized employment in the pri-  
19 vate sector.

20 **“SEC. 199S. TRAINING AND EDUCATION SERVICES.**

21 “All applicants must describe how they intend to—

22 “(1) assess the skills of Corpsmembers;

23 “(2) provide life skills and work skills training;

24 “(3) provide training and education;

1           “(4) develop agreements for academic study  
2       with—

3           “(A) local education agencies;

4           “(B) community colleges;

5           “(C) 4-year colleges;

6           “(D) area charter high schools and voca-  
7       tional-technical schools; and

8           “(E) community-based organizations;

9           “(5) provide career and educational guidance;  
10       and

11           “(6) Recruit participants without high school  
12       diplomas.

13   **“SEC. 199T. PREFERENCE FOR CERTAIN PROJECTS.**

14       “In the consideration of applications the Corporation  
15   shall give preference to programs that are discrete and—

16           “(1) meet an identifiable public need;

17           “(2) instill a work ethic and a sense of public  
18       service in the participants;

19           “(3) involve youth operating in crews or a  
20       team-based structure; and

21           “(4) enhance skills development and educational  
22       level and opportunities for the participants.

23   **“SEC. 199U. PARTICIPANTS.**

24       “(a) IN GENERAL.—Age enrollment in programs that  
25   receive assistance under this subtitle shall be limited to

1 individuals who, at the time of enrollment, are not less  
 2 than 18 years nor more than 25 years of age, except that  
 3 summer programs may include individuals not less than  
 4 14 years or more than 21 years of age at the time of the  
 5 enrollment of such individuals.

6 “(b) PARTICIPATION OF DISADVANTAGED YOUTH.—  
 7 Programs that receive assistance under this subtitle shall  
 8 ensure that at least 50 percent of the participants are eco-  
 9 nomically disadvantaged youth.

10 “(c) SPECIAL CORPSMEMBERS.—Notwithstanding  
 11 subsection (a) of this section, program agencies may enroll  
 12 a limited number of special Corpsmembers over age 25  
 13 so that the Clean Energy Corps may draw on their special  
 14 skills to fulfill the purposes of this subtitle.

15 **“SEC. 199V. USE OF VOLUNTEERS.**

16 “The use of volunteer services under this section shall  
 17 be subject to the condition that such use does not result  
 18 in the displacement of any participant.

19 **“SEC. 199W. COOPERATION AMONG STATES FOR EMER-  
 20 GENCY RESPONSE.**

21 “(a) AGREEMENTS BETWEEN STATES.—States oper-  
 22 ating a Clean Energy Corps may enter into a compact  
 23 with participating States to provide for mutual coopera-  
 24 tion to manage any emergency or disaster that is duly de-  
 25 clared by the affected State.

1 “(b) PARTICIPATING STATE RESPONSIBILITIES.—

2 “(1) The authorized representative of a partici-  
3 pating State may request assistance of another party  
4 by contracting the authorized representative of that  
5 State. The provisions of this agreement shall only  
6 apply to requests for assistance made by and to au-  
7 thorized representatives.

8 “(2) There shall be frequent consultation be-  
9 tween State officials who have assigned emergency  
10 management responsibilities and other appropriate  
11 representatives of the party States with affected ju-  
12 risdictions and the United States Government, with  
13 free exchange of information, plans, and resource  
14 records relating to emergency capabilities.

15 **“SEC. 199X. FEDERAL SHARE.**

16 “The Federal share of the cost of carrying out an  
17 Clean Energy Corps program for which a grant is made  
18 under this subtitle is 76 percent of the total cost of the  
19 program.

20 **“SEC. 199Y. BEST PRACTICES.**

21 “(a) TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The  
22 Corporation shall provide technical assistance to grantees  
23 that request assistance and shall disseminate best prac-  
24 tices that emerge from the Clean Energy Corps.



1       “(b) CONTRACT.—In providing training and technical  
2 assistance, the Corporation shall contract with a national  
3 organization with a proven track record of developing and  
4 sustaining Corps, working with the Conservation Corps  
5 model, and engaging young people from disadvantaged  
6 backgrounds.

7       **“SEC. 199Z. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

8       “(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be ap-  
9 propriated such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years  
10 2010 through 2014 to achieve the purposes of this sub-  
11 title.

12       “(b) ALLOCATION.—Of the amounts appropriated to  
13 carry out this subtitle for each fiscal year—

14               “(1) 90 percent shall be for grants to eligible  
15 entities;

16               “(2) 5 percent shall be technical assistance, and  
17 dissemination of best practices; and

18               “(3) 5 percent shall be for evaluation.”.

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