

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.

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## 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

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## 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 advi-  
2 sory role in agenda-setting and shall prioritize projects  
3 that address environmental justice and benefit commu-  
4 nities that have suffered systemic racial, social, and eco-  
5 nomic injustices, and face a disproportionate burden of ad-  
6 verse 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 en-  
18 gage 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 na-  
22 tional service laws (as defined in section 101 of the Na-  
23 tional and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.  
24 12511)) and that are engaging in similar activities (re-  
25 ferred 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 siliance 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.

○