Dated: July 15, 1998.

Kenneth L. Klothen,

General Counsel, Corporation for National and Community Service.

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CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Request for Comment on Proposed Criteria Used to Select and Evaluate National Service Programs

AGENCY: Corporation for National and Community Service.

ACTION: Request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Corporation for National and Community Service (Corporation) invites comments on proposed changes to the criteria it uses to select and evaluate national service programs. The Corporation applies these criteria to the following categories of national service programs: Learn and Serve America; National Senior Service Corps; AmeriCorps*VISTA; and AmeriCorps*State and National. The revised criteria will apply beginning in 1999 to the Corporation's selection of projects and programs, including recompetitions, and will be phased in for continuing projects and programs over the next year.

DATES: The deadline for the submission of comments is August 19, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be submitted to the Office of Planning and Program Integration, Corporation for National Service, 1201 New York Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20525.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy Talbot, (202) 606–5000, ext. 470. T.D.D. (202) 565–2799. For individuals with disabilities, information will be made available in alternative formats upon request.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

The Corporation for National and Community Service was established in 1993 to engage Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service to their communities. The Corporation's national and community service programs provide opportunities for participants to serve full-time and part-time, with or without stipend, as individuals or as a part of a team. AmeriCorps*State and National, VISTA, and National Civilian Community Corps engage thousands of Americans on a full-or part-time basis at more than 1,000 locations to help communities meet their toughest challenges. Learn and Serve America integrates service

into the academic life of more than 800,000 students in all 50 states. The National Senior Service Corps utilizes the skills, talents and experience of over 500,000 older Americans to help make communities stronger, safer, healthier and smarter.

The Corporation provides assistance to organizations that carry out AmeriCorps*State and National, Learn and Serve America, and National Senior Service Corps programs. AmeriCorps*State and National programs, which involve 25,000 Americans each year in results-driven community service, are grant programs managed by (1) State Commissions that select and oversee programs operated by local organizations, (2) national non-profit organizations that identify and act as parent organizations for operating sites across the country; (3) Indian tribes; or (4) U.S. Territories. Learn and Serve America grants provide service learning opportunities for students in K–12 and higher education settings. The National Senior Service Corps operates through grants to local organizations for Retired Senior Volunteer Programs (RSVP), Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions to provide service to their communities.

The Corporation plays a direct role in carrying out the AmeriCorps*VISTA program in assigning more than 4,000 AmeriCorps*VISTA members to service programs across the nation where they develop grassroots programs, mobilize resources and build capacity. The Corporation itself operates the AmeriCorps*NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) program, providing an opportunity for approximately 1,000 individuals between the ages of 18 and 24 to participate in a residential program principally located on downsized military bases.

For additional information on the national service programs supported by the Corporation, go to *http://www.nationalservice.org.*

While recognizing the particular aspects of the different types of national service programs, the Corporation seeks to make its evaluation criteria more consistent across programs. The proposed criteria for 1999 reflect an ongoing effort by the Corporation to streamline and harmonize the various application processes for organizations seeking support for their national service programs. The Corporation's Board of Directors has reviewed and endorsed the proposed 1999 evaluation criteria.

The Corporation will use the proposed evaluation criteria in selecting new and recompeting projects and programs and to assess the performance

of organizations who have received assistance to carry out national service programs. Implementation of the criteria will begin with the issuance of 1999 guidance to the field. Because the criteria relate principally to programming and operations, they will not necessarily apply to other activities, such as technical assistance, supported by the Corporation.

The Corporation will provide additional guidance in application materials for each category of national service program. The additional guidance will state how the criteria will be applied, depending on the category of program (e.g., Learn and Serve America, National Senior Service Corps) and the nature of the application for assistance (new, recompeting, or continuation).

B. Evaluation Criteria Common to National Service Programs Assisted by the Corporation

1. Criteria

The following three categories (and the three sub-categories under Program Design) constitute the criteria by which the Corporation will select and evaluate organizations receiving assistance in Learn and Serve America, National Senior Service Corps, AmeriCorps*VISTA, and AmeriCorps*State and National.

a. Program Design (60%), which includes as subcategories:

i. *Getting Things Done,* meeting needs in the areas of education, public safety, the environment, and health and human needs;

ii. *Strengthening Communities;* and

iii. *Fostering Participant Development.*

b. Organizational Capacity (25%)

c. Budget/Cost-Effectiveness (15%)

2. Factors That May Be Applied Within Each Category or Sub-Category

Within each category or subcategory, the Corporation may apply the following factors, depending on the type of program and the nature of the application. While the majority of factors will apply to all programs supported by the Corporation, some may not, and each type of program may place a different emphasis on the respective factors. In addition, some of the factors may be used to assess program *outcomes* rather than initial applications for assistance. The Corporation will provide subsequent guidance in its application materials for each category of national service program, stating whether and how these factors will be applied.

a. Program Design (60%)

i. Getting Things Done
• Well-documented compelling community need(s).
• Well-designed activities with measurable goals and objectives that meet community needs.
• Well-defined roles for participants that lead to measurable outcomes/impact.
• Effective involvement of target community in planning/implementation.
• Ability to provide or secure effective technical assistance.

ii. Strengthening Communities.
• Strong community partnerships including well-defined roles for community partners.
• Potential for sustainability, innovation and/or replicability of project activities.
• Enhanced capacity of organizations and institutions.
• Mobilization of community resources, including volunteers.
• Bring together persons of diverse backgrounds.

iii. Participant Development.
• Effective plans for recruiting, developing, training, supervising, and recognizing participants.
• Well-designed activities that promote an ethic of service/civic responsibility.
• Well-designed plan to engage participants in high quality service-learning as defined by the Corporation.
• Learn to serve together with persons of diverse backgrounds.

b. Organizational Capacity (25%)

• Ability to provide sound programmatic and fiscal oversight.
• Sound track record in the issue area(s) to be addressed by the project.
• Well-defined roles for staff/administrators.
• Well-designed plans or systems for self-assessment, evaluation and continuous improvement.

c. Budget/Cost-Effectiveness (15%)

• Budget adequately supports program design.
• Applicant organization/host agency is committed to securing resources for program implementation and/or sustainability.
• Cost-effective within program guidance.

3. Subcategories Within Program Design

To reflect the differences between Learn and Serve America, National Senior Service Corps, AmeriCorps*VISTA, and AmeriCorps*State and National, the Corporation proposes to apply different

values to the three subcategories within Program Design for each category of national service program. Thus, while Program Design will uniformly constitute 60% of an organization's evaluation, the Corporation may, for each national service program, place a different value on getting things done, strengthening communities and fostering participant development, as follows:

*AmeriCorps*State and National:* Getting things done in communities—things that would not have gotten done but for AmeriCorps—has been the core purpose for AmeriCorps*State and National. Program emphasis is placed on well-designed program activities that result in direct and demonstrable benefits that are both needed and valued by communities. Strengthening communities is mainly accomplished by mobilizing community resources and enhancing the capacity of organizations and institutions in order to achieve sustainability. AmeriCorps* State and National programs are required to develop specific strengthening communities and participant development objectives with demonstrable outcomes.

*AmeriCorps*VISTA* shifts the emphasis and gets things done more by mobilizing community resources and developing the capacity of community organizations. Strengthening communities is at the heart of AmeriCorps*VISTA's mission. The potential for sustainability, enhanced capacity, and mobilization of community resources (including volunteers), encompasses AmeriCorps*VISTA's most significant program measures and forms the basis of virtually all overall program evaluation activity.

Learn and Serve America's definition of getting things done must include measures of service-learning. A major concern is how participants will learn while engaging in projects that get things done and benefit the community. Learn and Serve emphasizes lasting impact on the community as a result of community involvement and school or institutional change. Increasing the acceptance of service-learning as a pedagogy and tool for strengthening communities is an essential goal of the program. Within Learn and Serve America appropriate participant development occurs through well-designed service-learning experiences that have as an integral component, positive community impact.

The National Senior Service Corps' incorporation of Programming for Impact has placed a new and significant emphasis on getting things done. Aside

from the previous focus of providing a volunteer opportunity, there is an emphasis on channeling and utilizing the capabilities of participants to address critical community and human needs. The traditional Senior Corps philosophy is that participant development is very important. However, the starting point must be good, solid roles and activities viewed by the community as valued and important, that establish a context within which participant development occurs.

Within Program Design, the Corporation will consider the three subcategories in descending order of importance, as follows:

AmeriCorps*State and National
(1) Getting Things Done
(2) Participant Development
(3) Strengthening Communities
AmeriCorps*VISTA
(1) Strengthening Communities
(2) Getting Things Done
(3) Participant Development
Learn and Serve America
Getting Things Done—equal
Strengthening Communities—equal
Participant Development—equal
National Senior Service Corps
(1) Getting Things Done
(2) Strengthening Community
(3) Participant Development

Dated: July 14, 1998.

Kenneth L. Klothen,
General Counsel.
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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Waiver of 10 U.S.C. 2534 for Certain Defense Items Produced in the United Kingdom

AGENCY: Department of Defense, (DoD).

ACTION: Notice of waiver of 10 U.S.C. 2534 for certain defense items produced in the United Kingdom.

SUMMARY: The Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Technology) is waiving the limitation of 10 U.S.C. 2534 for certain defense items produced in the United Kingdom (UK). 10 U.S.C. 2534 limits DoD procurement of certain items to sources in the national technology and industrial base. The waiver will permit procurement of items enumerated from sources in the UK.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This waiver is effective for one year, beginning August 4, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Walter Henderson, OUSD (A&T), Director of Defense Procurement, Foreign Contracting, Room 3C762, 3060