

# THE AMERICAN SERVICE & CIVICS ACT (ASCA)

*Rebuilding National Unity Through Service & Civic Engagement*

## 1. Summarizing the Core Message

The American Service & Civics Act (ASCA) is a transformative initiative aimed at revitalizing civic engagement, strengthening national unity, and creating new opportunities for economic and social mobility.

At a time when **political division, economic inequality, and declining civic participation** threaten the stability of American democracy, ASCA provides a solution: **a national service model that blends voluntary public service, civic education, and workforce development into a single, unified strategy.**

Unlike mandatory service models, **ASCA incentivizes participation** by offering **tuition assistance, student loan relief, job training, and career pathways** for individuals who choose to serve their communities and country.

### Key Goals of ASCA

- **Universal National Service Opportunities** – Establishing a **voluntary but highly incentivized national service program** with roles in **education, healthcare, infrastructure, disaster relief, defense, and public service.**
- **Civic Education & National Identity** – Implementing a **mandatory civics curriculum** in K-12 education to strengthen **constitutional literacy, government participation, and voter engagement.**
- **Public-Private Partnerships & Workforce Development** – Creating **job placement incentives, tuition support, and hiring preferences** for national service participants.
- **Veterans, Military, & Civilian Service Expansion** – Broadening public service opportunities beyond military enlistment, ensuring every citizen has the chance to serve.
- **National Disaster Response & Climate Resilience Corps** – Establishing a **federal corps dedicated to disaster relief, infrastructure rebuilding, and climate adaptation projects.**
- **Higher Education Access & Debt Relief** – Providing **up to \$20,000 in tuition assistance or student loan forgiveness** for service participants.

- **Civic Engagement & Electoral Participation** – Encouraging **community involvement, grassroots leadership, and democratic participation through service.**

By creating a **national culture of service, civic duty, and economic opportunity**, this plan ensures a **stronger, more united America** for future generations.

## **2. Highlighting the Problem Statement**

America is facing a **national crisis of disengagement, division, and declining public service participation**:

- **Low Civic Engagement & Political Division** – Voter participation **continues to decline**, and faith in government is at an **all-time low**.
- **Economic Barriers for Young Adults** – Rising **student debt, lack of workforce training, and expensive college tuition** create **financial obstacles for millions**.
- **Labor Shortages in Critical Industries** – Public sector jobs in **education, infrastructure, emergency response, and healthcare** are **understaffed**.
- **Weak Disaster Response & Climate Adaptation Efforts** – Inadequate **federal emergency management** leaves **communities vulnerable to extreme weather events**.
- **Underinvestment in National Identity & Service Culture** – Unlike **past generations**, today's youth lack **structured national service pathways**.

### **Why Past Policies Have Failed:**

- **The U.S. has no structured national service model that offers meaningful incentives for participation.**
- **Public service is often underfunded, leading to low recruitment in critical fields like healthcare, infrastructure, and emergency response.**
- **Civic education has declined, leaving younger generations with limited knowledge of government and history.**
- **There are no federally coordinated programs that simultaneously address workforce shortages, higher education access, and community service.**

The *American Service & Civics Act* solves these challenges by linking education, employment, and public service into a single, streamlined national initiative.

### **3. Key Reforms in Bullet Points**

The *American Service & Civics Act* is structured around **four key pillars**:

#### **1. Universal National Service Pathways**

- **Civic Corps** – Engaging in **local governance, community organizing, and democracy-building efforts**.
- **Education Corps** – Tutoring, mentoring, and staffing **underfunded schools in low-income areas**.
- **Infrastructure Corps** – Rebuilding **bridges, roads, broadband, and public transit systems**.
- **National Resilience Corps** – Disaster response, emergency management, and climate infrastructure projects.
- **Health & Public Safety Corps** – Supporting **hospitals, elderly care, and community health programs**.
- **Defense & Security Corps** – Cybersecurity, military readiness, and **domestic security roles**.

#### **2. Public-Private Partnerships & Workforce Development**

- **Tuition Assistance & Student Debt Relief** – Up to **\$20,000 in tuition support or student loan forgiveness** for national service participants.
- **Hiring Preferences** – Federal agencies and major corporations **commit to prioritizing service alumni** in hiring.
- **Entrepreneurship Grants** – Participants receive **up to \$50,000 in startup funding** for civic innovation projects.

#### **3. Revitalized Civic Education & Leadership Development**

- **Mandatory Civics Curriculum** in K-12 schools, focusing on **constitutional principles, government functions, and participatory democracy**.
- **Service Learning Requirements** for high school and college students, incorporating **real-world community service projects**.
- **National Civics Leadership Fellows Program** to develop the next generation of public servants and policymakers.

#### 4. Reinventing the Role of Service in Society

- **Lifetime Service Credits** – Participants earn National Service Credits redeemable for **tax benefits, homeownership assistance, and education grants**.
- **State & Local Incentives** – States receive federal funding boosts based on service participation.
- **Global Exchange Programs** – U.S. service participants can **serve abroad through diplomatic & humanitarian initiatives**.

With these reforms, **national service will become a defining element of American life, fostering civic responsibility and economic mobility**.

#### 4. Implementation Phases

##### **Phase 1 (Years 1-2): Establishing the National Service Model**

- Launch pilot programs in major cities & underserved regions.
- Develop partnerships with federal agencies & private employers.
- Implement the mandatory K-12 civics education curriculum.
- Offer tuition & debt relief incentives to early participants.

##### **Phase 2 (Years 3-4): Expanding Service Opportunities & Workforce Development**

- Scale national service opportunities across all 50 states.
- Increase service corps participation in disaster response, infrastructure, and healthcare.
- Expand employer hiring preferences for service graduates.
- Introduce entrepreneurship grants & local business partnerships.

##### **Phase 3 (Years 5-6): Institutionalizing Service as an American Tradition**

- Ensure national service is recognized as a respected career pathway.
- Expand international exchange programs for American service participants.
- Develop permanent funding streams for continued program sustainability.
- Strengthen state & local incentives to encourage widespread service adoption.

## Phase 4 (Year 7 & Beyond): Long-Term National Identity & Civic Engagement Strategy

- Establish a federally recognized National Service Day.
- Monitor and evaluate service impact on workforce participation & economic mobility.
- Maintain federal support for continuous expansion and adaptation.

By Year 7, the U.S. will have a fully operational, universally recognized national service model.

## **5. Projected Economic/Social Impact**

- Creates 1 million+ new national service jobs across healthcare, education, and infrastructure.
- Expands civic engagement, increasing voter participation by 10-15%.
- Reduces student debt burden through tuition assistance programs.
- Strengthens disaster response & emergency management capabilities nationwide.
- Fosters national unity through shared service experiences.

This plan ensures that every American has a role to play in shaping the nation's future.

## **6. Conclusion & Call to Action**

The American Service & Civics Act is more than a policy—it is a movement to restore national unity, rebuild civic institutions, and equip future generations with the skills and values needed for a strong democracy.

**The choice is clear:**

- Continue allowing political division, declining civic engagement, and economic barriers?
- Or implement The American Service & Civics Act, ensuring a strong, unified, and service-driven future?

**The time to act is NOW.** This plan creates a culture of service, leadership, and opportunity that will define America's next century.