

Kenneth C. Bach

From: Anderson, William [WAnderson@cns.gov]
Sent: Friday, December 20, 2002 9:13 AM
To: Kenneth C. Bach
Subject: FW: Number of AmeriCorps Members: Update

August email as discussed.

-----Original Message-----

From: Kowalczyk, Gary
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2002 6:16 PM
To: Lenkowsky, Leslie; Mauk, Rosie K.; Zenker, Wendy; Washburn, Susannah; Benero, Christine; Reingold, David; Anderson, William
Cc: Scott, Sandy
Subject: Number of AmeriCorps Members: Update

We have now hit 60,000 AmeriCorps enrollments in the current program year. These are actual enrollments; 57,600 are in the Trust, and another 2,300 are VISTAs who took the cash post-service benefit. This is a considerable milestone that we might want to consider publicizing.

There are some particular points to note about this achievement:

* It is an all-time high. We reached just over 54,000 last year, and were at 44,000 two years ago. That is a growth of 32% in two years. During that same period, our investment (excluding the Trust) increased by about 5% (very rough estimate that requires some additional work).

* It is reasonable to claim that some of this growth in enrollments provides still more tangible evidence of the post-Sept. 11 phenomena and USA Freedom Corps initiative. Not only are interest and applications up, but so are enrollments (Les made this point yesterday without using a specific number).

There are also some program and funding implications that we need to consider:

* Our budget and some of the funding estimates, particularly for the Trust, need to be updated as we go forward. We have a critical need for more resources in the Trust Over the next couple of years. We need to work out the details here and include them in the '04 budget and perhaps in the '03 Hill discussions. Unless this is fixed, we will have a very real future problem. [Bill, Wendy, I, and others have begun to discuss this.]

* The growth results disproportionately from a growth in part-time members. A while back, the Board supported a policy of keeping AmeriCorps as mostly a full-time program. Currently, 53% of the 60,000 members are full-time. A portion of the other 47% serves full-time during the summer only.

* The public statements related to the reauthorization and budget, that are pretty well known, are that we want to grow from 50,000 to 75,000 AmeriCorps members. Well, by the 60,000 yardstick, we are already 40% of the way there, and as we all know, we have neither the budget increase nor reauthorization yet. So, this will require some finessing.

* We have not looked at the likely outcomes from the grants we just approved yet, but I believe that, in the aggregate, we have approved more members than were approved in the prior year (the year in which we reached 60,000 members). So, it is not unreasonable to conclude that the 60,000 figure will grow in the coming year. We need to do some work on estimating how much.

There are other implications and issues, but I wanted to call this to everyone's attention as we think about September activities. [Obviously, we shouldn't release any of the above information without some internal discussion.]

Gary