

S. 16

To promote and incentivize volunteerism by fostering partnerships between community organizations, businesses, and educational institutions.

IN THE SENATE
July 30, 2023

Mr. Guy (for himself,) introduced the following bill, on behalf of the Rosen Administration, as authored by President Rosen;

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

A BILL

1. SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Community Service Incentive Act of 2023".

2. SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

2.1. FINDINGS.—

Congress finds the following:

- (1) Volunteerism provides significant benefits to communities, individuals, and the nation as a whole.
- (2) Collaboration between community organizations, businesses, and educational institutions is key to creating meaningful volunteer opportunities and fostering a culture of service.

2.2. PURPOSE.—

The purpose of this Act is to incentivize volunteerism by establishing a national framework that promotes partnerships between community organizations, businesses, and educational institutions.

3. SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE VOLUNTEER INCENTIVE PROGRAM.

3.1. IN GENERAL.—

The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services shall establish and oversee a program, to be known as the Volunteer Incentive Program (VIP).

3.2. GRANTS. —

Under the VIP, the Secretary shall award grants on a competitive basis to eligible entities that submit a proposal for a project that fosters volunteerism.

3.3. ELIGIBLE ENTITIES. —

Eligible entities for the VIP are:

- (a) Non-profit organizations,
- (b) For-profit businesses,
- (c) Public and private educational institutions, including elementary schools, secondary schools, and institutions of higher education.

4. SEC. 4. USE OF FUNDS.

4.1. IN GENERAL. —

VIP funds may be used to:

- (1) Create or expand volunteer opportunities,
- (2) Develop and implement training for volunteers,
- (3) Implement systems to track and recognize volunteer service, and
- (4) Provide benefits to volunteers, such as academic credit or workplace incentives.

5. SEC. 5. MATCHING FUNDS.

An eligible entity that receives a VIP grant must provide matching funds equal to at least 25 percent of the grant amount.

6. SEC. 6. REPORTING.

Each entity that receives a VIP grant shall report annually to the Secretary on the use of the funds and the impact of the funded project on volunteerism.

7. SEC. 7. EVALUATION AND DISSEMINATION.

The Secretary shall evaluate the effectiveness of the VIP and disseminate the findings to Congress, eligible entities, and the public.

8. SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2028 to carry out this Act.

9. SEC. 9. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Act, or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act, or the application of the provisions of this Act to any person or circumstance, shall not be affected thereby.

10. SEC. 10. ENACTMENT.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 90 days after the date of its enactment.