

A New Call to Service

Summary of Key Points - For the full plan, visit peteforamerica.com/national-service-plan

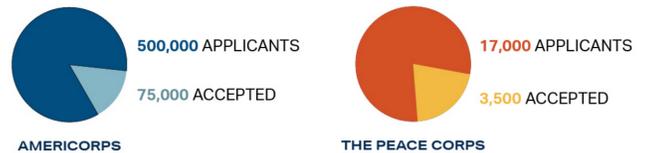
Pete says that his time as a Navy Lieutenant in Afghanistan was a life-changing experience, in large part because he got to serve alongside people from every conceivable background. "In many ways, we had nothing in common except the fact that we were all American. But the men and women who got in my vehicle didn't care if I was a Democrat, a Republican, or an independent. They just wanted to get home safe, like I did." Pete believes that this experience of serving your community or your country for a greater purpose is one that young people should be able to have without having to go to war.

Pete believes that it can be achieved through national service.

Step 1: Service For All (Who Want It)

- Fund the Serve America Act to increase paid service opportunities from 75,000 to 250,000 in the existing federal and AmeriCorps grantee organizations and through new Service Year Fellowships, targeting high school, community college, vocational, HBCUs and MSI students, and opportunity youth (out of school and work). Emphasis is placed on high-quality service positions, on-the-job training, leadership development, and mentor-mentee sponsoring.
- An emphasis on cross-country service will enable urban youth to serve in rural communities, and vice-versa, even as the proposal continues to support opportunities for service at home for those with deep local ties and duties.
- Consideration for public service student debt forgiveness, vocational training, and hiring preference for service fellows.

There are record amounts of youth interest in AmeriCorps and the Peace Corps, programs that provide paid service opportunities for motivated changemakers. But due to insufficient funding, only a fraction of applicants get accepted.



Step 2: Building Service Communities

- Create competitive grant funding for communities to create ecosystems of service around regional issues. These grants would be built on the Cities of Service model (e.g., South Bend's 2018 Love Your Block award), and achieve the following:
 - (1) Foster local capacity; empower local leaders to connect the federal, state, local, philanthropic services to each other; and incubate 21st Century service models.
 - (2) Prioritize communities of color and rural areas, which are too often neglected in national service efforts.
 - (3) Prioritize deeper, local ties over grant-writing ability or a nationwide network.
- Critically, these grants would also incorporate the local public sector workforce (e.g., teachers, firefighters, police officers) who exemplify careers of national service.

Step 3: Service at Scale

- Quadruple service opportunities to 1 million high school graduates by 2026 (the 250th anniversary of our nation's independence)
- Nationwide rollout of the models developed in Step 2, and expanding out-of-state and international service options.
- Create a position of Chief Service Officer with standing on the National Security Council (i.e. regarding international service, foreign aid work) and the White House Domestic Policy Council.
- Expand existing & create new service corps including a Climate Corps, Community Health Corps (with a focus on community well-being, mental health, addiction, & substance use issues), and Intergenerational Service Corps (with a focus on caregiving, mentorship, and other intergenerational service opportunities).

