

Civilian Climate Corps for Jobs and Justice Act of 2021 – Senator Edward J. Markey

The Civilian Climate Corps for Jobs and Justice Act of 2021 establishes a Civilian Climate Corps (CCC) administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service within AmeriCorps. A diverse and equitable group of 1.5 million Americans over 5 years will complete federally-funded projects that help communities respond to climate change and transition to a clean economy. CCC work will reduce carbon emissions, enable a transition to renewable energy, build healthier and more resilient communities, implement conservation projects with proven climate benefits, and help communities recover from climate disasters. At the same time, participants, or “corpsmembers,” will receive education and training in coordination with local institutions, including labor unions, to usher them into good jobs, and especially good union jobs. The corps will coordinate closely with local groups to help develop career pathways and union opportunities in new green sectors.

To complete its ambitious goals, **the CCC will administer a large national service program and provide simplified and enhanced grants to scale up the existing network of over 130 local and state service and conservation corps.** This unique combination of a federal program and partnerships with community organizations, all under the same umbrella, will leverage the network and local expertise of new and existing “Partner Corps” while at the same time rapidly developing a large number of service projects.

To attract the broad and diverse group of corpsmembers necessary to accomplish the crucial work of the CCC and Partner Corps, all corpsmembers are guaranteed the following benefits:

- *Salary and benefits:* Compensation of at least \$15 per hour, full health care coverage, and critical support services such as transportation, housing, and childcare.
- *Educational Funding:* Enabling educational grants of \$25,000 per year of service, up to \$50,000, eligible for further education at any level or to pay down student debt.
- *Career Opportunities:* All corpsmembers will be provided with a job and career pathway during their service and corps will prioritize registered pre-apprenticeship curricula and union membership as part of service. Corpsmembers will receive vocational training appropriate to the local job market. Guaranteed follow-up services will help track corpsmembers’ professional and career progress.

To accomplish to goals of a just and equitable CCC, the program will ensure:

- *Explicit antiracist language* ensures that environmental justice communities receive benefits of at least 50% of CCC and Partner Corps projects, and 50% of corpsmembers will be recruited from these same communities, with no age limit for participation in at least 50% of Partner Corps.
- *Labor groups prioritized and integrated* into CCC and Partner Corps planning and operations, with DOL registered pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs prioritized for grants, required coordination with local labor unions, buy American provisions in procurement, and advisory board representation from labor groups. The corps, partner corps, and any private companies partnered in corps activities will adhere to neutrality and card check agreements.
- *Tribal sovereignty protections and dedicated funds* guarantee that CCC activities benefit Tribal communities, which will receive 10% of the dedicated EJ benefits.