(6) S (7) S (8) S	\$20,000,000 for fiscal year 1997; \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 1998; \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 1999; \$35,000,000 for fiscal year 2000; and \$40,000,000 for fiscal year 2001.	Sec. 12582. 12583. 12584.	Application for assistance and approved national service positions. National service program assistance requirements. Ineligible service categories.
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§ 12501. Findings and purpose

(a) Findings

The Congress finds the following:

- (1) Throughout the United States, there are pressing unmet human, educational, environmental, and public safety needs.
- (2) Americans desire to affirm common responsibilities and shared values, and join together in positive experiences, that transcend race, religion, gender, age, disability, region, income, and education.
- (3) The rising costs of postsecondary education are putting higher education out of reach for an increasing number of citizens.
- (4) Americans of all ages can improve their communities and become better citizens through service to the United States.
- (5) Nonprofit organizations, local governments, States, and the Federal Government are already supporting a wide variety of national service programs that deliver needed services in a cost-effective manner.
- (6) Residents of low-income communities, especially youth and young adults, can be empowered through their service, and can help provide future community leadership.

(b) Purpose

It is the purpose of this chapter to-

- (1) meet the unmet human, educational, environmental, and public safety needs of the United States, without displacing existing workers:
- (2) renew the ethic of civic responsibility and the spirit of community and service throughout the varied and diverse communities of the United States;
- (3) expand educational opportunity by rewarding individuals who participate in national service with an increased ability to pursue higher education or job training;
- (4) encourage citizens of the United States, regardless of age, income, geographic location, or disability, to engage in full-time or parttime national service;
- (5) reinvent government to eliminate duplication, support locally established initiatives, require measurable goals for performance, and offer flexibility in meeting those goals;
- (6) expand and strengthen existing national service programs with demonstrated experience in providing structured service opportunities with visible benefits to the participants and community;
- (7) build on the existing organizational service infrastructure of Federal, State, and local programs, agencies, and communities to expand full-time and part-time service opportunities for all citizens;
- (8) provide tangible benefits to the communities in which national service is performed;
- (9) expand and strengthen service-learning programs through year-round opportunities, including opportunities during the summer months, to improve the education of children and youth and to maximize the benefits of national and community service, in order to