

“(a) **STUDY.**—In order to reduce administrative burdens and lower costs for national service programs carried out under the national service laws, the Corporation shall conduct a study to determine the feasibility and effectiveness of implementing a data matching system under which the statements of an individual declaring that such individual is in compliance with the requirements of section 146(a)(3) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12602(a)(3)) shall be verified by the Corporation by comparing information provided by the individual with information relevant to such a declaration in the possession of other Federal agencies. Such study shall—

“(1) review the feasibility of—

“(A) expanding, and participating in, the data matching conducted by the Department of Education with the Social Security Administration and the Department of Homeland Security, pursuant to section 484(g) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1091(g)); or

“(B) establishing a comparable system of data matching with the Social Security Administration and the Department of Homeland Security; and

“(2) identify—

“(A) the costs, for both the Corporation and the other Federal agencies identified in paragraph (1), associated with expanding or establishing such a system of data matching;

“(B) the benefits or detriments of such an expanded or comparable system both for the Corporation and for the other Federal agencies so identified;

“(C) strategies for ensuring the privacy and security of participant information that is shared between Federal agencies and organizations receiving assistance under the national service laws;

“(D) the information that needs to be shared in order to fulfill the eligibility requirements of section 146(a)(3) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12602(a)(3));

“(E) an alternative system through which an individual’s compliance with section 146(a)(3) of such Act may be verified, should such an expanded or comparable system fail to verify the individual’s declaration of compliance; and

“(F) recommendations for implementation of such an expanded or comparable system.

“(b) **CONSULTATION.**—The Corporation shall carry out the study in consultation with the Secretary of Education, the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and other Federal agencies, entities, and individuals that the Corporation considers appropriate.

“(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 9 months after the effective date of this Act [for general effective date of Pub. L. 111–13 as Oct. 1, 2009, see Effective Date of 2009 Amendment note under section 4950 of this title], the Corporation shall submit to the authorizing committees a report on the results of the study required by subsection (a) and a plan for implementation of a pilot data matching program using promising strategies and approaches identified in such study, if the Corporation determines such program to be feasible.

“(d) **PILOT PROGRAM.**—From amounts made available to carry out this section, the Corporation may develop and carry out a pilot data matching program based on the report submitted under subsection (c).

“(e) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section, the terms ‘Corporation’, ‘authorizing committees’, and ‘national service laws’ have the meanings given the terms in section 101 of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12511).”

§ 12602a. Certifications of successful completion of terms of service

(a) Certifications

In making any authorized disbursement from the National Service Trust in regard to an eligi-

ble individual (including disbursement for a designated individual, as defined in section 12604(f)(8) of this title, due to the service of an eligible individual) under section 12602 of this title who served in an approved national service position, an approved summer of service position, or an approved silver scholar position, the Corporation shall rely on a certification. The certification shall be made by the entity that selected the individual for and supervised the individual in the approved national service position in which such individual successfully completed a required term of service, in a national service program.

(b) Effect of erroneous certifications

If the Corporation determines that the certification under subsection (a) is erroneous or incorrect, the Corporation shall assess against the national service program a charge for the amount of any associated payment or potential payment from the National Service Trust. In assessing the amount of the charge, the Corporation shall consider the full facts and circumstances surrounding the erroneous or incorrect certification.

(Pub. L. 101–610, title I, §146A, as added Pub. L. 111–13, title I, §1403, Apr. 21, 2009, 123 Stat. 1514.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Oct. 1, 2009, see section 6101(a) of Pub. L. 111–13, set out as an Effective Date of 2009 Amendment note under section 4950 of this title.

§ 12603. Determination of the amount of the educational award

(a) Amount for full-time national service

Except as provided in subsection (c), an individual described in section 12602(a) of this title who successfully completes a required term of full-time national service in an approved national service position shall receive a national service educational award having a value equal to the maximum amount of a Federal Pell Grant under section 1070a of title 20 that a student eligible for such Grant may receive in the aggregate (without regard to whether the funds are provided through discretionary or mandatory appropriations), for the award year for which the national service position is approved by the Corporation.

(b) Amount for part-time national service

Except as provided in subsection (c), an individual described in section 12602(a) of this title who successfully completes a required term of part-time national service in an approved national service position shall receive a national service educational award having a value equal to 50 percent of value of the national service educational award determined under subsection (a).

(c) Award for partial completion of service

If an individual serving in an approved national service position is released in accordance with section 12593(c)(1)(A) of this title from completing the full-time or part-time term of service agreed to by the individual, the Corporation may provide the individual with that portion of the national service educational award approved