

Civilian Climate Corps for Jobs and Justice Act of 2026

Senator Edward J. Markey and Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

The Civilian Climate Corps for Jobs and Justice Act of 2026 establishes a Civilian Climate Corps (CCC) that would put 1.5 million people to work over 5 years to complete clean energy, climate resilience, environmental remediation, conservation, and sustainable infrastructure projects, while providing education, training, and career pathways to good jobs. At a time of increased natural disasters and significant job displacement due to the rapid rise in artificial intelligence (AI), it's more important than ever to create a government jobs program that puts Americans to work combatting the climate crisis.

The CCC will be administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), which shall operate two program components:

- 1) A centrally administered National Climate Service Program, and**
- 2) A National Climate Service Grant Program to scale up the existing network of local and state service and conservation corps.**

To attract the broad and diverse group of corpsmembers necessary, all corpsmembers are guaranteed the following benefits:

- Salary and benefits: Compensation of at least \$20 per hour, full health care, 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 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 the goals of a just and equitable CCC, the program will ensure:

- Support for environmental justice communities, which will receive benefits of at least 50% of CCC and Partner Corps projects and 50% of corpsmembers recruited from these same communities, with no age limit for participation in at least 50% of Partner Corps.
- Labor groups are prioritized and integrated into CCC and Partner Corps planning and operations, with Department of Labor (DOL) registered pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs prioritized for grants, required coordination with local labor unions, Build America, Buy American provisions in procurement, and advisory board representation from labor groups. The CCC, Partner Corps, and private companies partnered in corps activities will adhere to neutrality and card check agreements.
- Tribal sovereignty protections and dedicated funds that guarantee that CCC activities benefit Tribal communities, which will receive 10% of dedicated EJ benefits.
- Stipend increases for non-CCC AmeriCorps members to avoid creating a two-tiered system.