



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 10, 2008

S. 2609 **Global Service Fellowship Program Act of 2008**

*As reported by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
on September 23, 2008*

SUMMARY

S. 2609 would authorize the appropriation of \$15 million each year over the 2009-2011 period to establish a Global Service Fellowship Program, which would be administered by the Office of Volunteers for Prosperity within the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The program would award grants to fund opportunities for volunteering internationally in coordination with eligible organizations.

CBO estimates that implementing S. 2609 would cost about \$45 million over the 2009-2013 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 2609 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 2609 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 150 (international affairs).

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 2609 will be enacted early in fiscal year 2009, that the estimated amounts will be provided in annual appropriation acts each year, and that outlays will follow historical spending patterns for similar programs.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2009-
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2013
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Authorization Level	15	15	15	0	0	45
Estimated Outlays	6	15	15	9	0	45

Office of Volunteers for Prosperity

Section 3 would require the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development to establish an Office of Volunteers for Prosperity consistent with Executive Order 13317 signed by President George W. Bush on September 23, 2003. Since USAID already established an Office of Volunteers for Prosperity within its Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance in November 2003, CBO estimates that implementing this provision would not result in additional spending.

Global Service Fellowship Program

Section 7 would authorize the appropriation of \$15 million each year over the 2009-2011 period to establish a Global Service Fellowship Program to be administered by the USAID Office of Volunteers for Prosperity. The program would award grants to fund opportunities for international volunteering in coordination with eligible organizations. Fellows would be awarded up to \$2,500 for fellowships lasting 90 days or less, up to \$5,000 for fellowships lasting between 91 and 180 days, and up to \$7,500 for fellowships lasting between 181 days and one year.

The Global Service Fellowship Program would be similar to the Volunteers for Prosperity Service Initiative Program (VfPServ), a public-private partnership launched in March 2008 that provides matching grants of \$500 to \$1,000 to skilled volunteers who demonstrate need for financial support. The USAID Office of Volunteers for Prosperity currently administers VfPServ in conjunction with the USA Freedom Corps at the White House and the Global Giving Foundation. Based on information from USAID, CBO expects that the new Fellowship program would use the same application process as VfPServ and draw from its existing network of volunteer organizations. CBO estimates that implementing S. 2609 would cost about \$45 million over the 2009-2013 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 2609 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: John Chin

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Melissa Merrell

Impact on the Private Sector: Jacob Kuipers

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Theresa Gullo

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis