
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: DRA: POTENTIAL FUNDING FOR TEACH FOR AMERICA
DATE 6/19/03
CC: TELL

Ron Nurmberg and Jenn Mohead of Teach for America came by the office Tuesday to discuss a potential funding opportunity for Teach for America via DRA. According to Ron, he visited with Senators Lincoln and Pryor in Arkansas about a month and a half ago. He was soliciting their help in identifying additional funding for the Delta Teach for America Corps, which consists of teachers assigned to the Arkansas and Mississippi Delta. The Delta Corps has just received 74 new teachers for a two-year stint. Ron divides these new teachers up depending on funding for the program. Arkansas provides \$3,000/teacher to offset the cost of the program. Ron wants Mississippi to have 80-90 Teach for America teachers this fall, but needs to identify additional funding or he will have to shift some of these across the river to Arkansas.

Senator Lincoln assigned Donna Kay Yeargan of her staff to work on identifying funding sources and Donna Kay has urged Pete Johnson and the DRA staff to work with/fund Teach for America. Ron spoke to Hayes Dent last week and Hayes said that there are two items of 01-02 money that have yet to be appropriated and that you could approve the use of these funds for Teach for America. Hayes said that these 2 projects are basically duplicative of existing programs, so he thinks DRA funds would be better used for new programs such as Teach for America. The 2 funding items are:

1. \$77,000 to a Robert Woods Johnson program in Quitman County to provide transportation for TANF recipients. Hayes/DRA told Ron that DART provides transportation.
2. \$440,000 to the Hines Street GED Center in Greenville. Hayes/DRA told Ron that there are other GED programs in Washington County and Greenville.

Hayes told Ron that if you approved this, DRA could turn all of part of these funds around in a week and direct them to Teach for America. He also said DRA would be happy to do this because of the congressional interest Teach for America. Ron stated that he knows Hayes' comments are only one side of the story and that he doesn't know the politics behind the 2 programs above that Hayes wants to divert funds from. I told him that DRA is still working some of its kinks out and that I would need to confer with you and Armerita on this matter.

Certainly, I think Teach for America is a worthy program that is serving a critical need in the Delta. On the other hand, most of the teachers serve their 2 years of service and leave the area to attend graduate school or to teach in their home states. I would like to see us identify assistance for them so that we could utilize their teachers in our needy areas. However, I certainly don't know Hayes' intentions in trying to not fund these 2 programs. Please advise as to additional info that you need or action that you want me to take on this matter. Thanks!