ALTERNATIVE SERVICE PROGRAM

Our Goal for the Alternative Service Program is to put in place everything needed to ensure success. We shall continue doing that by applying lessons learned from our mutual experiences, together with the inputs from the conscientious objector (CO) community. It is to the advantage of all, this Agency and our customers, that our policies and procedures for alternative service be successful and widely accepted. Having strong partners in the CO community will guarantee satisfying our goal.

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A major peacetime duty of the Selective Service is to develop the Alternative Service Employment Network (ASEN). The network is populated with groups and organizations who agree to abide by Selective Service rules and regulations while employing Alternative Service Workers.

ASEN members can be:
- Not-for-profit organizations (religious or secular)
- Federal, State and Local Governments

Conscientious objectors, or COs, are persons who, based on their religious, ethical, or moral beliefs, refuse to participate in any form of war. America’s history with conscientious objection can be traced back to our early settlers, among them were the Amish, the Brethren, Mennonites, and Quakers. We have come to know them as “historic peace churches.”

Future conscientious objectors will be representative of the multitude of religious, moral, and ethical beliefs held by Americans.

**Alternative Service** is a 24-month term of civilian service in lieu of military service. COs, as alternative service workers, contribute to maintaining the national health, safety, or interest.

The types of service appropriate for alternative civilian service are work in: educational services, environmental programs, health care services, social services, community services and agriculture.
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