

4k. Education Award Eligibility

Members who successfully complete their terms of service are eligible for an education award; members who exit early for compelling personal circumstances may be eligible for a pro-rated education award if they complete at least 15% of their term of service (45 CFR 2526 and National Policy FAQ parts B and C). The amount of the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award is tied to the maximum amount of the U.S. Department of Education's Pell Grant. Since the maximum amount of Pell Grants can change from year to year, so can the dollar amounts of education awards. Programs should check the NOFO/RFP that applied to that program year for corresponding education award amounts. More information about the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award can be found at <http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameriCorps/segal-ameriCorps-education-award>.

Members may not receive more than an amount equal to the aggregate value of two full-time education awards. The value of an education award received is calculated based on its proportion to the full education award in the year the award was approved. An individual who, based upon the aggregate value of education awards previously received, is not eligible to receive the entire award amount offered for a term of service, will instead receive the portion of the education award that he or she is eligible to receive.

Individuals who have received a transferred education award must count the value of that education award when determining the amount of the education award they are eligible to earn through their own service (i.e. a member whose grandmother transferred to him/her a 0.5 value education award can only earn up to 1.5 education awards through his own service). Members may serve additional terms of service even if they have reached the limit of two full-time education awards. Members may serve up to four terms in AmeriCorps State & National, three terms in AmeriCorps VISTA (including VISTA Summer Associates), and two terms in AmeriCorps NCCC.

The education award can be used to pay education costs at qualified institutions of higher education (i.e. tuition, fees, etc.), to pay for educational training (i.e. non-degree programs such as technical or vocational training), and to repay qualified student loans (generally federal student loans, NOT private loans). Members can make payments from their award in full or in part and can take up to seven years after their term of service has ended to use their award. Individuals who receive a transferred award have up to 10 years from the date in which the transferring individual earned the award to use it. Members will manage their education awards through the eGrants/MyAmeriCorps Portal.

Some institutions will match the education award if it is redeemed at their school, but claiming the education award up front may also affect a member's eligibility for other financial assistance. Members should research the best option for their individual circumstances.

AmeriCorps Segal Education Award payments (interest and award disbursements) are taxable as federal income in the year they are redeemed. Members should anticipate this when choosing when and how much of their education award to redeem.

Members agree to serve for a certain period of time and to complete a minimum number of hours during that time period. Members who fulfill these requirements, serving satisfactorily, are exited from the program with a full education award. Members must receive a final evaluation certifying that they meet the requirements for a successful exit with a full award. Programs must change the member status to Exited in OnCorps and need to exit the member in the eGrants/MyAmeriCorps Portal within the 30-day deadline, and must maintain records documenting satisfactory completion of program requirements. The total hours completed entered into the Portal must match the total approved hours in OnCorps, always rounded down to a whole number. No prior approval is required to exit members who successfully complete their term.