

# What You Need to Know about Your AmeriCorps Education Award

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## Term Limits

- You may serve a total of four terms that add up to the value of two full-time education awards.
- You can also serve without receiving an Education Award up to a maximum number of terms.
- If you exit before serving 10% of your total required hours, it does not count as a term served.

## Amount of the Education Award Amount

- The amount is based on type of term successfully completed and program year in which the member served.
- Your Member Service Agreement includes the amount of the award.
- It can also be found in your MyAmeriCorps account which shows the amount earned for each and all terms as well as the balance.
- Amounts for The Corps Network's (TCN) grants over the years are listed in our full 57-page publication (ask Corps staff for a copy to review).
- Pro-rated awards are calculated by the National Service Trust.
- Rules may vary for VISTA and NCCC

## Other Useful Information about the Education Award

- You have seven years to use the Education Award.
- You can use portions of your award at different times, as long, as it is for authorized expenditures and within the specified time period.

You may apply for an extension only if:

- You served another term of national service during the previous award's use period, or
- You were unavoidably prevented from using the award during the original use period.  
Qualifying examples include:
  - Member's serious illness, injury, or disability

- Death, injury or disability of member's immediate family member
  - Destruction or inaccessibility of member's records
  - Natural or other disaster
  - Administrative consideration
- Extension requests are made through MyAmeriCorps.
- Contact the National Service Trust at 1-800-942-2677 for further information.

## Options for using the Education Award

- Pay current educational expenses at Title IV schools (current expenses are costs that were incurred during or after your AmeriCorps service. Expenses incurred prior to your enrollment term of service are not qualified. These can be online courses as long as they meet criteria below)
  - The Ed award can only be used at Title IV institutions
  - You as AmeriCorps members do not receive any funds from the National Service Trust, these funds go directly to the school.
- Pay current educational expenses at certain GI Bill-approved educational programs for veterans.
- Non-Title IV educational courses offered by Title IV institution.
- Repay Qualified Student Loans

*Payments are made directly to the Education or Financial Institution, not to the individual*

### Besides tuition, what else is considered a qualified current education expense?

Full-time student – can include tuition and fees, books, room and board, transportation and more.

- Each Title IV school determines the cost of attendance for students.
- Ed Award can be used for the portion of cost of attendance not already covered by other financial assistance.
- Your financial aid office should be able to tell you what the cost of attendance is before submitting your voucher for payment.

### Your MyAmeriCorps Account

- Check your award balance, access important financial forms, request forbearance, request payments to your educational or financial institution, update contact information, check living allowance and tax statements.
- You can access the entire award or part of it until the total amount has been used or the award expires.
- In your home page, under "My Education Award" click on the "Create Education Award Payment Request" link to bring up the screen to request the payment. Follow the instructions and complete the form.
- If your school or loan company has not registered in MyAmeriCorps, they will not be on the list of institutions in the system.

- You should be able to use the Ed award for expenses other than tuition, however what those “qualified expenses” are, are determined by the individual school.
- You will use your MyAmeriCorps Account to request a payment to your school, access tax and other forms, check your award balance, change your address or email address.
- Be sure to remember your password.

### Non-Traditional / Trade Schools

You can use the award at Title IV educational institutions, which are usually colleges and universities. However, several trade schools are also on the two lists. These include schools for:

- Art
- Automotive
- Carpentry
- Construction
- Cosmetology
- Computers
- Court Reporting
- Culinary Arts
- Electrical
- Emergency Medical Technician
- Fire Fighting
- Flight Training
- Graphic Design
- Massage Therapy
- Mortuary Sciences
- Natural Resources, Conservation, Forestry
- Theater/Filmmaking
- Truck Driving
- Welding

There are plenty of non-traditional or trade school options. For more details, please refer to The Corps Network’s full publication on using the education award. It includes lots of FAQs as well. All Corps participating in TCN’s AmeriCorps grants have access to this document.

- Schools of National Service match some or all of the Ed award
- AmeriCorps continues to expand their list of School of National Service that match all or part of the Ed award.
- Check the website for the list of schools. If you are applying to a school currently not on the list, feel free to reach out to them about joining Schools of National Service.

## Tax Implications

- The Education Award is considered taxable income in the year it is used. For example, if in 2022 a person uses all or part of an Ed award for college, for qualified student loans, or both purposes, all payments made from the education award in 2022 should be included as taxable income for that year.
- AmeriCorps does not withhold taxes from the award.
- AmeriCorps sends a 1099 MISC form in January each year to all members for whom payments of at least \$600 were made during the previous year. However, all payments are considered taxable – See *MyAmeriCorps*.
- This includes both payments from the Ed award and interest accrued while the person was serving.
- The 1099 MISC Form reflects the total amount that AmeriCorps reports as taxable miscellaneous income to the IRS.

## Samples of Title IV Institutions

- [Maricopa Community College](#)
- [College and Conservatory of the Performing Arts](#)

## Samples of Schools of National Service

- [Tidewater Tech](#)
- [Sterling College](#)
- [Future Generations University](#)

## Non-Traditional Trades

- Computer Support, Graphic Design, Data Science, Web Developers

## Other Ways to Use the Ed Award

### Go on an Expedition

- [Outward Bound](#)
- [The International Wilderness Leadership School](#)
- [National Outdoor Leadership School](#)
- [Wildfire Job Training](#)

## Study Abroad

- If you want to study abroad, many international colleges and universities are Title IV schools that are able to accept the education award. Here are a few options:
  - Option 1: Research Title IV international schools. These are institutions that process U.S. federal student aid, such as Stafford loans.
  - Option 2: If your My AmeriCorps account won't allow you to send funds to the overseas school, you might consider taking out a Stafford or other federal student loan and then repaying the loan with your award.
  - Option 3: If an overseas school is NOT listed as Title IV but you would still like to attend using your education award, you might be able to enroll in a school stateside and participate in an exchange program. That way you are paying your tuition to a school in the U.S. while attending a school overseas. To make this option work, it will take a bit of research on your part.

## Helpful Sites:

- About the Ed Award:
  - <https://americorps.gov/members-volunteers/segal-ameri-corps-education-award/find-out-more>
- U.S. Department of Education Title IV schools:
  - <https://www.thecollegelife.com/finance/student-loans/complete-list-of-title-iv-schools/>
- To search schools by subject, try these websites:
  - [www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator](http://www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator)
  - [www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com)
  - [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
- For more information about AmeriCorps
  - [www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov)