



AMERICORPS FAQ'S

What types of positions are available?

Mentorship, healthy futures, and social services-based positions are available at schools, nonprofits, municipal, and faith-based organizations.

What qualifications do I need to serve?

To qualify for STEP AmeriCorps you must be a United States citizen, United States national or lawful permanent resident of the United States and be at least 17 years of age. There is no upper age limit, and many members bring significant work and life experiences to their assignment.

How do I apply?

Go to "Become a Member" on our website and click on the Member Application. It is a fillable PDF – you can complete the application and submit electronically via our website. Or you can print out the application and mail it to our office:

2140 Boyd St.
Williamsport, PA 17701

This is a competitive process and applying for a position, or requesting consideration for an interview, does not guarantee selection to serve. If a position is marked filled on our website, it is not available. Check back often for new openings or updates.

Do I need to join to be a member?

If selected to serve, one is considered a "member" of the [National AmeriCorps](#) service movement and referred to as an "AmeriCorps member".

What is a partner host site?

A "partner host site" is an organization where a member serves.

Do I receive a wage while serving?

AmeriCorps members receive a "living stipend" while actively serving. The stipend is not considered a wage, but it helps with living expenses while you serve. The stipend while serving is \$580 biweekly over the term of service for fulltime members, \$515 biweekly for reduced fulltime members, and \$280 biweekly for halftime members. Federal, state, and local taxes are withheld. In addition, upon successful completion of a program year, members are eligible to receive an education award.

What is the education award?

After successfully completing a term of service, STEP AmeriCorps members are eligible to receive the "Segal AmeriCorps Education Award." This award may be used to pay education costs at qualified institutions of higher education, for educational training, or to repay qualified student loans. Once earned, the award is deposited into a trust fund and recipients have seven years to use the money. The money may be disbursed in increments or used all at once. For members 55 and over, the award may be transferred to a child, grandchild, or foster child. Learn more about the [Segal AmeriCorps Education Award](#).

Can I defer my student loans while I serve in an AmeriCorps position?

You may qualify for postponement, also called forbearance, on payments on qualified federal student loans while serving. A forbearance request may be made to your loan holder once you have started a term of AmeriCorps service.

What is a term of service?

A fulltime term of service 1700 hours, a reduced fulltime term is 1200 hours and a halftime term is 900 hours. Partner host sites determine which term of service their position requires. When accepting a position, a member must be willing to make a commitment to serve the entire term. Fulltime and halftime terms are about 50 weeks (August to August), reduced fulltime terms are from August to June.

Do I get health care benefits?

Members serving fulltime or reduced fulltime are eligible for health insurance if they are not currently covered.

Can I get childcare benefits?

Members serving fulltime or reduced fulltime may be eligible to receive assistance with childcare costs. The benefit is dependent on family income.

Is housing paid for?

No. Housing is not provided for STEP AmeriCorps service.

Can I go to school or work another job while I serve?

Yes. There are no restrictions on attending school or seeking additional employment while serving with STEP AmeriCorps. Members cannot be employed and serve at the same organization or school district. This includes substitute teaching or coaching for the same school district in which you serve. Review your position's time demands directly with your STEP AmeriCorps program staff and partner host site organization. Member enrollment will depend on if you can make the commitment to your partner site during the hours you are expected to serve.

Are there any restrictions to who can serve as an AmeriCorps member?

To qualify for STEP AmeriCorps service, you must be a United States citizen, United States national or lawful permanent resident of the United States and be at least 17 years of age. Members must also provide criminal, child abuse, and FBI clearances. A criminal history may bar service as governed by federal statutes and the PA Department of Education.

Questions?

Contact STEP AmeriCorps' Member Development Coordinator, Lori Boos.

P: (570) 601-9677

E: laboos@stepcorp.org