



Add Program logo

## Insert Date

**Insert Candidate Name**

**Insert Candidate Address**

**Insert Candidate City, Insert Candidate State Insert Zip Code**

Dear **Insert Candidate First Name**,

Congratulations! We would like to offer you a position with the **Insert Program Name** AmeriCorps Program pending the final results of your criminal history check. We look forward to you serving as an AmeriCorps member in our 2020 – 2021 corps. The following are the next steps in the enrollment process:

1. Please contact us as soon as possible to confirm that you accept the position.
2. Enrollment sessions are scheduled on **Insert Day, Date and Beginning and Ending Time of Enrollment Session**. During this session, you will complete AmeriCorps paperwork, validate your contract, and be fingerprinted as part of the background check process. Please choose one of these enrollment sessions and e-mail your choice of enrollment date to **Insert Email Address**.
3. If you have not already done so, you **MUST** send in a copy of your valid driver's license, birth certificate or passport, and social security card. If you do not provide these prior to the enrollment session, you will not be enrolled in AmeriCorps and will forfeit your opportunity with our program.

Your year with AmeriCorps will begin September 1, 2020. During the first month of your service you will receive training in different areas that will be useful to you as an AmeriCorps member. These trainings provide you with the opportunity to get to know your fellow AmeriCorps members and supervisors and are mandatory. **Please note all AmeriCorps members positions are contingent upon grant funding which should be finalized by mid-June.**

If you have any questions regarding your placement or AmeriCorps in general, please do not hesitate to call our office at **Insert Program Phone Number (XXX) XXX-XXXX** or e-mail **Insert Program Email Address**.

Sincerely,

**Insert Program Name** AmeriCorps Staff



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## Financial Considerations of AmeriCorps

**Living Stipend:** Let's be clear. No one joins AmeriCorps for the money, as the living stipend is small for many. Full-time members are required to serve 45 hours a week and will earn \$1,253 a month before taxes are taken out. Part-time members are required serve 25 hours a week and will earn \$626.50 a month before taxes are taken out. But, let's look further.

**Education Award:** Another benefit to consider is the Segal Education Award. Full-time members receive \$5,730 and part-time members receive \$2,865 to apply toward outstanding qualified student loans or future schooling. If you are 55 or older, you may transfer your education award to a child, grandchild or foster child. Some institutions match this education award, so if you plan to attend one of these institutions your award is twice as valuable. Here is a list of colleges and universities that match the award: <http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameriCorps/segal-ameriCorps-education-award/matching-institutions>

**Health and Child Care:** Full-time members are eligible for a free healthcare benefits plan. Child care assistance for children under 13 is also available, but dependent on household income eligibility.

**Student Loans:** You may place most existing federal student loans into forbearance while you serve (meaning you do not have to make payments on them). The average college student graduates with at least \$20,000 dollars in student loan debt. You may not know that AmeriCorps will also pay off some or all of the interest accrued during your year of service (upon successful completion of your service year) for the loans placed into forbearance through AmeriCorps. Giving a year of service is like getting 10 interest-free months on your loans. During that time, inflation should make the amount owed less by several hundred dollars. In other words, the actual amount will not change but it should be easier to pay off. You might still owe \$20,000, but in 2016, \$20,000 should only be worth as much as \$19,450 was worth in 2015.

**Nutrition Benefits:** Finally, you may also qualify for SNAP nutrition benefits, which can be used to supplement or replace your food budget. Many AmeriCorps members use these funds to stretch their incomes farther. Full-time members may qualify for as much as \$189 a month for the purchase of food. If you have dependents you may be eligible for additional funds.

Everyone has different financial needs, and only you can decide whether the compensation and benefits will work for you and your family. Ultimately the decision to serve is not an economic one. You should know that what drives people to serve is intangible. It is their desire to share knowledge, be a role model, reach into communities and create something genuinely good. If you are dedicated to making a direct impact on children's futures, be sure to also consider all the tangible benefits that AmeriCorps offers.