



Segal AmeriCorps Education Award Matching Program

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Members and Alumni

What is the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award?

After successfully completing a term of service, AmeriCorps members are eligible to receive a [Segal AmeriCorps Education Award](#). This education award can be used to pay education costs at qualified institutions of higher education, to pay for educational training, and to repay qualified student loans. Since 1995, AmeriCorps members have earned \$2.43 billion in award funds.

Click here for [tutorial](#) on how to use the education award.

What is the amount of the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award?

The amount of the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award is tied to the maximum amount of the [U.S. Department of Education's Pell Grant](#). The amount of a full-time education award is currently \$5,550. Awards for part-time terms of service are pro-rated based on the amount of a full-time award.

What is the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award Matching Program?

Higher education institutions across the country actively recruit talented AmeriCorps alumni for their reputation of perseverance, drive, and proven active citizenship. Many of these institutions offer a variety of incentives such as service scholarships or matching tuition funding to the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award. Institutions who are participating in the [Matching Program](#) have agreed to provide a minimum of \$1,000 in benefits to at least one AmeriCorps alumnus per year.

What institutions are currently participating?

Currently, there are over 100 institutions participating in the matching program. All institutions of higher learning that provide a minimum of \$1,000 in benefits to at least one student per year are included on our list of [participating institutions](#).

What do institutions offer to AmeriCorps alumni?

The primary and preferred program model is to provide *at least a full direct match of the Education Award*, but colleges and universities have some flexibility in how they craft their Segal AmeriCorps Education Award match. Below are three main categories describing how institutions can incentivize their benefits for AmeriCorps alumni.

Scholarship Match – Tuition or cash assistance provided to AmeriCorps alumni who have completed at least one full term of service. Examples:

- Full or partial match of the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award
- Scholarship program or competition with a certain allotment set aside for AmeriCorps alumni each year

Academic Incentive – Any academic benefit provided to AmeriCorps alumni who have completed at least one term of service. Examples:

- General academic credit granted for each year of service, generally between 3 to 9 credit hours
- Targeted academic credit for subject specific programs, such as an education focused graduate school offering credit to an AmeriCorps alumnus who completed a term of service with an education centric organization such as Citizen Schools or Teach for America.
- Preferential acceptance into academic internships, fellowships, or assistantships

Miscellaneous Incentive – Any miscellaneous benefits given to AmeriCorps alumni who have completed at least one full term of service. Examples:

- Preferential application consideration at admissions
- Waived application fee
- Housing or board assistance
- Preferential selection for work study or other on campus opportunity

Which institutions are considered qualified institutions?

In order to accept the Segal AmeriCorps Educational Award, institutions need to be Title IV and listed on the [website](#) of Federal Student Aid, an office within the U.S. Department of Education. An institution is considered a Title IV school if it has an agreement with the U.S. Department of Education making its students eligible for at least one of the federally-backed forms of financial assistance (such as Pell Grants, Perkins Loans, Stafford Loans, National Direct Loans, and Federal Consolidated Loans).

Education awards may also be used at a program of education approved by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. As of October 1, 2009, the education award may be used to pay expenses incurred in enrolling in an educational institution or training establishment that is approved under the GI Bill.

Are only colleges and universities allowed to participate?

No. We welcome vocational schools, international programs, and other continuing education options, so long as they meet the criteria set forth above for “qualified institutions.”

The school I’m interested in doesn’t match the education award. How can I request the school of my choice to participate?

If your alma mater, school, or program of choice currently does not participate, please use the [customizable templates](#) on our website to request a match, application fee waiver, or offer additional benefits.

How do institutions sign up for the program?

Institutions need to complete the [Commitment Form](#). FAQs for institutions and the form can be found on our website.

If you have additional questions, please visit www.nationalservice.com/edawardmatch or email EdAwardMatch@cns.gov