CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
AmeriCorps NCCC Program Specific Questions

Last update 4/2/20

CNCS is closely monitoring the latest developments related to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Understandably, community members, National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) members, and sponsors may have questions and concerns about the potential impact COVID-19 on the NCCC program. To help address these concerns, we are providing you with these FAQs.

These FAQs do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies. You should refer to CNCS’s statute and regulations for applicable requirements.

1. How is NCCC ensuring the safety of AmeriCorps NCCC members?
AmeriCorps NCCC is committed to protecting the health and safety of AmeriCorps NCCC staff and members. AmeriCorps NCCC will suspend all active NCCC members through May 18, 2020, during which they will continue to receive their living allowance and health benefits. AmeriCorps NCCC staff will coordinate with members to arrange travel for members to their Home of Record. Staff will also be contacting AmeriCorps NCCC members with additional information about the suspension and travel. [updated 3/18]

2. I am an incoming NCCC member and am concerned about potential exposure to the coronavirus if I travel to the campus by air.
The safety and security of members is our highest priority. We are closely monitoring guidance regarding COVID-19 in order to share information in a timely manner and are implementing recommended safety precautions. Typically, travel arrangements are made two to four weeks before the travel occurs. Depending on the circumstances at that time, NCCC will make appropriate travel arrangements for members. If programmatic changes become necessary, incoming members will be notified. [updated 3/12]

3. NCCC has graduation events scheduled in March 2020 and May 2020. Are these events going to occur?
NCCC cancelled all graduation events through May 15. NCCC is closely monitoring the situation in locations where graduation events are scheduled for after May 15. NCCC graduations will be live-streamed on Facebook to allow members to share their accomplishments with family and friends. Please continue to monitor the CNCS website and NCCC communications for updates. [updated 3/16]

4. NCCC was scheduled to have a new class of FEMA Corps members begin service in Vicksburg, MS, on March 16, 2020. How has Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) impacted that class?
Based on current developments and out of an abundance of caution, AmeriCorps NCCC made the difficult decision to postpone the start of this class. Incoming Vicksburg NCCC FEMA Corps members are in an emergency leave status through May 18, 2020. This is consistent with the decision to suspend active corps
members through May 18, 2020. While on emergency leave, incoming FEMA Corps members will receive their living allowance and health benefits. NCCC staff contacted individuals impacted by this decision to modify travel arrangements. [updated 3/20]

5. Will AmeriCorps NCCC change service hour requirements, the service end date, and education award requirements in light of members being suspended and put on emergency leave?
AmeriCorps NCCC is working to minimize the impact and disruption on our members to the greatest extent possible. AmeriCorps NCCC is exploring all options within our existing legal authority on issues around service hour requirements, service end date, and education awards. AmeriCorps NCCC will share more information as soon as we are able. [updated 3/20]

6. Are AmeriCorps NCCC members allowed to have other jobs while suspended on emergency leave?
No. The Member Handbook prohibits members from holding employment while serving in NCCC. [updated 3/20]

7. Can AmeriCorps NCCC members earn ISP service hours while suspended on emergency leave?
No, members cannot earn ISP hours while on emergency leave. [updated 3/20]

8. Are AmeriCorps NCCC members who are suspended on emergency leave required to abide by all NCCC rules and policies?
Yes, all NCCC rules and policies still apply because the status as a NCCC member has not changed. Members who engage in prohibited activities such as illegal drug use are subject to disciplinary action. [updated 3/20]

9. AmeriCorps NCCC shared information about full-time positions with FEMA. Can you share more information about those positions? Could an NCCC member hold a FEMA position while they are suspended on emergency leave from NCCC?
Members who accept employment with FEMA must resign from NCCC. More information about the FEMA positions can be found here: careers.fema.gov/ or by contacting fema-corps-program@fema.dhs.gov for more information and next steps. [updated 3/20]

10. If I graduate from NCCC and do not have a job, does that qualify me for unemployment benefits?
No. The loss of a living allowance at the end of the AmeriCorps NCCC program does not constitute a basis for claiming unemployment compensation. [updated 3/24]

11. I am suspended on emergency leave status. Does that qualify me for unemployment benefits?
Placement on emergency leave is still an active member status and does not constitute a basis for claiming unemployment compensation. [updated 3/24]

12. The AmeriCorps NCCC program is currently suspended. Will future application deadlines be extended? Does AmeriCorps NCCC expect to cancel any future classes?
AmeriCorps NCCC is not currently extending deadlines or modifying application timeframes. We will continue to monitor developments and may make changes to future deadlines or classes, if necessary. [updated 3/24]
13. As part of my AmeriCorps NCCC application, I must submit fingerprints. How can I get my fingerprints done if I am unable to get to a fingerprinting location?
If you run into difficulty getting fingerprints, please contact your Selection and Placement assistant or email ANCCC@cns.gov to discuss options. [updated 3/24]

14. Does AmeriCorps NCCC anticipate that project sponsors will need to meet any additional health and/or safety measures related to COVID-19 when teams resume work?
Project sponsors will be expected to follow national, state, and local health and safety guidelines at the time teams are able to resume service. The health and safety of NCCC members remains our highest priority. Specific questions regarding social distancing, personal protective equipment, or other health and safety guidelines related to AmeriCorps NCCC projects should be directed to regional AmeriCorps NCCC staff. [updated 4/2]