



The Segal AmeriCorps Education Award Matching Program

Demonstrate your Institution's Commitment to Civic Engagement and Help Recruit AmeriCorps Students to Your School



AmeriCorps engages more than 75,000 men and women in intensive service each year through more than 15,000 nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups across the country. AmeriCorps alumni have the traits and skills colleges and universities value. They are committed to civic engagement, know how to problem solve, and offer leadership. By participating in the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award Matching Program, your institution can help recruit highly motivated AmeriCorps alumni.

AmeriCorps members help communities tackle pressing problems while mobilizing millions of volunteers for the organizations they serve. AmeriCorps members, including AmeriCorps NCCC and AmeriCorps VISTAs, gain valuable professional and educational experience through their service with nonprofit organizations such as Teach for America, Habitat for Humanity, City Year and Campus Compact.

In exchange for successfully completing a term of service, members earn a **Segal AmeriCorps Education Award** that can be used to pay for college or graduate school or to pay back qualified student loans. The amount of the award is tied to the maximum amount of the U.S. Department of Education's **Pell Grant**, currently \$5,550. Since 1994, AmeriCorps members have earned more than \$2.43 billion to fund their education and repay students loans.

The Segal AmeriCorps Education Award Matching Program is an opportunity for Title IV institutions to recruit AmeriCorps alumni by offering cost of attendance

benefits. Institutions who are participating in the Matching Program have agreed to provide a minimum of \$1,000 of benefits to at least one AmeriCorps alumnus per year.

Why participate in the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award Matching Program?

By offering benefits to AmeriCorps alumni, institutions can:

- Attract highly motivated, engaged students who become campus leaders
- Demonstrate their commitment to civic engagement to alumni, donors, and foundations
- Increase your school's rankings, especially in the areas of student civic engagement and volunteerism
- Increase enrollment of community college and transfer students
- Recruit graduate students into under-enrolled programs

- More than 800,000 men and women have served in AmeriCorps since 1994
- AmeriCorps alumni continue to be highly engaged in their community: A majority (80%) of members report they are more likely to participate in community service as a result of their AmeriCorps experience and a significant number (72%) of members continue to volunteer after completing their service
- The education award provided to AmeriCorps members upon completion of service has been shown to drive college enrollment

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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. 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.

How can my institution participate?

The primary and preferred program model is to provide at least a full direct match of the Segal AmeriCorps 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. The primary and preferred program model is to provide at least a full direct match of the Education Award.

■ Scholarship Match

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

■ Academic Incentive

- 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 AmeriCorps alumni that served with Teach for America or Communities in Schools
- Preferential acceptance into academic internships

■ Miscellaneous Incentive

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

About the Corporation for National and Community Service

The Corporation for National and Community Service is the federal agency that engages more than 4 million Americans in service through Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, the Social Innovation Fund, the Volunteer Generation Fund, and leads President Obama's national call to service initiative, United We Serve.

How do institutions sign up for the program?

Please complete the commitment form at NationalService.gov/EdAwardMatch or email EdAwardMatch@cns.gov