



## **JESUIT VOLUNTEER CORPS AMERICORPS PROGRAM FAQs**

### **What is the AmeriCorps Education Award?**

The Segal AmeriCorps Education Award is a benefit AmeriCorps members receive upon successful completion of their term of service. The award can be used for further education or to repay qualifying student loans. The award is subject to taxes.

### **How do I know if my position qualifies as an AmeriCorps placement?**

Almost all of our positions, except for three, qualify for AmeriCorps. Those that do not are full time advocacy and/or ministry positions. The position descriptions on the web site indicate whether or not a position is an AmeriCorps position and if it is full time or part time.

### **What is the difference between a Full Time Award and Part Time Award?**

#### **Full Time Award:**

- The JV AmeriCorps Member must accrue at least 1700 hours of qualified service
- The Ed Award is for \$5,550 which the Member receives after completion of service
- FT Members receive a living allowance (see FAQs regarding Living Allowance for more details) of \$12,100 for the service year

#### **Half Time Award:**

- The JV still has a full time service placement but some of the duties involve advocacy and/or ministry that can't be counted so the AmeriCorps placement is half time
- JV AmeriCorps Member must accrue 900 hours of qualified service
- The Ed Award is for \$2,775 which the member receives after the completion of service
- A JV AmeriCorps Member in a half time position does NOT receive a living allowance but will receive funds to cover living expenses and a monthly stipend of \$100. JVC Northwest will cover co-pays and deductibles incurred during the year (this is in addition to our payment of their insurance premium) up to \$1,000 maximum out of pocket maximum but will not reimburse for medical expenses not covered by the health insurance policy.

### **Can I get student loan forbearance as an AmeriCorps Member?**

Individuals in approved AmeriCorps positions are eligible for forbearance for **most**

**federally-guaranteed** student loans. The Corporation for National and Community Service cannot approve or disapprove forbearance requests. JVC Northwest can only verify that the JV AmeriCorps Member is in an approved national service position. **Only the loan holder can determine a person's loan's eligibility for forbearance.** If a person does receive forbearance, AmeriCorps will pay the accrued interest AFTER the person completes his/her term of service.

If a JV AmeriCorps Member has a private loan it is important to check with the lender to see if they will allow forbearance because of national service.

**If my lender does grant forbearance, how does this happen?**

The accepted JV AmeriCorps Member can apply for loan forbearance after being officially enrolled in the My AmeriCorps Portal online, after the JVC Northwest Orientation in August. Most members apply for forbearance through the My AmeriCorps web site.

**How can I use the AmeriCorps Education Award?**

Comprehensive information on the Ed Award can be found at <http://edaward.org/>, including more on what kinds of loans can be repaid with the ED Award. A person has seven years to use his/her award and it is taxable. The award does not have to be used all in one year. This site also gives information on whether or not one might be able to use the award in nontraditional ways, e.g., buy a computer.