



## **JVC Northwest AmeriCorps Program FAQS AmeriCorps Living Allowance**

### **What is the AmeriCorps living allowance?**

The AmeriCorps living allowance is an amount of money set by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) that full time AmeriCorps Members receive during their year of service. The living allowance for the 2011-12 service year is \$12,100.

### **What is the living allowance used for?**

The intent of the living allowance is that it be used for living expenses incurred by the Member during his/her service year. Before Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC) Northwest became an AmeriCorps National Grantee, our individual partner agencies paid for the living costs of the JVs. By becoming an AmeriCorps grantee we were able to substantially reduce the costs to our partner agencies and ultimately serve more people in need. The living allowance is used to cover housing, food, utilities, transport to and from the service site, medical deductible and co-pays and other costs incurred during the service year. JVC Northwest covers the cost of the monthly medical insurance premium. While the housing cost is a set amount, the JV AmeriCorps Member will cover his/her share of the communal cost of food, utilities and other community incurred costs. The monthly cost of living may vary, e.g., utility bills, especially in Alaska, can be quite high in the winter months. At Orientation, we will discuss how to adhere to our core value of simple living in light of the living allowance.

### **How do AmeriCorps Members receive the living allowance?**

JVC Northwest distributes the living allowance according to AmeriCorps guidelines. The AmeriCorps Member receives the allowance in equal amounts over a period of 10 months or 11 months, depending on where the Member is serving.

### **Is the living allowance taxable?**

Yes. Our experience is that if one claims a deduction of "0" on the I-9 form, one will not owe taxes on the living allowance income. However, individual circumstances vary and if an individual has other income from the tax year, his/her taxes would differ accordingly.

### **My JV AmeriCorps position is half-time. Will I receive a living allowance?**

No, you will not receive a living allowance, nor will JVs who positions do not qualify for AmeriCorps. JVC Northwest will cover all of your community costs, your insurance co-pays and deductibles up to the \$1,000 out of pocket maximum (in addition to paying your monthly insurance premium). JVC Northwest will not reimburse any costs that are not covered by the insurance policy. You will receive a monthly personal stipend of \$100.