



**AmeriCorps**  
West Virginia

# Member Resource Guide

Tools for making the most of your  
service year in West Virginia





# Table of Contents

---

- 02** Welcome Letter
- 03** Education Benefits
- 06** Health Benefits
- 11** Additional Benefits
- 12** We Appreciate Your Service!

Scan the QR Code on each page to be directed to a webpage for that benefit.

# Dear AmeriCorps Member,

Welcome to your service with AmeriCorps in West Virginia! We are delighted that you have chosen to lend your skills and talents to strengthening and improving a community in the Mountain State. You will find many opportunities to grow both personally and professionally during your time of service, and we hope you will take advantage of as many of them as you can.

To make your time as an AmeriCorps member even more rewarding and a bit easier, a number of helpful resources are available to you. This booklet will give you a brief, at-a-glance summary of some of the most important benefits you receive as an AmeriCorps member. Also included are QR codes and contact information to learn more about each resource.



From the Segal Education Award and the West Virginia AmeriCorps Tuition Waiver, to a 24/7 telephone counseling line, to health care and childcare benefits for full-time members, these resources are designed to make your service more beneficial to you and more enjoyable.

We hope this booklet will be a helpful resource tool, as you settle into your service and begin to make a difference in your community. We are grateful for your commitment to enhancing our state and improving the lives of West Virginians. Again, welcome!

**Sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hawley Carlson".

**Hawley Carlson**  
Executive Director



# Education Benefits

## Segal Education Award

After successfully completing your AmeriCorps term of service and enrolling in the National Service Trust, you are eligible to receive the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award. You can use the award to repay qualified student loans, or to pay current educational expenses at eligible institutions of higher education or training programs. Members who are veterans can use their award at certain GI Bill-approved programs for veterans.

Eligible institutions of higher education can be domestic or foreign but must participate in the Department of Education's Title IV student aid programs. This includes most post-secondary colleges, universities, and technical schools.

## Repaying Qualified Student Loans

The Segal AmeriCorps Education Award can only be used to repay the qualified student loans listed below:

- Loans backed by the federal government under Title IV of the Higher Education Act (except PLUS Loans to parents of students)
- Loans under Titles VII or VIII of the Public Service Health Act
- Loans made by a state agency, including state institutions of higher education

## The Value of a Segal Education Award

The amount of a full-time Segal AmeriCorps Education Award is equivalent to the maximum value of the Pell Grant for the fiscal year in which the term of national service is approved. The award amount varies based on the term of service completed. That is, the award will be larger for a year of full-time service than it will be for a year of three-quarter-, half-, or minimum-time service.



# Education Benefits

## Schools of National Service

---

The Schools of National Service program benefits both postsecondary institutions and the AmeriCorps alumni they enroll. Recognizing that AmeriCorps alumni are a valuable asset to the academic community, Schools of National Service seek to reward your service and incentivize your education by providing helpful benefits, including scholarships, application fee waivers, tuition match, and more.

In return, institutions enroll students who are trained, community-minded leaders driven to make a difference in the world. There are many Schools of National Service across the nation.

---

### Here are the Schools of National Service in West Virginia:

- **Bethany College** in the state's northern panhandle and **Ohio Valley University** near Parkersburg match the Segal Education Award dollar for dollar.
- The **University of Charleston** matches the award up to \$2,000.
- **West Virginia University** offers \$250 per semester for up to eight semesters to qualifying full-time students.
- **Future Generations University**, a fully online institution located in Franklin, offers a 25 percent scholarship, worth up to \$4,000, to AmeriCorps members who enroll in either the Master in Applied Community Development program or the Certificate in Applied Community Development program. With two years of service, the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award and this scholarship will completely cover the cost of the master's degree.





# AmeriCorps Tuition Waiver

In 2022, the West Virginia Legislature enacted Senate Bill 228 to create the West Virginia AmeriCorps Tuition and Fee Waiver. With the passage of this legislation, which went into effect in the fall of 2022, West Virginia became the first state in the nation to offer this exciting benefit to AmeriCorps members.

600 hours of service equals a waiver for one semester's tuition.

You can combine hours from multiple terms. Depending on the number of hours of service you complete, you are eligible for up to eight semesters of tuition and fee waivers.

In order to apply for the West Virginia AmeriCorps Tuition Waiver, you will need your program director to complete a West Virginia Tuition Waiver Certification Form and you will then submit it to the Financial Aid Office of your school of choice. Each school has their own process for applying the tuition waiver, so we encourage you to speak directly with a representative from your school about their procedures

The waiver can be used for undergraduate and graduate programs, and for any major, and you never have to pay back the money.



# Health Benefits

**Public Benefits:** Depending upon your household size and income, you may be eligible for certain benefits available through the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR). These benefits are not funded through AmeriCorps, so eligibility is not guaranteed. If you encounter obstacles applying for benefits or need documentation of your status as an AmeriCorps member, contact your program director for assistance.



The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as “Food Stamps,” is administered by DHHR and governed by federal law and the regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Nutrition Services. SNAP provides monthly benefits to help eligible households buy food and seed/plants to grow food at home. Eligibility to receive benefits is based on household size, income, assets, and some household expenses, as determined by the federal government.



Medicaid provides medical care to individuals who otherwise may not be able to afford it. A variety of services are provided, according to state and federal guidelines, depending upon the individual or family circumstances.



If you need to find affordable housing for your service, the West Virginia Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program may be able to help you. The program offers rental assistance to extremely low- to moderate-income residents. It also offers resources to help these families and individuals find decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market.

To apply for Public Benefits through West Virginia DHHR, scan the QR Code below.



For more information about the Section 8 Housing Voucher Program, scan the QR code below.



# Health Benefits

## Member Assistance Program

No issue is too big or too small.

Call 1-800-451-1834 day or night

As an AmeriCorps member in West Virginia, you have access to the Member Assistance Program (MAP) through My Life Expert. This program provides free, in-the-moment telephone counseling services. The services are confidential and available 24/7.

To access counseling for support on any topic, including stress, depression, anxiety, grief, or substance abuse, call 1-800-451-1834. State that you are an AmeriCorps member and provide the name of your organization/AmeriCorps program.

You will be connected with a licensed, professional counselor with AllOne Health. In-the-moment support is provided for any issue. You may also be given information or referrals for in-person counseling, childcare, housing, or other issues. Note: The MAP does not include ongoing counseling services, but a MAP professional may help connect you with a provider who can help you further.

You can register at the AllOne Health website, <https://mylifeexpert.com>, with Company Code “AmeriCorps.”

Whatever your question or challenge, please do not hesitate to call—anytime. We hope you will take advantage of this free service. If you have any questions, call 1-800-451-1834 day or night, visit the website by using the QR code below, or contact your program director.





# Health Benefits

## Member Assistance Program

No issue is too big or too small.  
Call 1-800-451-1834 day or night.

In addition to unlimited, in-the-moment telephone counseling, the MAP also provides these services:

- Mobile app with resources and appointment scheduling access
- Medical advocacy: Medical advocates offer strategies to promote member health, productivity, and well-being. They can help with insurance navigation, doctor referrals, specialist referrals, and other issues.
- Financial and legal assistance (30-minute consultations): These free consultations may connect members with experienced, vetted professionals in legal areas such as divorce/custody, bankruptcy, budgeting, estate planning/wills, personal injury/malpractice, and major life event planning. Financial resource assistance includes an initial consultation with follow-up meetings as needed. Topics may include bankruptcy, budgeting, and other financial issues.
- Life coaching: This benefit helps members and others in their household meet personal and professional goals. A life coach helps individuals assess their current situation and then develop action steps to overcome obstacles and meet their goals. A coach acts as an accountability partner, helping individuals navigate life transitions, create better work/life balance, and improve relationships.
- Personal concierge for everyday needs: This service can help lighten your load by providing research on many topics, including entertainment, dining, travel, tourism, household errands, and reputable service professionals.
- Work/life resources and referrals: This service includes consultation and customized guidance on many issues, including adoption, elder/adult care, parenting, childcare, special needs support, and wellness.

# Health Benefits

## Member Accommodation Fund

---

You might suffer from migraines and need filtered light. Or perhaps you have back pain and can work better with an adjustable desk, chair, or anti-fatigue mat. Or you may benefit from a telephone amplification device if you are hearing impaired.

Through its AmeriCorps Member Accommodation Fund, Volunteer West Virginia will pay for reasonable accommodations, such as those above, needed by members to carry out their service. AmeriCorps Members may request a reasonable accommodation via any mode of communication, but, if possible, we ask that you use our ADA-compliant Reasonable Accommodation Request Form, available from your program.

## Health Insurance

---

If you are a full-time AmeriCorps member and you do not have health insurance, and you do not qualify for Medicaid, you are eligible for health care coverage through AmeriCorps. Reach out to your program director for details.



# Health Benefits

## Childcare Assistance

---

The AmeriCorps Childcare Benefit Program is available to qualified, active, full-time AmeriCorps members in West Virginia who need childcare in order to serve. All or part of a member's childcare costs will be paid directly to qualified childcare providers while the member is in active, full-time service. However, childcare benefits may not exceed the applicable state maximum reimbursement rate, as established under the Childcare and Development Block Grant Act of 2014 42 USC 9801.

### Member Eligibility Requirements

Childcare benefits are available to full-time AmeriCorps members who qualify. To qualify, the member must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- The member must be serving full time, or in a full-time capacity—that is, serving at least 32.5 hours per week.
- The member must be the parent or legal guardian of a child under age 13.
- The child must reside with the member.
- The member must certify that they need childcare to be able to serve in an AmeriCorps program.

- The member's family household income must not exceed 75% of the state's median income for a family of the same size. The household income includes the member's income, but not the member's AmeriCorps living allowance, and the income of the member's spouse or the children's other parent/guardian within the same household. Note: the state's median income may change annually.
- At the time of acceptance into an AmeriCorps program, the member must not be receiving a childcare subsidy from another source (including a parent or guardian) that would continue to be provided while the member serves.



**AmeriCorps**  
West Virginia



# Additional Benefits

There are additional training and entertainment benefits available to AmeriCorps members!

## Explore courses from On3Learn

On3Learn is an online education company that offers web-based courses to help AmeriCorps members thrive and excel in their service positions. The courses are free, and they include important information to help you build capacity and feel comfortable and accomplished in your service.

On3Learn courses are brief (between one and two hours), interactive, and fun.

These courses are completely free with the access code [WVSUB21](#), which you enter in your cart.

## Current offerings include:

- Americorps 101 for Members
- Using Your Americorps Education Award
- Prohibited, Unallowable, and Allowable Activities
- Understanding the Larger Landscape of National Service
- Life After Americorps Series: What's Next and Mastering Job Search Tools

If you have technical questions about the software, email [info@on3learn.com](mailto:info@on3learn.com).

To create an account and start learning, scan the QR code below or go to <https://on3learn.digitalchalk.com/>.



# West Virginia Appreciates Your Service!

## Additional Benefits for Members

To take advantage of these benefits, wear your AmeriCorps gear, button, or pin, or bring a service letter or other documentation to show you are a member.

- AmeriCorps members are admitted free to concerts and dances sponsored by the Friends of Old Time Music and Dance (FOOTMAD) in the Kanawha Valley. [www.footmad.org](http://www.footmad.org)
- AmeriCorps members are also admitted free to dances and other events sponsored by Huntington Old Time Dance and Music (HOTDAM).
- Carnegie Hall in Lewisburg offers discounted tickets to seniors, students, AmeriCorps members, and others. [www.carnegiehallwv.org](http://www.carnegiehallwv.org).
- Lost World Caverns in Lewisburg offers AmeriCorps members a 10 percent discount on their 45-minute tours (regular admission \$12). [www.lostworldcaverns.com](http://www.lostworldcaverns.com)
- Most YMCAs in West Virginia offer reduced membership fees to income-qualified families and individuals, including AmeriCorps members.



Remember that admission is free for all at the incredible West Virginia State Museum at the State Capitol Complex in Charleston and at historic West Virginia Independence Hall in Wheeling.





**AmeriCorps**  
West Virginia

# Stay in Touch!

## **Join our AmeriCorps WV Facebook Group**



## **Register as an AmeriCorps Alum on Service Year**

As a member of this national network of engaged citizens and civic leaders, you'll receive resources for professional development, higher education connections, discounts and other benefits from member benefit partners, networking opportunities, and more.



## **Join AmeriCorps Alums on LinkedIn**



## **Visit the Employers of National Service Website**

Learn about job opportunities in the private, public, and nonprofit sectors.



Volunteer West Virginia  
803 Quarrier St.  
Suite 400  
Charleston, WV 25301

[www.volunteer.wv.gov](http://www.volunteer.wv.gov)  
[www.AmeriCorps.gov](http://www.AmeriCorps.gov)