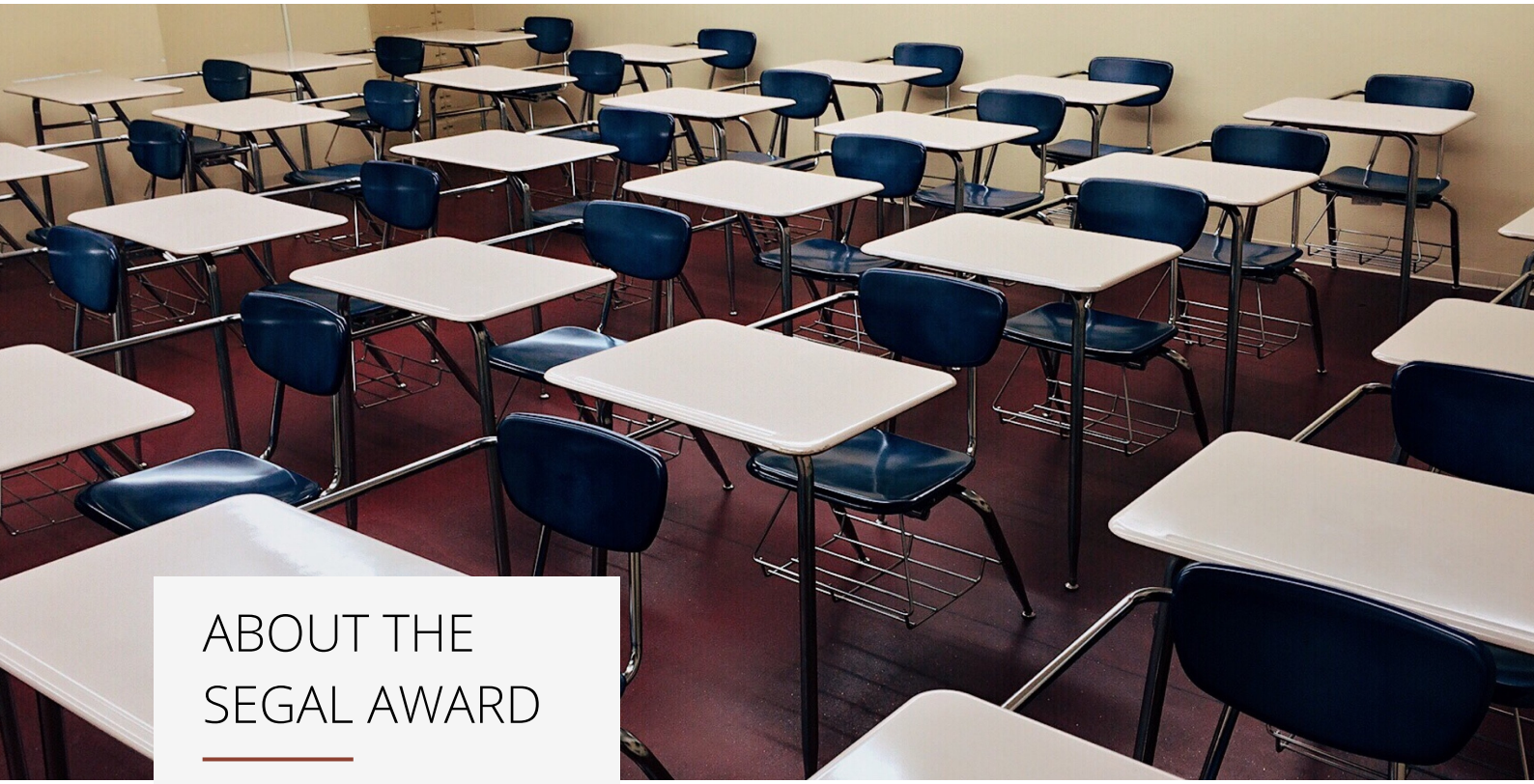
AmeriCorps

2021-2022

SEGAL AMERICORPS EDUCATION AWARD



ABOUT THE SEGAL 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 and to pay current educational expenses at eligible institutions of higher education and training programs

THE VALUE OF AN 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 amount of the Pell Grant can change each year. Therefore, the amount of a full-time award can change. Once an individual earns an award, the dollar amount of that award will not change. The award amount varies based on the term of service completed.

Ways you can use your Educational Award

Pay educational expenses

You can use your education award to pay current educational expenses at eligible schools and at certain GI Bill-approved educational programs for veterans. Eligible schools are higher educational institutions, both domestic and foreign, that currently participate in the Department of Education's Title IV student aid programs. This category includes most post-secondary colleges, universities, and technical schools.

Repay 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

Education Award eligibility

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 amount of the Pell Grant can change each year. Therefore, the amount of a full-time award can change. Once an individual earns an award, the dollar amount of that award will not change. The award amount for less than half-time service programs varies based on the required terms of service.



Anyone who completes a term of service within a 12-month period, in one of the following programs, is eligible to earn an education award.

- AmeriCorps NCCC
- AmeriCorps State and National
- AmeriCorps VISTA*

*VISTA members who complete a term of service within a 12-month period may be eligible to choose a cash option in place of the education award.

You must use the Education Award within a seven year period. In special cases, an alumnus can extend the use period for the Education Award, limitations apply.

AWARD FAQ

Scan this QR Code for more info



Education Award limitations

There are limitations on the number of terms an individual can serve in each AmeriCorps program, and on the maximum value of education awards one individual can receive.

Current limits on number of terms an individual can serve:

AmeriCorps NCCC- no limit on service terms, but members may NOT serve more than two consecutive NCCC terms without a break of at least 10 months before serving again
AmeriCorps State and National- four terms
AmeriCorps VISTA- five total years of service

Although an individual can serve more than two terms, a person cannot earn more than the aggregate value of two, full-time education awards.
Each term of service for which an individual earns an education award counts as one term of service in computing the term limitations. This includes terms for which a member earns a full-time, half-time, and any other type part-time or prorated education award. A prorated education award is an award that may be earned when an individual, for reasons beyond his or her control, cannot complete the entire service period. Generally, if a member is released before completing a term of service and does not receive the education award, that term counts as one of the terms served.

Use the MyAmeriCorps portal to Manage Your Education Award

- Check your award balance and value
- Request payments to educational institution and loan holder
- Request forbearance on qualified student loans
- Update contact information
- Check living allowance and tax statements

Scan this code for the portal

my.americorps.gov

What can the education award be used for?

The Segal AmeriCorps Education Award can be used to pay future educations costs at qualified institutions of higher education or to repay qualified student loans.

The Education Award can be used to pay the portion of the cost of attendance that is not covered by other sources of financial aid, such as scholarships, loans, grants, and tuition or fee waivers.

For a full-time student, qualified expenses may include tuition and fees, an allowance for books, room and board, transportation, and other expenses. every Title IV school determines the cost of attendance for its students. This not an amount determined by the students or by the Trust. Your financial aid office should be able to tell you what the cost of attendance is before submitting your voucher for payment.

When a member requests a payment that they plan to use the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award as payments for books or school items they must contact their school's financial aid office. The staff in these offices will work with the students to determine if they are eligible to use their award as payment for these specific items.

How money is reimbursed to the member or applied to a school account on their behalf is completely between them and the school.

If you need additional information about the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award, you can contact the National Service Hotline at the toll-free number 1-800-942-2677.

How long do I have to use my Segal AmeriCorps Education Award?

You have seven years from the date you successfully completed your term of service to use the Award; however, in some circumstances it can be extended.

Will the money from my AmeriCorps Education Award be paid directly to me?

No, payments are made directly to the Education or Financial Institution, not to the individual.

Please note that the Segal Education Award is subject to federal tax in the year the payment is made.

If the Trust makes a payment on qualified student loans to a school or lender for the entire amount of a full-time education award in one calendar year, the member is responsible for any income taxes owed in that calendar year on the entire mount. If a member redeems only a portion of their award in one calendar year, they are responsible for any taxes owed on that portion. Interest that is paid on qualified student loans is also subject to income taxes in the year it was paid.

Forbearance Overview

Forbearance is temporarily postponing your obligation to make payments on your student loan. As an AmeriCorps member you may be eligible for forbearance on your qualified student loans during your term of service. Forbearance is granted by the Financial Institution, not AmeriCorps. During a period of forbearance, although you do not have to make payments, interest continues to accumulate on your loans. AmeriCorps will only pay this interest if the loans were placed in forbearance and you earned a Segal Education Award.

For more information about the Segal Award

go to my.americorps.gov, login to you account and select "My Education Award" then click the red "help" link in the header.