

# Schools of National Service

The Schools of National Service initiative recognizes that individuals who served in AmeriCorps bring tremendous value to the higher education or other post-secondary experience that benefit the institution, other students, and their community. AmeriCorps' members experience, leadership skills, problem-solving ability, and commitment to civic engagement are a welcome addition to any learning environment.

In recognition of the value of their service, Schools of National Service provide incentives and awards that encourage AmeriCorps alumni to attend their institution. By participating in the program, colleges, universities, and other post-secondary institutions benefit.

## About the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award

The Segal AmeriCorps Education Award is a post-service benefit earned by individuals who complete an approved term of national service in AmeriCorps programs. The award is named after Eli Segal, a pioneer of national service and the first CEO of the agency now known as AmeriCorps.

The award may be used to pay educational expenses at eligible post-secondary institutions, including many technical schools and G.I. Bill-approved programs or to repay qualified student loans. The dollar amount of the education award is equal to the maximum amount of the U.S. Department of Education Pell Grant and may change year to year.

## What is AmeriCorps?

AmeriCorps is the only federal agency tasked with elevating service and volunteerism in America. We provide opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to give their time and talent to strengthen communities across our country.



In 25 years, nearly **1.2 million AmeriCorps members have earned over \$4 billion in Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards**, \$1 billion of which has been used to pay back student loan debt – making college more accessible and affordable for those who serve.

Want to know how much your institution has received in Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards? Contact us at:

✉ [segalaward@cns.gov](mailto:segalaward@cns.gov)

## Benefits of Participation

Schools of National Service will help you gain access to AmeriCorps alumni – a network nearly 1.2 million strong – who have earned billions of dollars in Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards. Participation in the program will give higher education and other post-secondary institutions a way to make education more affordable to a group of Americans that research shows are leaders with the determination and skills to succeed.

What AmeriCorps members say about their service:

- Serving in AmeriCorps sets up members for success in a 21st-century economy
- **8 out of 10 alumni** say AmeriCorps benefited their career path.
- **7 out of 10 alumni** say that AmeriCorps helped them achieve their educational goals, in part thanks to the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award – one-third of alumni were pursuing their education six months after their service.
- **More than half of AmeriCorps alumni** said the Education Award gave them the ability to pay for career-benefiting training and education they otherwise would not have.
- AmeriCorps creates leaders who can bridge divides and solve problems.
- **9 out of 10 AmeriCorps alumni** reported that their experience improved their ability to solve problems.
- **80 percent of alumni** feel confident they can create a plan to address a community issue and get others to care about it.
- **93 percent of alumni** said that after service, they felt comfortable interacting with others different than themselves, as compared to 72 percent before.
- **94 percent** said that national service broadened their understanding of society and different communities.

## How Your Institution Can Become a 'School of National Service'

A post-secondary institution can qualify as a School of National Service by entering into a written commitment to provide any of the following incentives to AmeriCorps members and alumni.

- *Tuition matching for the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award (could be at the undergraduate or graduate level and could be specific to a school or program)*
- *Scholarship or fellowship to AmeriCorps alumni*
- *Priority points for admission consideration for AmeriCorps alumni*
- *In-state tuition for AmeriCorps alumni*
- *Cover expenses like books and supplies, room and board, or other personal costs like transportation for AmeriCorps alumni*
- *One-year enrollment deferrals for individuals to serve in AmeriCorps*
- *Academic credit for AmeriCorps experience*
- *Other incentives that vary by institution*

## How to Get Involved

Your school can sign up as a School of National Service via [online form](#) or by contacting AmeriCorps via [SegalAward@cns.gov](mailto:SegalAward@cns.gov). AmeriCorps can provide an estimate of how much your institution has received in Segal AmeriCorps Education Award payments over the last 25 years. If you need more information, email [SegalAward@cns.gov](mailto:SegalAward@cns.gov).



Once approved, download and proudly display your 'School of National Service' badge on your website and collateral.



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[AmeriCorps.gov](http://AmeriCorps.gov)