



# AmeriCorps 101

The Basics of AmeriCorps

By Vinnie Funelas  
AmeriCorps NJ Program  
Officer



# What is AmeriCorps?



# What is AmeriCorps? What do Members Do?



- **Educate communities about their environment**
- **Renovate and Rebuild Abandoned Homes**
- **Provide Mentoring During Non-School Hours**
- **Recruit Volunteers**
- **Bridge the Digital Divide**
- **Assist the Homeless**
- **Provide Support to People with Disabilities**



# History of AmeriCorps



# What is AmeriCorps? National Service Funding Tree

- Congress
- AmeriCorps State & National
- NCCC
- Vista
- AmeriCorps (State & National)
  - State Commissions
    - Formula Sub grantees
    - Competitive Sub grantees



# Where is AmeriCorps?



- Center for Family Services
  - PowerCorps
  - RecoveryCorps
- City of Salem
- Isles, Inc.
- Jewish Renaissance Foundation
- Montclair State University Covid Corps
- Native American Advancement Corporation
- NJ Community Development Corporation
- NJ DEP Watershed Ambassadors
- Northwest NJ Community Action Program
- Relay Graduate School of Education
- Rutgers Camden (PHA)
- St. Paul's CDC
- Teach for America
- The College of New Jersey
- The Salvation Army
- United Advocacy Group
- Zufall Health Center (PHA)

# Focus Areas



- Education
- Economic Opportunity
- Environmental Stewardship
- Healthy Futures

# Activities

- Where will your activity take place?
- How many hours per day on each activity?
- How many days per week?
- Does this satisfy the need?



# Member Eligibility



- Must be 17 years of age or older.
- Must have a High School Diploma or Equivalency; or must **be working** towards the GED.
- Must be a US Citizen or Permanent Resident of the USA.
- Proof: Birth Certificate and/or Specific LIMITED Acceptable Documents

# Member Eligibility: Background Checks

- The following background checks must be cleared by the NJ Commission *before* AmeriCorps members can be enrolled to begin service:
  - ✓ State Background (TrueScreen)
  - ✓ FBI Fingerprint-based (FieldPrint)
- All programs **must** use TrueScreen



# Member Benefits

- **Child Care** (For FT members)
- **Health Insurance** (For FT members)
- **Loan Forbearance** (During time of service)
- **Interest Accrual Stops**
- **Living Allowance**
- **Education Award**



# Member Benefits: Living Allowance

Type of Member Position	Min. # of Hours	MSY	Min. Total Living Allowance	Max. Living Allowance
Full-time	1700	1.000	\$17,600	\$35,200
Three Quarter-time	1200	0.070	\$ 12,424	\$24,640
Half-time	900	0.500	\$ 9,318	\$17,600
Reduced HT	675	0.381	\$ 6,988	\$13,376
Quarter-time	450	0.265	\$ 4,659	\$ 9,152
Minimum-time	300	0.212	\$ 3,106	\$ 7,392
Abbreviated-time	100	0.056	\$ 1,035	\$ 2,112

# Member Benefits: Educational Award

Segal AmeriCorps Education Award amounts for national service positions approved in Fiscal Year 2023 (October 1, 2022-September 30, 2023)

Participation types	Minimum # of hours	Amounts
Full-time (FT)	1,700 (365 days for AmeriCorps VISTA)	\$6,895.00
Three-quarters-time (TQT)	1,200	\$4,826.50
Half-time (HT)	900	\$3,447.50
Reduced half-time (RHT)	675	\$2,626.27
Quarter-time (QT)	450	\$1,824.07
Minimal-time and Summer Associate (MT and SA)	300	\$1,459.26
Abbreviated Time (AT)	100	\$388.03

23/24

Segal AmeriCorps Education Award amounts for national service positions approved in Fiscal Year 2022 (October 1, 2021-September 30, 2022)

Participation types	Minimum # of hours	Amounts
Full-time (FT)	1,700 (365 days for AmeriCorps VISTA)	\$6,495.00
Three-quarters-time (TQT)	1,200	\$4,546.50
Half-time (HT)	900	\$3,247.50
Reduced half-time (RHT)	675	\$2,474.27
Quarter-time (QT)	450	\$1,718.25
Minimal-time and Summer Associate (MT and SA)	300	\$1,374.60
Abbreviated Time (AT)	100	\$365.52

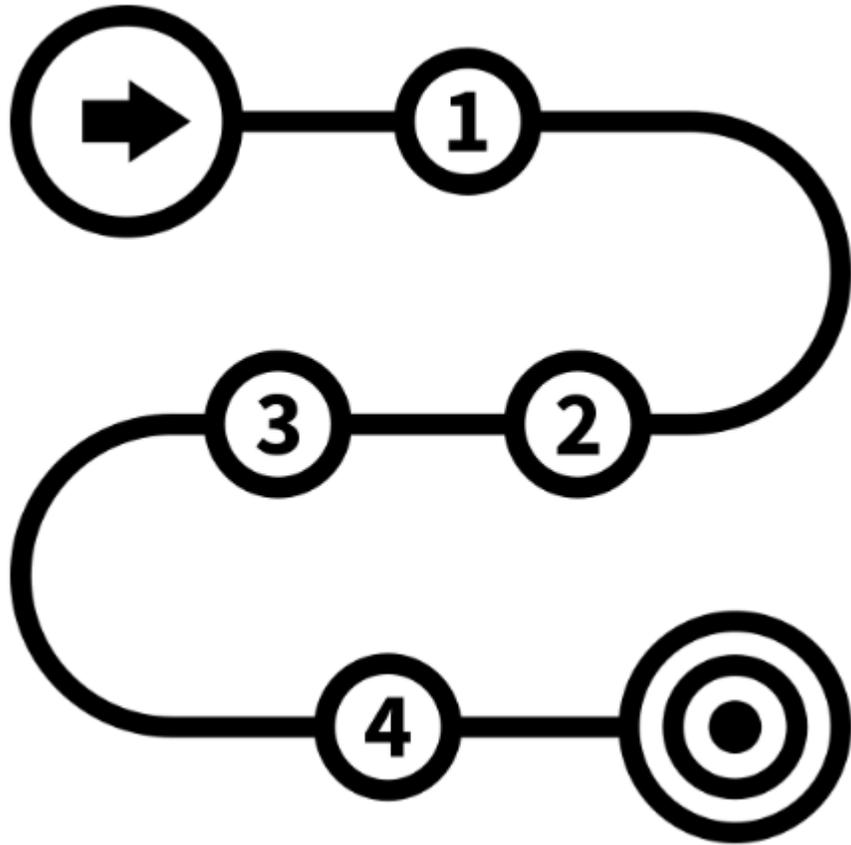
22/23

# Prohibited Activities



- Attempting to influence legislation;
- Organizing or engaging in protests, petitions, boycotts, or strikes';
- Assisting, promoting, or deterring union organizing;
- Impairing existing contracts for services or collective bargaining agreements;
- Participating in, or endorsing, events or activities that are likely to include advocacy for/or against political parties, political platforms, political candidates, proposed legislation, or elected officials;
- Census Activities
- Election and Polling Activities

# Member Timeline



- Planning
- Recruitment and Selection
- Orientation and Training
- Supervision and Evaluation
- Reflection and Recognition

# Grantee Requirements



- Meetings
  - Mandatory State Commission Events (e.g., Starting Strong)
  - Monthly Program Director Meetings
  - Monthly Catch-up Calls
- Reporting
  - Quarterly Progress Reports
- Monitoring

# AmeriCorps Pledge





# AmeriCorps 101

The Basics of AmeriCorps

By Vinnie Funelas  
AmeriCorps NJ Program  
Officer