

## Corporation for National and Community Service

§ 2525.220

(c) Nothing in this section prohibits AmeriCorps from taking any action authorized by law based upon any certification that is knowingly made in a false, materially misleading, or fraudulent manner.

### Subpart C—Determining the Amount of an Education Award

#### § 2525.100 What is the amount of an education award?

(a) *Full-time term of service.* Except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section, the education award for a full-time term of service in an approved na-

tional service position of at least 1,700 hours will be equal to the maximum amount of a Federal Pell Grant under section 401 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a) that a student eligible for that grant may receive in the aggregate for the award year in which the term of service is approved by AmeriCorps.

(b) *Less than full-time term of service.* Except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section, the amount of an education award for an approved national service position for less than full-time term of service (*i.e.*, partial award) is determined in accordance with the following table:

TABLE 1 TO PARAGRAPH (b)

For:	In an approved position of at least: (hours)	Is equal to the following percentage of the amount of an education award for a full-time term of service described in paragraph (a) of this section:
Three quarters time term of service (TQT) .....	1,200	70 percent.
Half-time term of service (HT) .....	900	50 percent.
Reduced half-time term of service (RHT) .....	675	Approximately 39 percent.
Quarter-time term of service (QT) .....	450	Approximately 26 percent.
Minimal time and summer associate (MT & SA) .....	300	Approximately 21 percent.
Abbreviated time (AT) .....	100	5.6 percent.

(c) *Calculating a pro-rated award following release for compelling personal circumstances.* The education award for an Eligible Individual who is released from completing an approved term of service for compelling personal circumstances is equal to the product of:

(1) The number of hours completed divided by the number of hours in the approved term of service; and

(2) The amount of the education award for the approved term of service.

(d) *Calculating a discounted education award amount.* To ensure that an Eligible Individual receives no more than the aggregate value of two awards, pursuant to § 2525.50, if the sum of the education award value offered for a term of service and the aggregate value of previously-received education awards exceeds the value of two awards, then the individual may receive only a portion of that offered education award, such that the aggregate value of the education awards is not greater than the value of two awards.

### Subpart D—Using an Education Award

#### § 2525.210 For what purposes may an education award be used?

(a) An education award may be used to pay educational expenses and/or to repay qualified student loans, as defined in § 2525.2;

(b) An education award is divisible and may be applied to any combination of loans, costs, or expenses described in paragraph (a) of this section.

#### § 2525.220 What steps are necessary to use an education award to repay a qualified student loan?

(a) *Required information.* Before disbursing an amount from an education award to repay a qualified student loan, AmeriCorps must receive:

(1) An Eligible Individual's written authorization and request for a specific payment amount; and

(2) Any identifying and other information from the loan holder as requested by AmeriCorps.

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(b) *Payment.* When AmeriCorps receives the information required under paragraph (a) of this section, it will pay the loan holder and notify the Eligible Individual of the payment.

(c) *Aggregate payments.* AmeriCorps may establish procedures to aggregate payments to holders of loans for more than a single individual.

### **§ 2525.230 What steps are necessary to use an education award to pay all or part of the current educational expenses at an institution of higher education?**

(a) *Required information.* Before disbursing funds from an education award to pay all or part of the current educational expenses at an institution of higher education, AmeriCorps must receive:

(1) An Eligible Individual's written authorization and request for a specific payment amount;

(2) Information from the institution of higher education as requested by AmeriCorps, including verification that—

(i) It has in effect a program participation agreement under section 487 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094);

(ii) Its eligibility to participate in any of the programs under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 has not been limited, suspended, or terminated;

(iii) If an Eligible Individual who has used an education award withdraws or otherwise fails to complete the period of enrollment for which the education award was provided, the institution of higher education will ensure an appropriate refund to AmeriCorps of the unused portion of the education award under its own published refund policy, or if it does not have one, provide a pro-rata refund to AmeriCorps of the unused portion of the education award;

(iv) Individuals using education awards to pay for current educational expenses at that institution do not comprise more than 15 percent of the institution's total student population;

(v) The requested amount will be used to pay all or part of the Eligible Individual's educational expenses attributable to a course offered by the institution;

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(vi) The requested amount does not exceed the difference between:

(A) The Eligible Individual's cost of attendance and other educational expenses; and

(B) The Eligible Individual's estimated student financial assistance for that period under Part A of Title IV of the Higher Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1070 *et seq.*).

(b) *Payment.* When AmeriCorps receives the information required under paragraph (a) of this section, it will pay the institution and notify the Eligible Individual of the payment.

(c) *Installment payments.* AmeriCorps will disburse the education award payment to the institution in at least two separate installments, none of which exceeds 50 percent of the total amount. The interval between installments may not be less than one-half of the period of enrollment, except as necessary to permit the second installment to be paid at the beginning of the second semester, quarter, or other division of a period of enrollment.

### **§ 2525.240 Is there a limit on the amount of an Eligible Individual's education award that AmeriCorps will disburse to an institution for a given period of enrollment?**

Yes. AmeriCorps' disbursement from an Eligible Individual's education award for any period of enrollment may not exceed the difference between:

(a) The Eligible Individual's educational expenses, determined by the institution; and

(b) The Eligible Individual's estimated financial assistance for that period under part A of Title IV of the Higher Education Act.

### **§ 2525.250 What happens if an individual withdraws or fails to complete the period of enrollment in an institution of higher education for which AmeriCorps has disbursed all or part of that individual's education award?**

(a) If an Eligible Individual for whom AmeriCorps has disbursed education award funds withdraws or otherwise fails to complete a period of enrollment, then an institution that receives a disbursement of education award funds from AmeriCorps must:

(1) Provide a refund to AmeriCorps in an amount determined under that institution's published refund requirements, unless the institution charged the Eligible Individual for the uncompleted period of study or training.

(2) Provide a pro-rata refund to AmeriCorps of the unused portion of the education award if the institution does not have a published refund policy.

(b) AmeriCorps will credit any refund received for an Eligible Individual under paragraph (a) of this section to the individual's education award allocation in the National Service Trust.

**§ 2525.260 Who may use the education award to pay expenses incurred in enrolling in a G.I. Bill-approved program?**

To use the education award to pay expenses incurred in enrolling in a G.I. Bill-approved program, an Eligible Individual must have received an education award for successfully completing a term in an approved national service position, in which they enrolled on or after October 1, 2009.

**§ 2525.270 What steps are necessary to use an education award to pay expenses incurred in enrolling in a G.I. Bill-approved program?**

(a) *Required information.* Before disbursing funds from an education award for this purpose, AmeriCorps must receive:

(1) An individual's written authorization and request for a specific payment amount;

(2) Verification from the individual that they meet the criteria in § 2525.260; and

(3) Information from the educational institution or training establishment as requested by AmeriCorps, including verification that—

(i) The amount requested will be used to pay all or part of the individual's expenses attributable to a course, program of education, apprenticeship, or job training offered by the institution or establishment;

(ii) The course(s) or program(s) for which the individual is requesting to use the education award has been and is currently approved by the State approving agency for the State where the

institution or establishment is located, or by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and

(iii) If an individual who has used an education award withdraws or otherwise fails to complete the period of enrollment for which the education award was provided, the institution or establishment will ensure a pro-rata refund to AmeriCorps of the unused portion of the education award.

(b) *Payment.* When AmeriCorps receives the information required under paragraph (a) of this section, it will pay the institution or establishment and notify the individual of the payment.

**§ 2525.280 What happens if an individual for whom AmeriCorps has disbursed education award funds withdraws or fails to complete the period of enrollment in a G.I. Bill approved program?**

(a) If an individual for whom AmeriCorps has disbursed education award funds withdraws or otherwise fails to complete a period of enrollment, the approved educational institution or training establishment that received a disbursement of education award funds from AmeriCorps must provide a pro-rata refund to AmeriCorps of the unused portion of the education award.

(b) AmeriCorps will credit any refund received for an individual under paragraph (a) of this section to the individual's education award allocation in the National Service Trust.

**§ 2525.290 What happens to an education award upon divorce or death?**

(a) *Prohibition on treatment of an education award as marital property.* An education award may not be treated as marital property, or the asset of a marital estate, subject to division in a divorce or other civil proceeding.

(b) *Death of Eligible Individual.* An educational award expires and is no longer available for any purpose upon the death of the Eligible Individual, except for:

(1) Any award or portion of the educational award the Eligible Individual transferred prior to death;

(2) Any amount for which the Eligible Individual submitted a request for

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disbursement prior to death that the National Service Trust had not yet either received or acted upon as of the date of death.

### Subpart E—Payment of Accrued Interest

#### § 2525.310 Under what circumstances will AmeriCorps pay interest that accrues on qualified student loans during an individual's term of service in an approved position?

(a) *Eligibility.* AmeriCorps will pay interest that accrues on an Eligible Individual's qualified student loan, subject to the limitation on amount in paragraph (b) of this section, if:

(1) The Eligible Individual successfully completes a term of national service in an approved position; and

(2) The loan holder approves the Eligible Individual's request for forbearance for a time period specified by the loan holder during the term of service.

(b) *Amount.* The portion of accrued interest that AmeriCorps will pay is determined by the length of service. The percentage of accrued interest that AmeriCorps will pay is the lesser of—

(1) The product of—

(i) The number of completed service hours divided by the number of days for which forbearance was granted; and

(ii) 365 divided by 17; and

(2) One hundred (100).

(c) *Supplemental to education award.* A payment of accrued interest under this part is supplemental to an education award received by an Eligible Individual under this part.

(d) *Limitation.* AmeriCorps is not responsible for the payment of any accrued interest in excess of the amount determined in accordance with paragraph (b) of this section.

(e) *Suspended service.* AmeriCorps will not pay interest expenses that accrue on an Eligible Individual's qualified student loan during a period of suspended service.

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#### § 2525.320 What steps are necessary to obtain forbearance in the repayment of a qualified student loan during an individual's term of service in an approved AmeriCorps position?

(a) An Eligible Individual seeking forbearance must submit a request to the loan holder.

(b) If, before approving a request for forbearance, the loan holder requires verification that the Eligible Individual is serving in an approved national service position, AmeriCorps will provide verification upon a request from the Eligible Individual or the loan holder.

#### § 2525.330 What steps are necessary for AmeriCorps to pay interest that has accrued on a qualified student loan in forbearance?

(a) If an Eligible Individual has obtained forbearance on a qualified student loan, AmeriCorps will make payments from the National Service Trust for interest that has accrued on that student loan during the individual's term of service, after:

(1) The program verifies that the Eligible Individual has successfully completed the term of service and the dates when the term of service began and ended;

(2) The holder of the loan verifies the amount of interest that has accrued during the term of service.

(b) When AmeriCorps receives all necessary information from the program and the loan holder, it will pay the loan holder and notify the individual of the payment.

### Subpart F—Transfer of Education Awards

#### § 2525.410 Under what circumstances may an Eligible Individual transfer an education award?

An Eligible Individual may transfer an education award if—

(a) The Eligible Individual was 55 or older on the day they began the term of service in an approved national service position;

(b) The Eligible Individual successfully completed a term of service in an approved national service position;