

Corporation for National and Community Service

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Subpart A—Purpose and Definitions

§ 2525.1 What is the National Service Trust?

The National Service Trust is an account in the Treasury of the United States from which AmeriCorps makes payments of education awards, pays interest that accrues on qualified student loans for AmeriCorps participants during terms of service in approved national service positions, and makes other payments authorized by Congress.

§ 2525.2 Definitions.

In addition to the definitions in § 2510.20 of this chapter, the following definitions apply to terms used this part:

AmeriCorps means the Corporation for National and Community Service.

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Cost of attendance has the same meaning as in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1070 et. seq.).

Current educational expenses means the cost of attendance, or other costs attributable to an educational course offered by an institution of higher education that has in effect a program participation agreement under Title IV of the Higher Education Act, for a period of enrollment that begins after an individual enrolls in an approved national service position.

Designated Recipient means the person to whom an earned education award is transferred.

Economically disadvantaged youth means a child who is eligible for a free lunch or breakfast under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(b)).

Education award means the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award of financial assistance available under this part, including the Silver Scholar education awards, and Summer of Service education awards.

Educational expenses means—

(1) Cost of attendance as determined by the Title IV institution of higher education or G.I. Bill-approved program as provided in 20 U.S.C. 1087*ll*; or

(2) Tuition or associated costs as determined by a program offered by an educational institution or training establishment approved for educational benefits under 38 U.S.C. 3670 *et seq.* for offering programs of education, apprenticeship, or on-job training for which educational assistance may be provided by the Secretary for Veterans Affairs; and

(3) Expenses incurred participating in a school-to-work program approved by the Secretaries of Labor and Education.

Eligible Individual means an individual who has enrolled in and successfully completed a term of service in an approved national service position, as certified under § 2525.15.

G.I. Bill-approved program is an educational institution or training establishment approved for educational benefits under the Montgomery G.I. Bill (38 U.S.C. 3670 *et seq.*) for offering programs of education, apprenticeship, or on-job training for which educational

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assistance may be provided by the Secretary for Veterans Affairs.

Holder means—

(1) The original lender; or

(2) Any other entity to which a loan is subsequently sold, transferred, or assigned if such entity acquires a legally enforceable right to receive payments from the borrower.

Institution of higher education has the same meaning given the term in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1002).

Period of enrollment means the period that the institution has established for which institutional charges are generally assessed (*e.g.*, length of the student's course, program, or academic year.)

Qualified student loan means:

(1) Any loan made, insured, or guaranteed under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 *et seq.*), other than a loan to a parent of a student under section 428B of that Act (20 U.S.C. 1078-2);

(2) Any loan made under Title VII or VIII of the Public Service Health Act (42 U.S.C. 292a *et seq.*); or

(3) Any other loan determined by an institution of higher education or an approved veterans' benefits program to be necessary to cover a student's educational expenses and made, insured, or guaranteed by:

(i) An eligible lender, as defined in section 435 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1085);

(ii) The direct student loan program under part D of Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087a *et seq.*);

(iii) A State agency; or

(iv) A lender otherwise determined by AmeriCorps to be eligible to receive disbursements from the National Service Trust.

Silver Scholar education award means the financial assistance available under this part for which an individual in an approved Silver Scholar position may be eligible.

Summer of Service education award means the financial assistance available under this part for which an individual in an approved Summer of Service position may be eligible.

Term of service means—

(1) For an individual serving in an approved AmeriCorps position, one of the terms of service specified in § 2522.220 of this chapter

(2) For an individual serving in an approved Silver Scholar position, not less than 350 hours during a one-year period

(3) For an individual serving in an approved Summer of Service position, not less than 100 hours during the summer months of a single year.

Subpart B—Eligibility for an Education Award

§ 2525.10 When can an Eligible Individual receive an education award from the National Service Trust?

(a) *General.* An Eligible Individual is entitled to receive an education award from the National Service Trust if that person:

(1) Is a citizen or national of the United States or a lawful permanent resident alien of the United States; and,

(2) Met the applicable eligibility requirements for the approved national service program as appropriate; and,

(3) Either:

(i) Is certified by their supervising entity to have successfully completed a term of service—whether a full-time 1,700-hour term corresponding to a full education award or a less than full-time term of service with a corresponding partial award amount described in § 2525.100(b)—as certified under § 2525.15; or

(ii) For a pro-rated education award amount described in § 2525.100(c), is certified by their supervising entity to have completed at least 15 percent of the originally-approved term of service and performed satisfactorily prior to being granted a release for compelling personal circumstances, consistent with § 2522.230(a) of this chapter.

(b) *Prohibition on duplicate benefits.* An Eligible Individual who receives a post-service benefit in lieu of an education award may not receive an education award for the same term of service.

(c) *Penalties for false information.* Any individual who makes a materially false statement or representation in connection with the approval or disbursement of an education award or

other payment from the National Service Trust may be liable for the recovery of funds and subject to civil and criminal sanctions.

§ 2525.15 Upon what basis may an entity responsible for the supervision of an Eligible Individual certify that the Eligible Individual successfully completed a term of service?

(a) An Eligible Individual's supervising entity must certify that the individual has successfully completed a term of service. The individual successfully completed a term of service if the individual has:

(1) Completed the number of service hours required;

(2) Satisfactorily performed on assignments, tasks, or projects;

(3) Met any performance criteria as determined by the program and communicated to the member; and

(4) Fulfilled any other enrollment and program requirements to earn an education award.

(b) A certification by the supervising entity that an individual did or did not successfully complete a term of service will be deemed to incorporate an end-of-term evaluation.

§ 2525.20 Under what circumstances is an Eligible Individual who does not complete an approved term of service eligible to receive a pro-rated education award?

(a) *Release for compelling personal circumstances.* An Eligible Individual who is released before they complete an approved term of service is eligible for a pro-rated education award if their supervising entity:

(1) Released the Eligible Individual for compelling personal circumstances in accordance with the requirements of § 2522.230(a) of this chapter, including requirements for maintaining documentation of the basis for the entity's decision;

(2) Certifies that the Eligible Individual:

(i) Performed satisfactorily before they were granted a release for compelling personal circumstances; and

(ii) Completed at least 15 percent of the originally approved term of service.

(b) *Release for cause.* An individual who is released for cause before they