

For More Information

AmeriCorps Iowa

Call 1-800-308-5987 or visit www.volunteeriowa.org/ameriCorps

Disability Program Navigators

 – located in regional workforce centers.

For a list of navigators in Iowa, visit www.iowaworkforce.org/access/navigatorcontact.html

Social Security Work Incentive Liaisons

 – located in SSA field offices.

For a list of liaisons and their contact information, visit www.rcep7.org/~ssawork/liaisons.html

The Social Security Work Site

Call 1-800-772-1213 or visit <http://www.ssa.gov/work/index.html>

Iowans Making Plans About Careers Together (IMPACT)

– provides benefits planning assistance. Call 1-888-291-7754 or visit www.impactiowa.org

Your Local Department of Human Services Office

For contact information and location nearest you, call (515) 281-6899 or 1-800-972-2017 or visit www.dhs.state.ia.us

AmeriCorps engages more than 75,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet community needs in education, the environment, public safety, homeland security, and other areas. AmeriCorps is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, which also oversees Senior Corps and Learn and Serve America.

AmeriCorps is available to all, without regard to race, color, national origin, disability, age, sex, political affiliation, or in most instances, religion.

This brochure is available in other formats upon request.



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AmeriCorps Service and Your Benefits
Qualifying may be easier than you think.

Did you know that many benefits may not be affected if you become an AmeriCorps Volunteer?

Serving as an AmeriCorps volunteer can change your life. But it doesn't necessarily mean benefits you receive as a result of a disability will change.

This guide is intended to help you find out how full- and part-time AmeriCorps service may affect your benefits. The most important thing for you to know is that everyone's situation is different. However, using your case worker and other available resources, it is easier than ever to find information about your benefits.

Because income guidelines change from year to year, this guide gives general information about the types of benefits for which you might qualify as an AmeriCorps volunteer. We're glad you're considering an AmeriCorps service position.

How AmeriCorps Compensation May Impact Your Other Benefit

AmeriCorps Benefits That Likely Won't Impact Your Other Benefits

- Educational awards
- Child care allowances
- Health insurance

AmeriCorps Benefits More Likely to Impact Your Other Benefits

- Shelter and food (may qualify as unearned income for SSI)
- Stipend (may qualify as earned income or wages for SS)

* Trial work period: allows you to test your ability to work for at least nine months. You receive full benefits regardless of how much you earn. In 2006, a trial work month is one in which you earn \$620 or more.

Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA): In order to be eligible for benefits, your income must be below an amount that is considered "Substantial Gainful Activity." After a trial work period of nine months, you may work up to another 36 months if your income is below SGA. In 2006, this is \$860 or more per month; if you're blind, that amount is \$1450.

Student: a) neither married nor head of a household, b) under age 22, c) regular attending school, college, or training (AmeriCorps) designed to prepare you for a paying job.

Earned Income Exclusion: your wages or stipend are not counted against you.

AmeriCorps and Social Security Benefits

SSDI: As an AmeriCorps volunteer, your income will be evaluated under the trial work period* or Substantial Gainful Activity* definitions.

SSI: As an AmeriCorps volunteer, you may meet the definition of student* to allow for an earned income exclusion.*

Other benefits which you currently receive, including medical benefits, may be impacted by your participation in AmeriCorps. Please refer to the contact information in this brochure for further information about AmeriCorps and your benefits.

Eligibility for Other Benefits

There are other benefits available that you may become eligible for as an AmeriCorps volunteer. You may qualify for cash, food, and medical assistance based on your income and participation in work activity.

