

## 2020-2021 Award Stipulations Document

### Using Your Education Award

1. You may use the award to repay *qualified* student loans and to pay *current* educational expenses at *eligible* institutions of higher education and training programs.
2. You may apply the Education Award to the next semester's education expenses for tuition and/or the cost of attendance through the financial aid office on your campus. You can access the award in full or in part until the total amount is used.
3. You may save the award for up to 7 years and use it later to go towards graduate programs, continuing education, trade and specialty school, and study abroad.
4. Some graduate programs will also match the Education Award!

### Pay Educational Expenses

You can use your education award to pay *current educational expenses* at *eligible schools* and at certain *GI Bill-approved educational programs for veterans*.

***Eligible schools*** are higher educational institutions, both domestic and foreign, that currently participate in the Department of Education's Title IV student aid programs. They are referred to as "Title IV schools." This category includes most post-secondary colleges, universities, and technical schools. If the school offers students federal student aid such as Stafford Loans, William D. Ford Federal Direct Loans, Federal Perkins Loans, Stafford Loans, and Public Health Service Loans, it means the institution participates in the Title IV program and is a "Title IV school."

***GI Education Bill Programs:*** The award can also be used for educational expenses associated with enrollment in *programs of education, apprenticeships, or job trainings approved for educational benefits under the Montgomery G.I. Bill and the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill*. Regarding the education award, such programs are referred to as "GI Bill approved programs".

If the GI-Bill approved program is offered by a Title IV school, the award can pay for current education expenses by virtue of it falling under the category of being a Title IV school. If the GI-Bill approved program is NOT offered by a Title IV school, it is referred to as a "GI-Only Program" and special rules apply.

The rules for using the education award at GI-Only Programs are based upon the date the award was certified (approved) by an authorized AmeriCorps program staff, and whether the AmeriCorps alumnus is a veteran.

- A Segal AmeriCorps Education Award certified on or after December 23, 2011 can be used if the member is a veteran.
- An award certified between October 1, 2009 and December 22, 2011 can be used by both veterans and non-veterans.
- No award certified prior to October 1, 2009 can be used for GI-Only programs, even if the alumni is a veteran.

***Eligible educational expenses include:***

- **Title IV courses:** The Cost of Attendance (COA) as determined by the institution for a degree or certificate program at a Title IV school. The COA may include tuition, books and supplies, transportation, room and board, and other expenses. The institution's Financial Aid Office determines a student's COA, based on U.S. Department of Education regulations and guidance.
- **Non-Title IV educational courses offered by a Title IV institution:** tuition and fees normally assessed a student for a course or program of study by the institution, including costs for rental or purchase of any books or supplies required of all students in the same course of study.
- [See Section 2525.20 of the Code of Federal Regulations](#) for additional information on *eligible expenses* for students taking non-Title IV courses, students taking correspondence courses, students with disabilities, and students engaged in cooperative education programs.
- Costs associated with courses or programs authorized under the Montgomery G.I. Bill and the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill. A US Department of Veterans Affairs-approved Certifying Official can determine covered costs.

**Current educational expenses** are expenses that you incurred after the start of your AmeriCorps service. Expenses that pre-date your AmeriCorps service are not considered "current." However, if you have a qualified student loan to pay for expenses incurred prior to your AmeriCorps service, you can use your award to repay the qualified loan.

If you withdraw from a school where you have used the education award, the school may be required to refund the Trust. If any refund is owed, it is credited back to your education award account, and is subject to the award's original expiration date (seven years from the date the award was earned).

In some cases, the education award can affect the process of receiving additional financial aid through FAFSA. Please consult your institution's Financial Aid Office to ensure your financial assistance needs are properly addressed. You can provide your Financial Aid Officer with the letter [FAFSA Guidance for Financial Aid Officers](#) that we make available to educational institutions.

### **Repay Qualified Student Loans**

The Segal AmeriCorps Education Award can only be used to repay the *qualified student loans* listed below:

- **Loans backed by the federal government under Title IV of the Higher Education Act (except PLUS Loans to parents of students)** - Examples include: Stafford Loans, Perkins Loans, Wm. D. Ford Federal Direct Loans, Federal Consolidated Loans, Supplement Loans to Students, & Guaranteed Student Loans.
- **Loans under Titles VII or VIII of the Public Service Health Act** - Examples include: HEAL, HPSL, Nursing Student Loans, Primary Care Loans, & Loans for Disadvantaged Students.
- **Loans made by a state agency**, including state institutions of higher education

The Segal AmeriCorps Education Award cannot repay any other type of loan, even if the loan was obtained for educational purposes at eligible schools or programs. You can use your award to repay defaulted students loans, as long as the loan meets the definition of *qualified student loan*.

### **Loan Forbearance**

Individuals who serve in an approved program may be eligible to have the repayment of their qualified students loans postponed while serving. This postponement is called *forbearance*. You may be eligible for loan forbearance based on your national service. While interest may continue to accrue during your service, if you successfully complete the term of service the National Service Trust will pay all or a portion of the qualified loan's interest that accrued during your service.

## **Forbearance Eligibility**

Most federally-guaranteed student loans are eligible for forbearance. If your loan does not qualify for forbearance based on your AmeriCorps service, you may be eligible for another type of deferment or forbearance. Contact your loan holder to determine eligibility and options. The Trust can only pay accrued interest for qualified student loans. If your loan is in default, it may not be eligible for forbearance.

You can apply for forbearance using your [My AmeriCorps](#) account.

Contact your loan holder if you do not hear from them within four weeks of submitting the forbearance request.