



YouthServe AmeriCorps Frequently Asked Questions



? **What is YouthServe AmeriCorps?**

AmeriCorps is a national service initiative that engages citizens in full-time or part-time community service. YouthServe AmeriCorps places adult (aged 21 and up) Members at youth-serving agencies in Western Massachusetts, where they develop and implement programs that serve and empower young people. [More information and application available at www.dialself.org/ameriCorps.](http://www.dialself.org/ameriCorps)

? **How much money will I make?**

Members receive a living allowance of up to \$12,100, paid biweekly in equal installments over a ten-month period. The living allowance is taxable income.

? **Will that be enough money to live on?**

Most YouthServe Members find that the living allowance is adequate to cover their needs. AmeriCorps free health insurance and childcare assistance for qualifying Members. Many YouthServe Members qualify for additional assistance like Food Stamps. Some Members also choose to work part-time.

? **What are the term's start and end dates?**

The program will run from mid-September through mid-July.

? **How old do I have to be?**

The minimum age for YouthServe is 21. There is no maximum age.

? **Does the program offer health insurance?**

Yes. Coverage has a \$100 deductible for the year, and covers hospital visits, diagnosis and treatment, tests, equipment, ambulance, and preventative exams. There are dollar limits to benefits. Prescriptions are covered on a reimbursement basis. Basic dental is included.

? **What about the education award?**

Upon successful completion of service, members will receive an Education Award from the Corporation for National and Community Service. The Education Award amount for 2011-2012 is \$5,550. Members can use the voucher to pay off student loans or future tuition costs for any educational institution that participates in Title IV Federal Aid Programs. The educational award is taxable income in the year it is used.

? **What type of service would I do, and where would I do it?**

Member service is focused on Positive Youth Development. Each Member is placed at his/her own service site. Site selection is part of the application and interview process. Members select their top three site choices, and then interview with the Site Supervisors until a match is found.

? **What are the minimum requirements?**

A member must be a U.S. Citizen, U.S. National, or lawful Permanent Resident of the U.S., have a high school diploma or GED, have reliable transportation and a valid driver's license, and must be at least 21 years of age. Members are required to complete a background check process with YouthServe and at their service sites.