

Volunteer Maryland Coordinators (VMC) Benefits

Living Stipend

The living stipend of \$13,000 (FT)/\$6,500 (PT) is provided to offset some of the living costs associated with performing a year of national and community service. The stipend is paid bi-weekly through the Maryland State payroll system. Federal, state, and social security taxes are deducted from the VMC's bi-weekly check of \$565 (FT)/\$282 (PT).

Post-Service Benefit

At the successful completion of their service year, VMCs become eligible to receive a \$5,350 (FT)/\$2,675 (PT) education award. These funds can be used to pay qualified school loans and/or education expenses up to seven years in the future. The post-service benefit is for the VMC only; s/he cannot transfer it to another person. The post-service benefit is subject to taxes for the year(s) in which it is used.

Health Insurance (Full-time only)

Health insurance is provided through AmeriCorps and administered by SRC, an Aetna Company. It is a basic policy with a \$100 deductible, and it includes prescription coverage, a \$10,000 accidental death benefit, and dental coverage. It is only available to full-time VMCs who do not already have health insurance. If a VMC has health insurance upon enrollment in AmeriCorps/VM on September 15, 2010, s/he cannot switch to the AmeriCorps policy. The AmeriCorps insurance covers the VMC only.

Child Care (Full-time only)

Child care is available, fully-paid, to those full-time VMCs who qualify by income and do not already receive child care assistance from another source. For purposes of determining income eligibility, the gross monthly household income includes the VMC's living stipend.

Student Loan Forbearance

If VMCs have qualified student loans in good standing, they may apply for both deferment and forbearance. Deferment means that they do not have to make payments while in service. Forbearance means that if they successfully complete their year of service, the Corporation for National and Community Service will pay the interest that accrued on their loan during the year. The interest paid by the Corporation is subject to taxes for the year in which payment is made.