



AmeriCorps



VHCB
AmeriCorps Program

The Guide to Life After AmeriCorps



To Our Valued AmeriCorps Members,

As your service year is coming to a conclusion, I want to thank you all for your service. When you signed up for this program, you took the AmeriCorps Oath and in doing so, promised to get things done for America. I've been witness to each of you doing just that. I saw you persevere through adversity and in doing so, stretched your own boundaries. I've witnessed you learning to see from a different point of view as you've faced conflict and sought common ground. I'm aware each of you have taken action and become an integral part of getting things done in Vermont. As your service term comes to a close, I remind and encourage you to carry this commitment with you beyond this year.

You are one more of Seventy-five thousand members this year that will spread out across the country or beyond, and will continue to do your part to help make America safer, healthier, more fair and more just. I hope your service in AmeriCorps has helped you not just believe in, but to live a fundamental truth, and that is that people who love their community can change it. That is the genius and promise of AmeriCorps. It's one of the reasons I love working with this program, and why I remain hopeful about the future. It's heartening to know there are such striving, dreaming citizens like all of you in the world. On behalf of VHCB, we are proud of you. Congratulations!

Francis Sharpstene

VHCB AmeriCorps Program Director



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STAY CONNECTED!

As an AmeriCorps member, you're joining a network of 1 million individuals who have committed to a lifetime of service to their country and community. We love to hear where you are and how you continue to get things done in your community, where ever that is. Stay up to date on program happenings & updates by following Vermont AmeriCorps programs on social media:

- [Facebook](#) (@AmeriCorps.VHCB)
- [Instagram](#) (@vhcb_ameriCorps)
- [Twitter](#) (@VHCB_AmeriCorps)
- [LinkedIn](#) (@VHCB AmeriCorps)

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(802) 828-3250
acorps@vhcb.org

SerVermont
280 State Drive
Waterbury, VT 05671
(802) 585-9382
<https://servermont.vermont.gov/>

Use the network

Connect to your fellow alumni using the AmeriCorps Alums network, LinkedIn, or your sponsor or service site.

Join the VHCB AmeriCorps Alumni LinkedIn Group: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13928238/>

Join the AmeriCorps Alumni network at [Service Year Alliance](#), join the community and stay in the know of special discounts and benefits!

Stay in the Know

Make sure you keep your email address up to date on [My.AmeriCorps.gov](#) so we can share AmeriCorps news, jobs, and events. Also, sign up for email updates on [here](#).

Keep your contact information updated for program communication (alumni news, etc.) by filling out this [form](#).

Share Your Service Story!

We love to hear your service stories, how your service shaped you and the journey you are on due to your time with VHCB AmeriCorps. Read some of the Alumni Stories we have on our [website](#) – interested in sharing yours? Reach out to program staff!



EDUCATION

Ed Segel Education Award

After successfully completing your AmeriCorps term of service, you are eligible to receive a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award. You can use your Segal AmeriCorps Education Award to repay qualified student loans and to pay certain education costs at qualified institutions of higher education and training programs.



- You may use your education award to both repay qualified student loans and to pay for current education expenses.
- You can access the entire award or part of it until the total amount has been used or the award expires.
- You can use your award within seven years of completing your term of service.

To access, manage, or check the balance of your award, log into the [AmeriCorps Portal](#)

To learn more on ways to use your award or to learn about the tax implications related to the use of your award, visit [AmeriCorps.gov/EducationAward](https://www.americorps.gov/EducationAward)

**You are eligible to extend your education award if you have completed a subsequent AmeriCorps term. This extension will equal the same amount of time of your term. If needed, you will be able to apply for this extension through the AmeriCorps Portal.

Accessing your Tax Documents (Ed Segel Award)

The Ed Segel Education Award is [taxable](#) in the year that it is paid/used. You should receive a [Form 1099-Misc](#) and should be reported to the IRS as “other income”. If you do not receive this document, misplaced it, or need tax statements from previous tax years, you can find all statements in the [AmeriCorps Portal](#).

1. After logging into the Portal, navigate to *Member Home*
2. Under the menu settings, there should be an option to access your Tax Documents.

You are able to view & print all tax documents from this page.



EDUCATION

Interest Accrual Payments

Individuals who have successfully completed a term of service in AmeriCorps or Silver Scholars are eligible to have the Trust pay as much as 100% of the interest that accrued on their qualified student loan during their service. The portion that the Trust will pay is determined by the type of service (full or part-time) and the length of your service period. The Trust will only pay interest on qualified student loans, as described on the [Using your Segal AmeriCorps Education Award](#) web page.

1) After you have completed your service and received notification of your award, you can go into your account in My AmeriCorps.



2) In your home page, click on the **“Create Interest Accrual”** link at the top of the page to bring up the page to request the payment.



3) When you click on “submit,” a notice will be sent electronically to your loan company. A record of your request will appear in your account home page.



4) Follow the instructions. You will select the appropriate term of service and type of loan and identify the holder of your student loan.



EDUCATION



Schools of National Service

Schools of National Service recognize that AmeriCorps alumni are a valuable asset to the academic community. These schools seek to reward their service and incentivize their education by providing benefits to students who choose to serve. In return, institutions receive students who are trained leaders, community-minded and driven to make a difference in the world.

Possible Benefits could include:

- Tuition matching for the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award (could be at the undergraduate or graduate level and could be specific to a school or program)
- Scholarship or fellowship to AmeriCorps alumni
- Priority points for admission consideration for AmeriCorps alumni
- In-state tuition for AmeriCorps alumni
- Expenses like books and supplies, room and board, or other personal costs like transportation for AmeriCorps alumni
- One-year enrollment deferrals for individuals to serve in AmeriCorps
- Academic credit for AmeriCorps experience
- Other incentives that vary by institution



NEXT STOP: EMPLOYMENT

Employers of National Service

Employers of National Service (EONS) recognize AmeriCorps alumni and Returned Peace Corps Volunteers have skills and experience to get the job done. In recognition of the unique and transferable skills that participants develop during national service, Employers of National Service builds a talent pipeline to connect AmeriCorps and Peace Corps alumni with employers from every sector to create recruitment, hiring, and advancement opportunities. Through this initiative, employers have access to a pool of dedicated, highly qualified, and mission-oriented talent, and national service alumni have opportunities to translate their skills in the workplace.

Examples of EONS that operate in Vermont are:

- [State of Vermont Forests, Parks and Recreation](#)
- [Committee on Temporary Shelter](#)
- [Champlain Housing Trust](#)
- [National Park Service](#)
- [ReSource](#)
- [Federal Departments & Agencies](#)
- [American Red Cross](#)
- [Evernorth](#)
- [City of Burlington](#)



Alumni looking for opportunities and to search this network click [here](#)

If you are an employer looking to learn more on how to join this network, please click [here](#)



NEXT STOP: EMPLOYMENT

As you start preparing to apply to jobs or for a higher education degree, prepare your resume including your VHCB service. If you are looking for examples on how to represent your service in your resume, review our [Resume Examples Document](#)

- Ensure your AmeriCorps experience is placed under your "Work Experience" section, NOT your volunteer or community involvement section
- Be sure to include action words
- Include AmeriCorps as well as your host site in the description

Look Through These Job Boards:

[VT Farm to Plate](#) (Strengthening Vermont Food Systems)

[Idealist](#) (Non-Profit, Change-oriented Orgs.)

[State of Vermont Careers](#)

[Conservation Job Board](#)

[North American Association for Environmental Education](#)

[The National Affordable Housing Management Association](#)

[VT Affordable Housing Coalition](#)

[USAJobs.gov](#)

[Indeed](#)

[Seven Days VT](#)

[Common Good VT](#) (non-profit organizations)

[Vermont Business for Social Responsibility](#)

*Perfect your Elevator Pitch and prepare for your interview with these tips on **the [AmeriCorps website!](#)***



Service Timeline

Below is a suggested timeline to prepare for Life After AmeriCorps. It's never too early to start planning for your future. Also included are key reminders related to your service benefits. If your term of service is shorter, it may be appropriate to condense your timeline.

Four or five months before end of term

- Attend virtual and in-person career fairs
- Continue tracking accomplishments and contacts
- Set up informational interviews
- Consider whether another year of AmeriCorps or Peace Corps service is right for you
- Check out the various national service [job boards](#) & [Employers of National Service](#)

Two to three months before end of term

- Start applying for jobs or next AmeriCorps/Peace Corps opportunity (up to four years for AmeriCorps & 5 years for Peace Corps)
- Continue tracking accomplishments and contacts
- Make sure your accomplishments are reflected in your resume & LinkedIn
- Use the AmeriCorps Alums site to connect with AmeriCorps chapters in your area

Post Service

- Complete student loan Interest Accrual form (if applicable)
- Update email address on My.AmeriCorps.gov & VHCB Contact Form
- Join the [VHCB LinkedIn Alumni Group](#)
- Share your Alumni Story!
- Use your Education Award within seven years of completing
- Purchase/Sign-up for new health plan

Health Plan Special Enrollment

At the conclusion of your service, you are able to purchase a qualified health plan from the federal healthcare marketplace outside of the annual open enrollment period. You have 60 days from your service end date to sign-up for healthcare coverage. When you conclude your service, you will be able to purchase a qualified health plan immediately, rather than waiting until open enrollment season.

Use this link to explore options through the Vermont's healthcare marketplace, Vermont Health Connect: <https://portal.healthconnect.vermont.gov/VTHBELand/welcome.action>

For more information on Federal Marketplace and on Special Enrollment, head to [Healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov)

