

# Preparing for Life After AmeriCorps

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New Americans VISTA Leader



Catholic  
Charities  
USA®

*Working to Reduce Poverty in America.*



# Agenda

- Education
  - Segal Education Award
  - Managing Loans
- Establishing a Career
  - Non-Competitive Eligibility
- Communicating About Your Previous VISTA Service
  - Resumes
  - Cover letters
  - Interviews
- Serve again
  - Questions?

What am I going to do  
after AmeriCorps?

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy blue. The shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, creating a dynamic, layered effect on the right side of the slide.

# Education

## ➤ College or University

- Do your research
- Look into Ed Award Matching Schools ([here!](#)), Scholarships to AmeriCorps Alumni, schools that pay the application fee for AmeriCorps Alumni, and schools that provide credit hours for AmeriCorps service
- Put due dates for applications, tests, scholarship deadlines, etc on a calendar
- Represent your VISTA service on your application by referring it to “AmeriCorps VISTA”
- Use your VAD to illustrate the tasks you completed and use data numbers

# Segal Education Award

- Received upon successful completion of your term of service
- Can be used to go to a Title IV school (colleges, universities, trade schools, and overseas schools) of repaying qualified student loan
- Must be used within 7 years of receiving it
- Can't be transferred, unless you are at least 55, then you can transfer to child or grandchild
- Award is subject to taxes in the year it is used
- Stretch the award over time, rather than a one time payment

# Using Your Education Award: Loan Payment

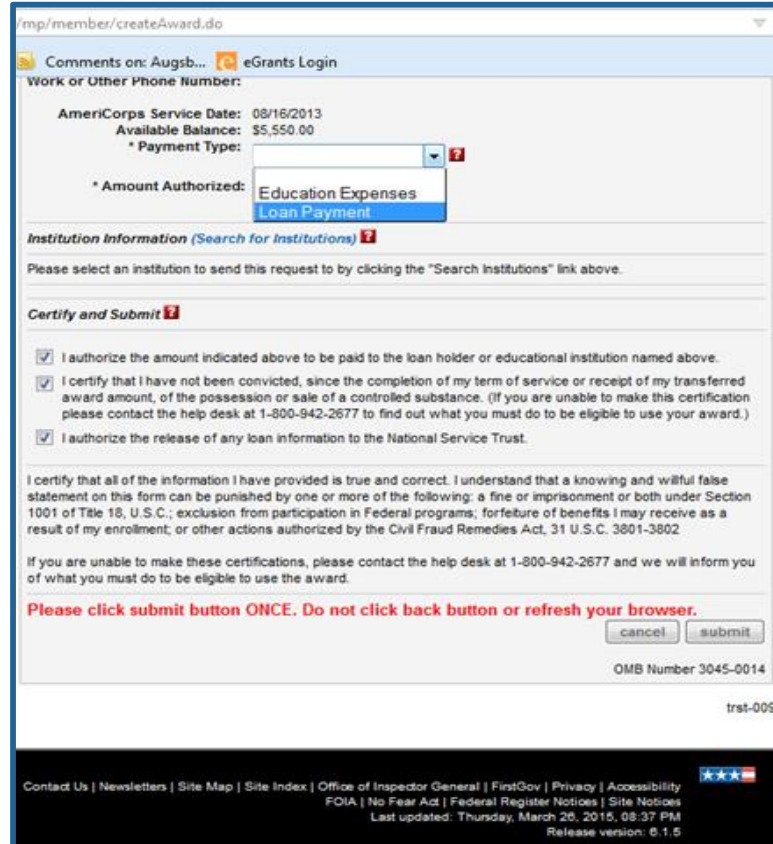


Corporation for  
**NATIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE** ★★☆☆

HOME

## My AmeriCorps

- Applicant Home
- My Living Allowance
- My Tax Statements
- My In-Service Benefits
- My Education Award
  - Create Forbearance Request
  - Create Interest Payment Request
  - Create Education Award Payment Request
- My Service Letter
- My Travel Request Profile
- End of Service Benefit Selection
- Events
  - Search Events
- My Resources
- Contact My AmeriCorps



/mp/member/createAward.do

Comments on: Augsb... eGrants Login

Work or Other Phone Number:

AmeriCorps Service Date: 08/16/2013  
Available Balance: \$5,550.00  
\* Payment Type:   
\* Amount Authorized:

**Institution Information** (Search for Institutions) ?

Please select an institution to send this request to by clicking the "Search Institutions" link above.

**Certify and Submit** ?

- I authorize the amount indicated above to be paid to the loan holder or educational institution named above.
- I certify that I have not been convicted, since the completion of my term of service or receipt of my transferred award amount, of the possession or sale of a controlled substance. (If you are unable to make this certification please contact the help desk at 1-800-942-2677 to find out what you must do to be eligible to use your award.)
- I authorize the release of any loan information to the National Service Trust.

I certify that all of the information I have provided is true and correct. I understand that a knowing and willful false statement on this form can be punished by one or more of the following: a fine or imprisonment or both under Section 1001 of Title 18, U.S.C.; exclusion from participation in Federal programs; forfeiture of benefits I may receive as a result of my enrollment; or other actions authorized by the Civil Fraud Remedies Act, 31 U.S.C. 3801-3802

If you are unable to make these certifications, please contact the help desk at 1-800-942-2677 and we will inform you of what you must do to be eligible to use the award.

**Please click submit button ONCE. Do not click back button or refresh your browser.**

OMB Number 3045-0014

trst-009

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# Using Your Education Award: Interest Payment



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  - Search Events
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\* Term of service: 10/11/2016 to 07/14/2017 ?

**Institution Information** (Search for Institutions) ?

Please select an institution to send this request to by clicking the "Search Institutions" link above.

Comments:

If you have more than one loan with the institution you specified you may specify a particular loan number and loan type.

**Certify and Submit**

I authorize the release of any loan information to the National Service Trust.

I certify that all of the information I have provided is true and correct. I understand that a knowing and willful false statement on this form can be punished by a fine or imprisonment or both pursuant to Section 1001 of Title 18, USC.

If you are unable to make these certifications, please contact the help desk at 1-800-942-2677.

**Please click submit button ONCE. Do not click back button or refresh your browser.**

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trst-008

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# Managing Loans During and After Service

## During

- Federal Loan Forbearance
- Private Loan Deferment

## After

- 15% Back On Perkins Loan
  - Must have chosen end-of-service cash stipend
  - Need to have about 40,000 in Perkins Loans
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> year- an additional 15%
  - (2 years AmeriCorps and Peace Corps forgives 70%)

## ➤ Income-Based Repayment\*

- 25 years loan balance will be forgiven

## ➤ Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program\*

- 10 Years of payments working full time at a nonprofit or government agency, then loans forgiven

- ❑ [Crunch The Numbers](#) to see how much you might (or might not) save, if on an Income-Based Repayment or Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program

\* Can also opt to do during service



# Establishing a Career

- ❑ Do your research
- Use your VISTA Alumni Status to your advantage!
  - ❑ Look at [Employers of National Service](#). These are employers that love to hire AmeriCorps Alumni
  - ❑ Network with AmeriCorps across the USA
    - ❑ LinkedIn
  - ❑ Look at the [VISTA Campus Job Board](#)
  - ❑ [Eli Segal Fellowship](#)
    - Provides one individual to work with CEO's Office of CNCS
  - ❑ Look into Non-Competitive Eligibility Benefit

# Non-Competitive Eligibility (NCE)

- Federal Jobs
- Valid for 1-year after completion of service
- Can be extended by a hiring agency for a total to 3-years, if another activity warrants it (education, military service, hiring freeze)
- Allows candidate to be hired, if qualified, without having to go through the competitive process (makes it faster to hire someone with NCE, but does not ensure a job)

# How to Apply with NCE:

- ❑ Go to [USA Jobs](#) (majority of federal jobs are here)
- ❑ Write in your cover letter you have NCE through previous service with AmeriCorps VISTA
- ❑ Proof of NCE (on your My AmeriCorps Portal- your Service letter)

# USA JOBS

## Who May Apply ?

Are you:

- a current or former Federal civilian employee who holds or held a [non-temporary appointment](#)
  - In the [competitive service](#) in the Executive Branch or in a position not in the Executive branch specifically included in the competitive service by statute, or
  - In an [excepted service](#) position covered by an [interchange agreement](#), or
  - Eligible for [reinstatement](#)?
- A Veteran eligible for [veterans' preference](#) or separated from the armed forces under honorable conditions after 3 years or more of continuous military service?
- A person with [non-competitive appointment](#) eligibility?
  - No - I do not fall into one of these categories and only want to see jobs open to the **general public**.
  - Yes - I fall into one of these categories and want to see all jobs open to applicants with the above eligibilities, such as **federal employees**.

[Reset Form](#)

Search Jobs

https://my.americorps.gov/mp/member/refreshPrintServiceLetters.do

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My AmeriCorps  
Your Place to Manage Your AmeriCorps Experience

Contact My AmeriCorps | Site Help | Logout  
FONT SIZE: Default | Large

HOME

## My AmeriCorps

### Print Service Letters

From this page, you can print out letters certifying your time of service in an AmeriCorps program. To print a letter, select a term of service and then select the type of letter you need. Type in the name and address of the intended recipient and click the "print" button to print the requested service letter. Form to be printed can be viewed using [Adobe Reader](#) software.

[Click here for help.](#)

\* Service Term:  
09/27/2013 to 09/26/2014

\* Letter Type:  
VISTA Alumn Certification of Service

Type name and address of recipient:  
USA JOBS  
Government Department  
1234 USA Drive,  
D.C, America

cancel print

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\*Available after your service year is successfully completed, you can print your “VISTA Alumni Certification of Service” letter



04/22/2015

USA JOBS  
Government Department  
1234 USA Drive,  
D.C, America

Dear Sir or Madam:

VISTAs serve in a variety of situations where the application of individual talent and dedication bring an added dimension to federal, state, and private nonprofit organizations assisting low-income communities.

VISTAs serve under the direct supervision of the sponsoring organization not part of VISTA or the Corporation for National and Community Service. The sponsoring organization can furnish details of the VISTA's job description and performance. Should you wish to contact the former sponsoring organization, we will be happy to forward their address if it is still available.

This is to certify that [REDACTED] served as a full-time VISTA under Part A, B, or C of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act for the term of service indicated below:

**Dates of Service:** 09/27/2013 to 09/26/2014

**State:** MN

**Stipend:** \$0.00

If this office can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at 1-800-942-2677.

Sincerely,

D. Paul Monteiro  
Director, AmeriCorps\*VISTA

# Communicating About Your Previous VISTA service

- ❑ Represent your VISTA service on your application by referring it to “AmerCorps VISTA”
- ❑ Use the Definition (when needed): AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) is a full-time, 12 month program, whose members help build the capacity of nonprofit organizations and local government agencies that alleviate poverty
- ❑ Use your VAD to illustrate the tasks you completed and use data numbers

# Resumes

- Create a master resume, then customize for each audience/position
- Make contact info clear, prominent, and on top
- Reverse Chronological (Most recent experiences first)
- Experience first, education second
- 1 Page
- Use data (quantify successes)
- Ditch “references available upon request”
- Use VAD objectives to help write your resume
- Use strong action words



# How Can We Make This Better?

## **AMERICORPS VISTA**

### Volunteer

- Volunteered with Rose City Youth, an organization that runs after-school programs for at-risk youth
- Managed volunteers and helped create new volunteer positions
- Helped with fundraising and grant writing

Portland, Oregon

August 2014-August 2015

## Rose CITY YOUTH

### AMERICORPS VISTA VOLUNTEER MANAGER

Portland, Oregon

August 2014-August 2015

- Committed 1-year of full-time national service to nonprofit organization serving at-risk youth in Portland, Oregon's Northeast neighborhoods
- Contributed to significant expansion of organization capacity via increase volunteer engagement, fundraising, and grant writing
- Increased size of volunteer program by 70% through recruitment, screening, and managing volunteers for Rose City after-school programs
- Designed and led recruitment and outreach efforts for 3 new volunteer positions: Social Media Coordinator, Book Club Facilitator, and Fundraising Assistant
- Participated in internal grant writing and annual fundraising drive

# Cover Letters and Interviews

## Cover letters

- Address to hiring manager's name
- Don't start with your name
- Do your research!
- Focus on relevant skills and strengths and link to experiences
- Make it clear how you would be a good fit for them

## Interviews

- Practice storytelling and talking points
- Do your research!
- Come with specific questions/  
excitement about certain aspects of the job
- Send a thank you note or follow up email
- Come with copies of Resume, Cover Letters, Reference Sheet
- Over dressing is always better than under dressing

# Serving Again

- Another year of VISTA
  - At your site
  - Become a VISTA Leader
- Another AmeriCorps program
  - NCCC
  - State/National
- Peace Corps



# Resources

## Education:

<https://www.nationalservice.gov/resources/ed-award/go-school>

<https://www.nationalservice.gov/resources/ed-award/pay-back-loans>

<https://www.princetonreview.com/college-major-search>

## Career:

<https://www.vistacampus.gov/resources/translating-vista-service-your-r%C3%A9sum%C3%A9-and-career>

## Mis:

<https://www.vistacampus.gov/resources/end-service-transition-preparing-life-after-amicorps-vista>

# Questions?

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Catholic Charities USA

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