

AmeriCorps Education Award Matching In Montana

Updated 2021



Campus Compact
Montana

Background: For much of the twenty five plus year history of AmeriCorps, Montana’s higher education service consortium, the Montana Campus Compact (MTCC) has operated both AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps VISTA programs supporting authentic campus-community partnerships, engaging college students in meaningful service and addressing poverty problems and other community needs.

In November 2014, the Montana Campus Compact’s board of directors adopted a resolution to honor the twentieth anniversary of AmeriCorps by offering local campus matches to AmeriCorps and VISTA alum attending an MTCC affiliate institution. By summer 2015, most of the affiliate campuses of the Montana Campus Compact had begun to offer match when alumni use their AmeriCorps Education Awards to pay costs of attendance.

FAQ

What is Campus Compact?

Campus Compact is a national higher education consortium (compact.org) that advances the public purposes of colleges and universities by deepening their ability to improve community life and educate students for civic and social responsibility. In Montana in 2021, seventeen institutions are members.

What is AmeriCorps?

AmeriCorps is a network of local, state, and national service programs that connects over 70,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet community needs in education, the environment, public safety, health, and homeland security. AmeriCorps’ members serve with more than 2,000 non-profits, public agencies, and community organizations. AmeriCorps Members serve in full or part-time positions over as few as 10 weeks and as much as a 12 month period. Upon completion of their service,

members receive a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award of up to \$6,345 to pay for college, graduate school, or to pay back qualified student loans. Those members who serve part time will receive a partial education award. Those members who participate in the VISTA program also have the option to select either the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award or an end-of-service stipend. AmeriCorps’ consists of three programs in which applicants may enroll: (1) VISTA; (2) NCCC; and (3) AmeriCorps State and National.



How do I make use of this match?

Good question. First off, this benefit will cover costs of attendance only, so you will need to be enrolled in one of our affiliate institutions. We recommend going to MTCC's website, mtcompact.org, once there click on "Awards and Scholarships", get the pull down menu, select "Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards." That page lists the institutions in Montana that currently match the award, the extent of the match and whom to contact to request a match.

What is an AmeriCorps Education Award?

The AmeriCorps Education Award or Segal AmeriCorps Education Award officially, is a voucher, awarded to AmeriCorps and VISTA members who successfully complete a term of service. Award amounts vary based upon service term length, and are pegged with the Pell Grant, to increase in value with inflation. It must be used within seven years of issue, and may be used to pay back qualifying student loans and costs of attendance at most higher education institutions.

Is it guaranteed that I get this benefit?

No. Most institutions have placed an upper cap on the number of Education Awards they will match in a year, and you may not be eligible if you already have other scholarships or tuition waivers.

Does this happen automatically?

No, in most cases, you will need to first meet with Financial Aid at the college or university you are attending, explain that you are an AmeriCorps or VISTA alum, and request the match. If you have difficulty, please [email the MTCC staff](#).

Do other states do this?

Many other institutions do this, if you search for "Schools of National Service" you'll get a comprehensive national list on the AmeriCorps website. At this time, that url is:

<https://americorps.gov/partner/partnerships/schools-national-service-search>

As far as we know, Montana Campus Compact is the first state that has adopted the match as an entire statewide network of colleges and universities.

Whom do I ask other questions about my Education Award?

The National Service Trust is part of AmeriCorps and keeps your Education Award until you request that it be dispersed. The National Service Hotline can answer many questions about AmeriCorps education benefits. The National Service Hotline has a toll-free number through which customer service representatives answer general award questions or provide detailed information about specific awards or payments. Representatives also provide assistance for using the My AmeriCorps Online Payment System. Customer service representatives are available Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time) during January and May through September. The hours of operation from February through April and October through December are Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; the Hotline is closed on Friday during these months. The toll-free telephone number is **800-942-2677**. Questions may also be submitted at the National Service Hotline's [Ask a Question](#) page.