



AmeriCorps VISTA Benefits

Ending Hunger Corps: Maine Department of Agriculture Conservation and Forestry

Ending Hunger Corps

Maine Department of
Agriculture, Conservation and
Forestry
18 Elkins Ln, Augusta, ME
04330

Phone: (207) 530-1417
Email: dacf.vista@maine.gov

**For Ending Hunger Corps
program details:**
[www.maine.gov/dacf/about/
commissioners/endinghunger](http://www.maine.gov/dacf/about/commissioners/endinghunger)

**For AmeriCorps benefit
details:** [americorps.gov/
members-volunteers/vista/
benefits](http://americorps.gov/members-volunteers/vista/benefits)

Stipend of \$575.40 (667.66 for Cumberland County) bi-weekly throughout the 12-month term

Choice of \$6,345 education award or cash stipend upon completion of service

Members accrue the end-of-service cash stipend at a rate of \$4.94 per day (approximately \$1,800 for a full year of service). Education award can be to pay off qualified loans, or for educational expenses at Title IV schools.

Education award match

Many colleges and universities across the country actively recruit talented AmeriCorps alumni for their reputation of perseverance, drive, and proven active citizenship. Many also offer incentives such as service scholarships or matching tuition funding to the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award. Be sure to contact these Schools of National Service or other institutions of interest for up-to-date information.



Protection of Public Assistance Benefits While Serving in AmeriCorps VISTA

Members who are eligible to receive assistance or services (i.e., benefits) under any governmental program (e.g., Temporary Aid to Needy Families [TANF], Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income) prior to enrollment as a member or who are receiving such assistance or services during service shall not be denied such benefits or given a decreased benefit because of the member's failure or refusal to register for, seek, or accept employment or training during the period of service. This protection of benefits, provided at 42 U.S.C. § 5044, applies to any governmental program, including federal, state, and local programs. Members may use the service letters provided via their My AmeriCorps account related to public benefits.

10 Days of Sick Leave and 10 Days of Vacation Leave

Forbearance of federally qualified student loans during service term (interest paid by AmeriCorps—Stafford, Perkins, and some private loans, call your lender to ask)

Health Benefits

Members who have health insurance or other health coverage during their service term may enroll in the AmeriCorps VISTA Healthcare Allowance. This allowance is a reimbursement program that covers out-of-pocket costs associated with healthcare. Out-of-pocket expenses may include: your annual deductible, coinsurance, copayments, and other charges for qualified medical expenses and limited dental and vision services. The Healthcare Allowance will help offset these expenses up to \$8,550 in 2021. The Healthcare Allowance does not cover costs associated with purchasing insurance, costs for non-essential health expenses, or charges associated with dependents or other individuals covered under your healthcare plan.

Members who do not have health insurance or other health coverage during their term of service are eligible to enroll in the AmeriCorps VISTA Health Benefit Plan. The plan is available to eligible members at no cost and covers eligible expenses for medical office visits, most lab and x-ray services, limited preventive care (e.g., an annual ob-gyn visit for women), limited dental and vision, medical emergencies, surgical and hospitalization expenses, and certain prescription drug costs. It does not cover pre-existing conditions or care for dependents, including your spouse.

Child Care Reimbursement (if income eligible)

Age of children: Children must be under 13 years of age. Total household income: All income of all family members living in the household is factored into your eligibility. This includes any wages, Social Security Income (SSI), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), public assistance, unemployment, child support, or alimony. Your AmeriCorps living allowance, however, is not factored into determining eligibility. Your state income limit: Each state sets a maximum income limit for eligibility for childcare subsidies. If your family income is above this limit, you cannot receive childcare benefits. Contact the program provider for more information. State childcare benefits may also be available, and you should explore them before making a decision about childcare. Compare the state childcare benefits to the childcare benefits available to AmeriCorps members in the VISTA program, to determine which program best supports your family.

Relocation Allowance for service for those who relocate 50 miles or more (from their home of record)

One-time relocation allotment of \$750 and reimbursement for travel costs (baggage shipment, mileage reimbursement if driving a personal vehicle paid at .40 cents per mile. Close of Service Travel, if you were approved for the relocation travel allowance at the start of your AmeriCorps service with the VISTA program, you will also be provided a travel allowance for travel from your project site back to your home of record when you complete your service.

Non-competitive eligibility for Federal Jobs for 1 year after your term of service

Mileage reimbursement to AmeriCorps sponsored training events & for project/site related travel consistent with staff reimbursement at the site

Networking/professional development

