



AmeriCorps

# Member Resource Guide

Tools for making the most  
of your service year in Illinois





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# Welcome Letter:

As the Executive Director of The Serve Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service, I first want to say thank you for being a part of AmeriCorps. As a Member for program year 2023-2024, you represent counties across Illinois: from as far North as Winnebago, as far West as McDonough, Kankakee representing the East, and as far South as Williamson, and all counties in between. As a Member you represent the very best of Illinois with your commitment to community impact, positive change, and most importantly, service.



The Serve Illinois Commission and the Bureau of Volunteerism and Community Service are committed to supporting your experience as a positive and successful one. Your service reflects on you, the community you serve, and on us. With this great and unique opportunity, we, at The Serve Illinois Commission and the Bureau of Volunteerism and Community Service, are here to work with you to achieve the very best as an AmeriCorps Member.

# Education Benefits:

## ● Segal Education Award

- After successfully completing your AmeriCorps term of service and enrolling in the National Service Trust, you are eligible to receive the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award. You can use the award to repay qualified student loans or to pay current educational expenses at eligible institutions of higher education or training programs. Members who are veterans can use their award at certain GI Bill-approved programs for veterans.
- Eligible institutions of higher education can be domestic or foreign but must participate in the Department of Education's Title IV student aid programs. This includes most post-secondary colleges, universities, and technical schools.
- The Value of a Segal Education Award: The amount of a full-time Segal AmeriCorps Education Award is equivalent to the maximum value of the Pell Grant for the fiscal year in which the term of national service is approved. The award amount varies based on the term of service completed. That is, the award will be larger for a year of full-time service than it will be for a year of three-quarter-, half-, or minimum-time service. For more information, visit [Segal AmeriCorps Education Award | AmeriCorps](#)

# Health Benefits:

- **Public Benefits:** Depending upon your household size and income, you may be eligible for certain benefits available through the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS). These benefits are not funded through AmeriCorps, so eligibility is not guaranteed. If you encounter obstacles applying for benefits or need documentation of your status as an AmeriCorps member, contact your program director for assistance.



- **SNAP:** The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as “Food Stamps,” is administered by IDHS and governed by federal law and the regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Nutrition Services. SNAP provides monthly benefits to help eligible households buy food and seed/plants to grow food at home. Eligibility to receive benefits is based on household size, income, assets, and some household expenses, as determined by the federal government. For more information, visit [Illinois.gov](http://Illinois.gov) - [IL Application for Benefits Eligibility \(ABE\) ABE Home Page](#)



## Health Benefits: *(continued)*

- **Medicaid:** Medicaid provides medical care to individuals who otherwise may not be able to afford



# Medicaid

it. A variety of services are provided, according to state and federal guidelines, depending upon the individual or family circumstances. For more information, visit [Illinois.gov](https://www.illinois.gov) - [IL Application for Benefits Eligibility \(ABE\) ABE Home Page](#)

- **Housing Choice Voucher Program:**

If you need to find affordable housing for your service, the Housing Choice Voucher Program may be able to help you. The program offers rental assistance to extremely low to moderate-income residents. It also offers resources to help these families and individuals find decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market. For more information, visit [Housing Choice Voucher Program Section 8 | HUD.gov / U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)](#)



# Additional Benefits:

There are additional training and entertainment benefits available to AmeriCorps members!

## ● Explore courses from On3Learn

- [AmeriCorps | On3learn](#) is an online education company that offers web-based courses to help AmeriCorps members thrive and excel in their service positions. The courses are free, and they include important information to help you build capacity and feel comfortable and accomplished in your service.
- On3Learn courses are brief (between one and two hours), interactive, and fun.
- To create an account and start learning, scan the QR code below or go to <https://on3learn.digitalchalk.com/>

## ● National Service Summit

- The National Service Summit is an annual event presented by the Serve Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service. The summit celebrates our AmeriCorps members while introducing young adults to resources, information, and opportunities to prepare them for their next stage in life. The summit also serves as a convening of current and potential providers of National Service in Illinois. This one-day, power-packed summit features dynamic presenters across the state.



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