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April 18, 1996



The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
1700 Montgomery Street
Suite 240
San Francisco, CA 94111

Dear Senator *Barbara* Boxer,

Thank you for your letter of February 6, 1996, forwarding a copy of correspondence received by your office from Ms. Kymberly Lyons, concerning her participation in an AmeriCorps program sponsored by the U. S. Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

We have thoroughly reviewed the issues Ms. Lyons' raises in her letter with the USDA AmeriCorps program leadership, and have concluded that this situation was handled appropriately. The documentation developed by the program reflects careful consideration of applicable program requirements and the procedural rights possessed by AmeriCorps Members. The decision to approve a pro-rated education award, as requested by Ms. Lyons, is made by the program. In this instance, the program determined to deny such an award, and we see no compelling reason to revisit that judgment.

Thank you for your interest and support for the Corporation for National Service.

Sincerely,

Harris Wofford
Chief Executive Officer

I'm sorry we did not see a way to help further here.

1201 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20535
Telephone 202-606-5000

Getting Things Done.
AmeriCorps, National Service
Learn and Serve America
National Senior Service Corps



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Soil
Conservation
Service

P.O. Box 2890
Washington, D.C.
20013

June 7, 1995

SUBJECT: Release of Lebrunski Richard from the AmeriCorps Program in Mississippi

TO: Joel Berg, Director of National Service, USDA

I am writing in follow-up to a memo to you from Mr. Richard, dated June 1, 1995. On June 7, 1995, I spoke with Clarence Finley of NRCS who served as the supervisor to Mr. Richard. Mr. Richard was an AmeriCorps Member hosted by the Forest Service. Upon his termination, Mr. Finley completed items 1 - 8 of the National Service Trust End of Term of Service Form. Item 11, which determines the type of termination and the eligibility for an education award would have been completed by the Forest Service. Mr. Finley forwarded this form to Richard Heaslip, FS (601-686-3160) for completion.

I do not know whether this Lebrunski Richard was released for cause or for compelling personal reasons. His situation should be resolved with Mr. Heaslip.

Sincerely,

PAULA COLE JONES
Program Coordinator
National Service
and Volunteer Programs

cc: Ron DeMunbrun
Reginald Spears, AmeriCorps Project Director, MS



The Soil Conservation Service
is an agency of the
Department of Agriculture

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

ENVIROCORPS

8 February, 1995

Dear Mr. Berg,

Barry Messer asked me to write an account of the rather harrowing incident I recently experienced. It is still a bit difficult to find the words with which to properly express myself. First, I want you to know that I am pleased and thankful to be involved in the AmeriCorps program here in Portland. The opportunity to set aside my cynicism and re-engage in the world around me, along with an eclectic group of like minded people, is welcome and refreshing.

Less than two months into my commitment with EnviroCorps (the name of our program), early on the morning of November 19th 1994, I was shot and seriously wounded while attempting to protect a friend who was with me. She was badly shaken but received only a nasty bruise, as the bullet passed through me before striking her in the chest. We were attacked by a masked gunman who's motive remains a mystery. The detectives investigating the case classify it as an unprovoked sexual assault rather than robbery. They hold little hope of finding the suspect based on our description of him. At present he remains free and is able to continue inflicting this sort of brutal malevolence on others. This could have happened to anyone.

I am fortunate to be alive, but the efforts to ensure my full recovery are proving to be frightfully expensive. In fact, the costs incurred during this ordeal have far exceeded the \$50,000 coverage provided to AmeriCorps members. Victims Assistance and the Oregon Health Plan should absorb the additional costs not covered by the AmeriCorps insurance policy. Without the combination of all three services, I would be personally responsible for a staggering debt.

I believe that the benefits each student receives during our year of service in the AmeriCorps program will adequately cover most any situation we are likely to encounter. Many of us would not be able to afford any insurance on our own. I am grateful for the incredible outpouring of concern from my fellow team members and to those, like you, who have expressed wishes for a speedy recovery from afar. I pray that my experience remains an isolated and uncommon occurrence.

Sincerely,

William Levin

William Levin
2380 SW Osage St.
Portland, OR 97205

FEB 22 '95 14:54 FROM FMHA

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Rural Economic
and Community
Development

Strom Thurmond Federal Bldg.
1835 Assembly Street, Rm 1007
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
(803) 768-5469

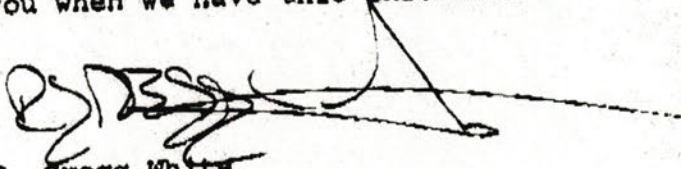
February 22, 1995

Subject: Josephine J. High
AmeriCorps Member

To: All AmeriCorps Members &
Communities
South Carolina

Ms. Josephine J. High, AmeriCorps Member in the Eastern
Orangeburg Enterprise Community, passed away February 21, 1995.
We are all saddened by this occasion and our thoughts and prayers
are with her family during their time of sorrow.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time. We will notify
you when we have this information.



R. Gregg White
AmeriCorps Program Coordinator
Rural Development Coordinator

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

Rural Economic and Community Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender.
Complaints of discrimination should be sent to:
Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250

MESSAGE DISPLAY FOR LOU WOLTERING

To RICHARD HEASLIP:R08F07A
BC Lou Woltering

From: Lou Woltering
Postmark: Feb 13,95 1:15 PM

Host: W01C
Delivered: Feb 13,95 1:15 PM

Subject: Reply to: AMERICORPS ARREST

Reply text:

From: Lou Woltering:WO
Date: Feb 13,95 1:15 PM
Thanks Richard. That should do it for now. I'll pass on to Joel Berg. Let me know what the press does with this. Thanks.
v/r
Lou

Preceding message:

From: RICHARD HEASLIP:R08F07A
Date: Feb 13,95 8:02 AM
LOU, WE HAD ONE OF OUR MEMBER WITH THE GREATER JACKSON YOUTH ARESESTED AT THE WORK SITE. APPARENTLY HE HAD BROKEN INTO A LOCAL HARDWARE STORE AND STOLE SEVERAL ARTICLES INCLUDING HANDGUNS. ANOTHER MEMBER WAS ALSO INVOLVED BUT ONLY THAT HE WAS GIVEN ONE OF THE GUNS AND DID NOT KNOW IT WAS STOLEN. ANYTHING ELSE NEEDED?? RICHARD

-----X-----

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PRESERVATION

Services for Cesar Ocampo

Funeral services for Cesar Ocampo, who died from injuries sustained in a rock climbing accident this past Monday January 16, will be held next week. Cesar was an AmeriCorps crew supervisor (San Bernardino N.F.) since the programs beginning in October, and a member of the El Cariso Hot Shots (Cleveland N.F.) for the previous three seasons.

Cesar leaves behind two young daughters, Lacy and Alicia. His family has established a trust fund for their benefit. Donations can be made to the Lacy and Alicia Trust Fund, c/o Steve Cammans, Ameritex Corp, 760 Arrow Grande St., Covina, CA 91722. The family wishes donations to the trust in lieu of flowers.

Cesar's family welcomes the presence of Forest Service employees and AmeriCorps members at all services. Employees and members are encouraged to wear their uniforms.

Viewing will be held at the Oak Dale Memorial Park, 1401 S. Grand Ave, Glendora, CA, on Monday January 23 from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. A Rosary will follow the viewing.

The Funeral Mass will start at 9:15 am at the Holy Name of Mary Church, 724 E. Bonita Ave, San Dimas, CA on Tuesday January 24, followed by the funeral at the Riverside National Cemetery, 22495 Van Buren St. (near March Air Force Base) at 11:15 am.

For more information contact:

Randy Scurry (BDF), (909) 794-6198;
Jay Bertek (CNF), (909) 678-2944; or
William Koenig (CNF), (909) 678-2944.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

January 30, 1995

To: Susan, Steve, Meg
From: Joel 
Subject: Two AmeriCorps Tragedies

In December, Will Levin, one of the Members of our Portland environmental project, was shot while off duty. He has since had complications and required additional surgery. While he has virtually no family in the area, other AmeriCorps Members have banded together and helped him out as if they were his family.

His address is:
Will Levin
1305 SE main Street
Portland, Oregon 97214

On January 16, Cesar Ocampo, a beloved and dedicated crew leader in our San Bernadino National Forest project whom Meg talked with at length during her recent site visit, died from injuries sustained while rock climbing on his own on a day off.

His family can be reached through:
The Lacy and Alicia Trust Fund
C/O Steve Cammans
Ameritec Corporation
760 Arrow Grande Street
Covina, CA 91722

Perhaps President Clinton and/or Eli Segal could send personal notes to Will and to the family of Cesar.



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

RON:
FYI Unive

FAX TRANSMITTAL

Date: 8/22
Number of Pages: 4

TO:

Gael Berg

FAX:

FROM Paula Cole Jones, Program Coordinator
National Service and Volunteer Programs
Community Assistance and Resource Development, NRCS

FAX (202) 690-0639
PHONE (202) 720-2847

FYI

COMMENTS:

The attached form is what we discussed this morning concerning partial repayment of a student loan. (The seal can be substituted with agency letterhead.) I did not request a write up from Cedric. You'll see, there is no official category for AmeriCorps

1001

COMM-ASSISTANCE *** USDA NAT SER OFF

08/22/95 13:32 20206900639

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Common questions and answers

What do I need to do to get the education award?

You must complete your term of service. Then, within 28 days of completion, you will receive a letter and voucher that you should take to the school or your lender. The payment is not directly to the school or lender; it does not go to you.

What is the amount of the award I will receive?

The amount of the education award depends upon the term of service you complete. If you complete a full-time term of service, you will receive a \$4,325.00 award. If you complete a part-time term of service, you will receive a \$2,563.50 award. If you complete a Reduced Part-time term of service, you will receive an amount that is in proportion to the amount of service completed.

How many education awards can I receive?

Two. You may receive one award for each term of service, up to two awards. While awards may complete more than two terms of service, they can receive education awards for only two terms. Both terms can be for full-time, part-time, or reduced part-time terms as they can be two different types of terms.

How long do I have to use my education award?

You must use the award within seven years of the date you complete your service. You may apply for an extension of this time period if you were performing another term of service in an approved AmeriCorps program or if you were unavoidably prevented from using the award during the period. You must apply before the end of the seven-year period.

What can I use my education award for?

Awards can be used to repay existing or future qualified educational loans or to pay for the cost of attending a qualified college or graduate school or an approved school/work program, as defined by the Department of Education and Labor. The award isn't limited to one loan or one school. It can be used to help pay several qualified loans or to pay the costs of attendance at several educational institutions, or a combination.

What expenses are considered part of the "cost of attendance" at a qualified school?

The Department of Education has defined the term "cost of attendance" to mean, tuition, award fees, and required materials, equipment, and supplies. In addition, each educational institution establishes allowances for room and board, books, supplies, transportation, and miscellaneous personal expenses, which are also included in the cost of attendance.

What kinds of schools can I attend using the award? What kinds of loans can I pay off using the award?

You may attend an institution of higher education (including certain vocational programs) as defined in section 4844a of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. 10944a). This includes most institutions of higher education (including graduate and postgraduate programs), as well as some vocational schools. If in doubt, you should check with the institution prior to making definite plans. The institution's financial aid office will know if they meet this requirement.

A qualified student loan means any loan made, insured, or guaranteed pursuant to Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.), other than a loan made to a parent of a student pursuant to section 438B of the Act, and any loan made pursuant to Title VII or VIII of the Public Service Health Act (42 U.S.C. 262a et seq.). These criteria should be on your loan papers. Your lender will be able to tell you if the loan is covered.

If you are unsure whether the school or the loan qualifies, ask the school or lender. Get written proof if there is any question.

Can an education award be used to study outside the U.S.?

Many post-secondary institutions offer educational opportunities abroad. As long as the institution itself is in the U.S. and meets the legal requirements listed above, you may use the education award to study overseas. Foreign schools, however, do not meet the Higher Education Act criteria.

Will the education award affect my eligibility for other student financial aid?

The education award will not be taken into account in determining eligibility for any Federal student aid. The Corporation has no jurisdiction over whether state or private universities—or private scholarship funds—will take it into account in determining eligibility for institutional aid; however, the Corporation has requested that institutions do so.

Can cash be taken instead of an education award?

It depends upon the program in which you are participating. AmeriCorps/VISTA Volunteers and NCCC members must retain either a post-service stipend or an education award. AmeriCorps/USA members will only be eligible for a cash payment if the option is provided by the local project with non-federal monies. AmeriCorps/USA members should ask their project director if this applies to them.

NCCC members and VISTA will be asked to indicate whether they want a check for the post-service stipend instead of the award.

A member who has served at least 15% of the term of service and is released from service for compelling personal reasons is eligible to receive a prorated award, based on the length of service. Members who quit for other reasons or who are released for cause are not eligible for any portion of an award.

VISTA Volunteers serving in a project that is closed early are eligible for prorated awards. Likewise, VISTA Volunteers who have chosen a stipend will receive a prorated portion of that stipend based on their length of service, regardless of their reason for leaving.

It is up to individual programs to determine the compelling personal circumstances under which they will release an AmeriCorps member from a term of service. Examples of circumstances that might be considered are serious illness/injury to the member or the death of an immediate member of the participant's family.

How do I get my current student loan payments postponed?

First, you must arrange for a deferral or forbearance with your loan holder at the time you begin your AmeriCorps service. The loan holder will give you forms to complete which need to be forwarded to the Corporation to verify that you are in a qualifying AmeriCorps position. VISTA should send them to the VISTA Certifying Officer, participants in the other AmeriCorps programs should send them to the National Service Trust. The completed forms will be returned to the loan holder or to you.

What happens if I withdraw from the school or fail to complete my period of enrollment for which the award has been used?

The school must have a fair and equitable refund policy that complies with the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended. If there is any school award and returned to the Corporation, the amount will be credited to your "account" in the Trust, and can be used by you, within 7 years of your completion of service.

Will I have to pay taxes on my education award?

According to the IRS, in most cases awards are subject to income taxes in the calendar year in which they are used. The Corporation will deduct no taxes, but it will send you a Form 1099 to be used in preparing your income tax return.

Is my award transferable? For example, if I am unable to use it, can I transfer the award to another individual?

No. Only AmeriCorps-approved members are eligible for education awards. You may not transfer it to a relative or any other individual under any circumstances.

Your project director or a State Corporation representative can answer many questions of a general nature. You also may call the Trust of the Corporation for National Service. A special number answers the questions about education awards in (202) 696-5000 extension 347.

National Service Trust
Corporation for National Service
1200 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Room 2000
Washington, D.C. 20005



About Your AmeriCorps Education Award

Welcome to AmeriCorps! You, and other AmeriCorps members across the country, are about to embark upon a challenging experience that will have a lasting effect on your life and the lives of people in communities nationwide. When you complete your service, you will be eligible for an education award that you can use to pay for higher education and to repay qualified student loans. This pamphlet explains how you can take advantage of this education award.

To qualify for an award, you must successfully complete the required "term of service" for the program in which you are participating. The three AmeriCorps programs are AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), AmeriCorps USA, and AmeriCorps VISTA. The term of service varies for each program. Under special circumstances, you may receive a pro-rated award if you are unable to complete your full term.

Your education award can be used in the following ways:

1. To repay qualified existing or future student loans;
2. To pay all or part of the cost of attending an institution of higher education (including certain vocational programs); and
3. To pay expenses incurred while participating in an approved school-to-work program.

The amount of your award depends upon whether your term of service is full-time or part-time. The full-time award is \$4,725.00, and the part-time award is \$2,362.50. If you serve in a "reduced part-time term of service" — for example, a summer program — your education award will be proportional to the number of hours you serve. A typical summer program offers an education award of \$1,000. Even if you complete more than two terms of service, you may not receive more than two education awards regardless of whether they are for full-time, part-time, or reduced part-time terms of service.

You can divide up your award and use it any way you want, so long as it is for authorized expenditures. You could, for example, apply a portion of it to existing qualified student loans and save the remainder to pay for authorized college costs a few years down the road. The education award must be used within seven years of the completion of your service. You may apply for an extension if, during the seven-year period, you perform another term of service in an approved AmeriCorps position or if you were unavoidably prevented from using the award.

Certain participants in national service may also not be eligible for the education award but to take a post-service stipend, instead. AmeriCorps NCCC and AmeriCorps VISTA members may choose either a stipend check or an education award — but not both. AmeriCorps USA members are only eligible for an education award from the Trust.

The awards are provided from a special account in the United States Treasury called the National Service Trust. This Trust is managed by the Corporation for National Service, which is the parent organization for AmeriCorps programs. Education awards are subject to income taxes in the year they are used.

Student loan forgiveness awards

AmeriCorps members who serve in certain projects may be eligible to have a percentage of their Student loan balances instead of receiving an education award. Check with your project director or Corporation State Office to see if your project has this option.

What happens when you complete your service

When you complete your term of service, the director of your project or the Corporation State Office will notify the Trust that you have successfully completed the program. The Corporation will send you a letter informing you of the amount of your award. You may then present the letter to your loan holder or the school you plan to attend. The loan holder or school will contact the Corporation for payment. Payments will be made directly to them, not to you. When payments are made, the Corporation will inform you of the amounts and the balance in your account.

You should receive your letter from the Corporation within 30 days of completing your service. Because the letter will automatically be sent to the permanent address that you furnished when you enrolled, it is important that you keep the National Service Trust informed of any changes to that address. Prior to ending your service, you will have an opportunity to update your address.

No student loan payments while you are serving in AmeriCorps

You don't have to make payments on qualified student loans while you are serving in AmeriCorps position. Your lender will be able to tell you if your particular loan qualifies for being postponed and whether interest will accrue during your term of service.

Because the regulations regarding postponing payments differ between VISTA and the other AmeriCorps programs, they are explained separately below.

AmeriCorps USA and AmeriCorps NCCC

If you successfully complete your term of service, the Trust will pay off (for full-time members) or a portion (for part-time members) of the interest that accrues on your loans while you are serving. After your service, the interest that accrued while you were in the AmeriCorps position will automatically be paid by the Corporation.

While there are benefits above and beyond your education award, interest payments will not be deducted from the amount of your award.

order to obtain this benefit, at the time you begin your service you must apply only to the loan holder explaining your participation in an AmeriCorps program and asking for "forbearance" in the repayment of your loan. If your loan qualifies, the loan holder will give you a form that you must fill out and send to the Trust (at the address printed in this handbook) for verification of your service.

The Trust will complete any applicable portion of the form or return relevant documentation and return it to the loan holder or, if you request, to you. The Corporation certifies your status in service, but the lending institution or loan servicer determines your eligibility for forbearance. The Trust can only verify participation after an individual returns an AmeriCorps position.

Unless you are released from service for compelling personal circumstances, the Trust cannot pay any interest accrued during the period if you do not complete your full term of service. (Exceptions will be made for members who fail to complete their term of service for compelling personal circumstances.)

However, although generally you can not have any interest paid by the Trust if you don't complete a full term of service, it may be paid under other conditions. Check with your lender to determine whether your student loan qualifies for another type of forbearance.

AmeriCorps VISTA

Under the Higher Education Act of 1965, VISTA Volunteers are eligible for a deferral of principal and interest for your period of service performed. In order to obtain this benefit, at the time you begin your service you must apply directly to the loan holder explaining your participation in VISTA and asking for a "deferral" in the repayment of your loan. If your loan qualifies, the loan holder will give you a form that you must fill out and send, along with a written request, to:

VISTA Certifying Officer
Corporation for National Service/VISTA
1000 Vermont Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

The Certifying Officer will verify your service by completing a portion of the form and return it to the loan holder or, if you request, to you. The Corporation certifies your status in service, but the lending institution or loan servicer determines your eligibility for deferral. The Trust can only verify participation after a VISTA Volunteer begins service.

Also, VISTA Volunteers are uniquely eligible for partial cancellation of certain loans under the Higher Education Act if they do not choose the education award and if they have completed a full year of service. VISTAs should check with their lender concerning these deferments and cancellations.

PHOTOCOPY
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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

NATURAL
RESOURCES
CONSERVATION
SERVICE

1606 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 209
Richmond, Virginia 23229-5014

June 20, 1995

Brian Bates
HC-02 Box 64
Buckingham, VA 23921

Dear Brian:

I have received your letter dated June 2, 1995, requesting release from your AmeriCorps Service contract as of June 24, 1995, in order to accept a teaching position at Longwood College. You asked to be released for "compelling" circumstances and to have your education award prorated.

According to the AmeriCorps member contract and AmeriCorps member orientation materials, "compelling personal circumstances" include: "the member has a serious injury or illness, there is a serious injury, illness or death of an immediate family member and the member is needed to care for or take over the duties of that member, the member is drafted by the Armed Services, or other circumstances which would make it impossible or very difficult for the member to complete the term of service." Electing to terminate service to accept another job is not deemed a "compelling personal circumstance" under these provisions.

Section VI of the member agreement (Release from Term of Service), part (f) states: "if a member discontinues his term of service for any reason other than a release for compelling circumstances, he will receive no portion of the education award or interest payments."

The current AmeriCorps Operations Manual published in June, 1995 describes "compelling circumstances" on page 109, and specifically notes on page 111 that terminating to get a job "would not justify the member receiving an award."

Based on these criteria, I cannot grant you a release from service based upon "compelling reasons" nor can I approve a prorated education award. If you decide to terminate without a release for compelling personal circumstances, you will be considered released for cause.

In your letter, you refer to a "scheduling" problem which will make it impossible or very difficult to complete the remaining 282 hours of service. I have spoken with your immediate supervisor and he has indicated a willingness to provide flexible hours and workplace (including nights and/or weekends) to assist you in completing your term of service by September 30. I would urge you to reconsider this alternative for completing the contract requirements.

To assure that you are fully aware of the appeal process with regard to this determination, I am enclosing a copy of the applicable pages from the current manual. If you have any questions about this process, please talk with your immediate supervisor or call me at 804/287-1681.

We are forwarding your request to the National Corporation to seek a modification to the rule based on your outstanding service, the fact that you have completed the primary objectives for your project, and that not being released from this contract may jeopardize your opportunity for tenure.

We appreciate the good work you have performed "to get things done" for NRCS, the local RC&D Council, and AmeriCorps. I will keep you apprised of any developments related to your request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia A. Paul". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Patricia A. Paul
AmeriCorps Program Manager

Enclosures

cc: Denise Doetzer, State Conservationist
Paula Jones, National AmeriCorps Program Leader
Joel Berg, USDA AmeriCorps Program Director
Ray Dorsett, Old Dominion RC&D Coordinator
Dwight Towler, AC, Farmville AO



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Office of
Communications

Washington, D.C.
20250-1300

March 17, 1995

Mr. Thesley Beverly
Soul Saving Center
P. O. Box 474
Hopkins Park, Illinois 60944

Dear Mr. Beverly:

I am writing to respond to your letter requesting information about AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national service initiative.

AmeriCorps is a program that engages diverse groups of Americans in performing critical service to meet human, environmental, public safety, and educational needs in return for vouchers for education, vocational training, or loan repayment.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is running three types of AmeriCorps teams, composed of approximately 1,200 Members in 38 states: an Anti-Hunger Team, a Public Lands and Environment Team, and a Rural Development Team. Members serve for approximately one year. We are beginning to gear up for 1995 recruitment and we will keep your application on file.

The USDA program is one of the many AmeriCorps projects administered by the Corporation for National Service. You may obtain an application for other programs by calling CNS toll-free number, 1-800-942-2677. Applicants must be at least 17 years of age and there is no upper age limit.

With regard to your question loan forgiveness, I am enclosing a brochure about the use of the education award. I hope that you find this helpful.

Sincerely,

Joel S. Berg
Director of National Service, USDA

cc: About Your AmeriCorps Education Award



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

June 3, 1995

Larry Parker
AmeriCorps Member
2117 S. Commerce Street
Grenada, MS 38901

Dear Larry:

Per your request, I am writing you to clarify the requirements for receiving your AmeriCorps educational award. Under the National and Community Service Act of 1993, any AmeriCorps Member serving in an approved AmeriCorps slot (which you are) --- and who successfully completes 1,700 hours of community service (as certified by your supervisors) --- will receive the educational award.

Eligibility for the educational award is not dependent upon completion of a project sites' community service objectives. While we expect that each site will complete concrete and measurable tasks that meet environmental, human, public safety, and/or educational needs, we understand that changing conditions may make it impossible for AmeriCorps Members to complete their original community service objectives. The Members will not be penalized for such changing conditions.

I hope this letter answers your question. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 720-6350.

Keep up the good work "getting things done," while promoting community, opportunity, and responsibility.

Sincerely,

Joel Berg
Director of National Service

Apply for
New progr
Constanza

— Escudero |

721 W Buffalo

Holbrook,

7/26 AL
86023



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

July 12, 1995

Ms. Wendy Soto
Housing Authority
City of Redondo Beach
310 Nob Hill Road
Redondo Beach, California 90277

RE: Section 8 Housing Assistance Exclusion for Sondra Trudeau

Dear Ms. Soto:

I am writing on behalf of a member of USDA's AmeriCorps Anti-Hunger Team serving the Los Angeles area, Ms. Sondra Trudeau, who has been receiving housing assistance through your office for her residence at 1906 1/2 Plant Street in Redondo Beach, California. As we recently discussed on the telephone, the legislation authorizing the AmeriCorps programs specifically excludes the living allowance paid to AmeriCorps*USA Members from consideration in determining eligibility for all means-tested (income-based) forms of public assistance with the exception of assistance programs authorized under the Social Security Act (e.g., Medicaid and AFDC). At that time, I assured you that Ms. Trudeau's living allowance should indeed be exempted from consideration, and agreed to provide you with formal substantiation of that assurance.

Enclosed pursuant to our conversation regarding income exclusions in the determination of eligibility for Section 8 housing assistance is a copy of a November 15, 1994, memorandum provided to us by the Corporation for National Service (CNS) from the General Counsel of Housing and Urban Development. As you can see, this memorandum clearly states that "... living allowances provided to AmeriCorp[s] participants should not be counted as income for purposes of determining eligibility for HUD's assisted housing programs."

I hope that this documentation will be sufficient for your records. If you need additional information, or if you should have further questions about the AmeriCorps program at any time, please do not hesitate to call me, at (202) 690-0693. Thank you for your patience and consideration in resolving this issue.

Sincerely,

Donna M. Hines

DONNA M. HINES
Anti-Hunger Program Coordinator
USDA National Service Program

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Sondra Trudeau
1906 1/2 Plant Avenue
Redondo Beach, CA 90277

✓ Joel Berg
Director, USDA National Service



THE GENERAL COUNSEL OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20410

November 15, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR: George Latimer, Director, Office of Special
Actions, SAK

FROM: Nelson A. Diaz

SUBJECT: Treatment of AmeriCorps Living Allowances for Purposes
of Calculating Income Eligibility for HUD Programs

This is in response to your memorandum of September 13, 1994, requesting clarification of whether living allowances for AmeriCorps participants will be counted as income for participants living in public and assisted housing. It is our opinion that living allowances provided to AmeriCorp participants should not be counted as income for purposes of determining eligibility for HUD's assisted housing programs.

The Corporation for National Service was created under the National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended by the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 12501 et seq.) ("the Community Service Act"). The Community Service Act refers to Section 142(b) of the Job Training Partnership Act for direction on treatment of benefits. See 42 U.S.C. § 12637(d). The relevant section of the Job Training Partnership Act provides that

"[a]llowances, earnings and payments to individuals participating in programs under this chapter shall not be considered as income for the purposes of determining eligibility for and the amount of income transfer and in-kind aid furnished under any Federal or federally assisted program based on need, other than as provided under the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C.A. § 301 et seq.]."

29 U.S.C. § 1552.

The Department publishes an annual list of federally mandated exclusions from income. 58 Fed. Reg. 41287 (1993). One type of benefits specifically exempted by Federal law which the Department does not recognize as income are payments received under programs funded in whole or in part under the Job Training Partnership Act ("JTPA"). 58 Fed. Reg. at 41288 (1993).

The Community Service Act states that the income provision of the JTPA "shall apply to the projects conducted under this subchapter as such projects were conducted under the [JTPA]." 12 U.S.C. § 12637(d) (emphasis added). It is our opinion that this language was intended by Congress to indicate that AmeriCorps income be treated the same as JTPA income, i.e., excluded from income calculations. Although the drafting is confusing, we believe the above emphasized language must be construed as meaning "as if such projects were conducted under the [JTPA]," and thus subject to income exclusion. The past subjunctive form of the verb "were" is the most plausible reading when one notes that the AmeriCorps program is a new program. The alternative reading would be illogical because to read "were" in its alternative form would be to discuss in the past tense projects that have not yet been implemented.

It is our opinion that this link allows the AmeriCorps benefits to be encompassed by the existing published income exclusions for JTPA benefits. Therefore, for residents of Public and Indian Housing and for recipients of Section 8 Housing Assistance, AmeriCorps benefits may not be included as income.

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HELSINKI COMMISSION
ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3103

October 5, 1994

The Honorable Bob Nash
Under Secretary for Small Community and Rural Development
Administration Building
12th Street and Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Under Secretary Nash:

I would like to congratulate you on completing a successful application for Americorps members to serve as a USDA Rural Development Team. I am extremely pleased that one of the Rural Development teams will work in the Arizona, Colorado, Utah and New Mexico Four Corners area. I would like to make you aware of an immediate need for their assistance in Aztec, New Mexico.

The Aztec district field office of the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) desperately needs help processing an overwhelming amount of housing applications. I have been informed that over 130 applications await processing, however, because of lack of personnel the office is only able to process 3 applications per month. I realize that with their limited staff the office is doing an excellent job. With an extra staff person, the office could process an additional 25-30 applications per month. I hope that you share my concern that many deserving people cannot get homes because FmHA cannot process the paperwork.

I understand that the 50 college graduates and professional students recruited to the Rural Development Team will be sent to the Four Corners area to address economic development problems. Lack of loan processing has slowed down the growth of the housing market in the Aztec area.

I urge you to use the Four Corners Rural Development Team to help the FmHA process home loans. If I can be of any assistance, please contact me.

With warm regards,

Bill Richardson

Bill Richardson
Chief Deputy Majority Whip

BR/kk

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Honorable Bill Richardson
U.S. House of Representatives
2349 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3103

NOV. 28 1984

Dear Congressman Bill Richardson:

Thank you for your letter concerning the delay in processing applications for Farmers Home Administration housing assistance in the Aztec County Office. Under the Department of Agriculture's reorganization, these programs will be administered by the Rural Housing and Community Development Service.

We regret any inconvenience which may have been caused by a temporary shortage of full time staff in that office. In addition to hiring another full time employee, an Americorps member has been assigned to that location. You may be assured that all applications will be processed as expeditiously as possible.

We appreciate your bringing this matter to our attention, and we hope you find this information helpful.

Sincerely,


BOB J. NASH
Under Secretary of Agriculture
for Rural Economic
and Community Development

cc:
ESS - FILE COPY
ESS - Durkin
ESS - Suspense
SFHPD - J. Craun
LAPIS - S. Hart
OES - 116-A (2)
State Director - New Mexico

NOTE TO FILE: Steve Anaya, State Office, advised that the office's clerk left some time ago, and was replaced by another a few months ago. Apparently, during the same time the office was without a clerk, the assistant was out due to surgery. Consequently, the office was briefly understaffed. The office now has 3 FT staff and an Americorps member. 11/7.

FINAL:ESS:MDurkin:dw:11-17-94:720-9928:85-ESS246

Control No. 85-ESS246 Log No. 72431 Incoming Date: 10/28/94
Location: ESS Recall Name: bill