

LIFE AFTER AMERICORPS

Benefits to participating in a National Service Program (for individuals and organizations)

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Learning Objectives

- Introducing CNCS and its programs
- Understanding AmeriCorps
- Engaging in AmeriCorps
 - Organizations
 - Individuals (Members)
- Knowing how to use the AmeriCorps Benefits
 - Maximizing the Education Award

Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)

- Created in 1993 through the signing of the National and Community Service Trust
- Nation's largest grant maker supporting service and volunteering
- Engages millions of American in service each year
- Sponsors and promotes a variety of special initiatives and days of service

What is AmeriCorps?



AmeriCorps State Grant Funding

- Three-year funding
 - Funds are awarded annually
 - Recipients submit continuations for years 2 & 3
 - Re-compete after year 3
- Types of grants
 - Cost-Reimbursement
 - Fixed Amounts

Types of AmeriCorps State Grants

- Cost-Reimbursement
 - Traditional
 - Planning
 - Professional Corps
- Fixed Amount
 - Full-Time Fixed*
 - Education Award Program (EAP)
 - Professional Corps

How to become an AmeriCorps Program

Submit an application to your State Service Commission

Colorado's Service Commission is based in Denver and known as Serve Colorado. Governor's Commission

Serve Colorado, Governor's Commission on Community Service

www.colorado.gov/servecolorado

State Service Commissions

- Comprised of governor appointed boards who oversee the implementation of service and volunteer initiatives in their state.
- Employ staff that manage, monitor, train, and evaluate programs.
- Provide Corporation funding to the single-state programs through grant competitions.
- Provide feedback to the Corporation on the multistate programs operating in their state.

How to become an AmeriCorps Member

Search positions, create a profile, and submit an application the My AmeriCorps Portal.

AmeriCorps positions are made available by the **Corporation for National and Community Service**

www.nationalservice.gov/impact-our-nation/state-profiles and my.americorps.gov

Who is Eligible for AmeriCorps?

An AmeriCorps participant must -

- Be at least 17 years of age at the commencement of service; or
 - Be an out-of-school youth 16 years of age at the commencement of service participating in a program described in § 2522.110(b)(3) or (g);
- Have a high school diploma or its equivalent; or
 - Not have dropped out of elementary or secondary school to enroll as an AmeriCorps participant and must agree to obtain a high school diploma or its equivalent prior to using the education award; or
 - Obtain a waiver from the Corporation of the requirements based on an independent evaluation secured by the program demonstrating that the individual is not capable of obtaining a high school diploma or its equivalent; or
 - Be enrolled in an institution of higher education on an ability to benefit basis and be considered eligible for funds under section 484 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1091);
- Be a citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident alien of the United States;
- Satisfy the National Service Criminal History Check eligibility criteria pursuant to <u>45 CFR</u> <u>2540.202</u>.



Have questions?

Consult these resources:

- The CNCS website: www.nationalservice.gov
- My AmeriCorps Portal website: my.americorps.gov
- Serve Colorado website: www.Colorado.gov/servecolorado





BROUGHT TO YOU BY:





What is the AmeriCorps Education Award?

The AmeriCorps Education Award is named after Eli Segal, one of the pioneers of the national service movement and the first CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service. The education award is a post-service benefit received by AmeriCorps members who have served in AmeriCorps State and National, AmeriCorps VISTA, and the National Civilian Community Corps, also known as AmeriCorps NCCC.

Who is eligible for the AmeriCorps Education Award?

Individuals who **successfully** complete a term of national service in one of the following branches of AmeriCorps:

- AmeriCorps State and National
- AmeriCorps VISTA
- AmeriCorps NCCC

"Successful" completion of a term of service is defined individually by each program.

Education Award Specifics

- Education awards expire after 7 years.
- Each individual may earn up to 2 <u>full</u> education awards in their lifetime.
- You can serve up to 11 terms in AmeriCorps.
- The education award is taxed as it is used.
- Having your GED or high school diploma is no longer a requirement for using the education award, as of fall 2013.
- If you are an <u>AmeriCorps State</u> member and are 55 years or older on the first day of your service, you can transfer your education award to a child, grandchild, or foster child.

FAQ:

What's a VISTA cash stipend? Taxes?!?! Say what?!

How much will my education award be?

- After a successful year of service, AmeriCorps members receive an education award equal to the maximum amount of the Federal Pell Grant.
- For members that serve in the 2016 Fiscal Year, the education award is \$5,775 for a full time member.
 - Members that are less than full time receive a portion of the full education award amount that is in proportion to the number of hours they serve. (This applies to AmeriCorps State and National and AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Associates)

FAQ:

What is a prorated education award? Who can get a prorated award?

Education Awards per Service Year

AmeriCorps Education Award for Term Served in 2016-2017 (FY16):

Term of Service	Minimum Hours	Education Award
Full Time	1700	\$5,775.00
Half Time	900	\$2,887.50
Reduced Half Time	675	\$2,199.92
Quarter Time	450	\$1,527.45
Minimum Time	300	\$1,221.96

AmeriCorps Education Award for Term Served in 2015-2016 (FY15):

Term of Service	Minimum Hours	Education Award
Full Time	1700	\$5,730.00
Half Time	900	\$2,865.00
Reduced Half Time	675	\$2,182.78
Quarter Time	450	\$1,515.55
Minimum Time	300	\$1,212.44

Where can I use my education award?

Title IV colleges and universities:

- Your award can be used for "Cost of Attendance"
 - Cost of attendance (COA) may include tuition, books and supplies, transportation, room and board, and other expenses.
 - An institution's financial aid office determines each students' COA based upon standard Federal legislation and guidance.

FAQ:

Can I buy a computer?
Can I pay for rent?
Can I buy a car?

Institutions that Match the Ed Award



Currently, there are well over 150 colleges and universities that match the Eli Segal AmeriCorps Education Award for their students.

A complete list of education award matching institutions and tips on how to get your institution to match your award can be found by:

Google "AmeriCorps Education Award Matching"

Click on "Matching Institutions"

FAQ:

What if my school is not on the list?

Where can I use my education award?

Qualified Student Loans:

- The education award can be used to repay qualified student loans, including but not limited to:
 - Stafford Loans
 - Perkins Loans
 - William D. Ford Direct Loans
 - Federal Consolidated Loans
 - Supplemental Loans for Students
 - Primary Care Loans
 - Nursing Student Loans
 - Health Education Assistance Loans
- Unfortunately, the education award cannot be used on private loans

FAQ:

Lump sum vs. payments
Can I pay loans that are in someone else's name?
How do I figure out if I have public loans?

Where else can I use my education award?

Alternative uses:

- There are various alternative uses for the education award
- Some examples are:
 - National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS)
 - Outward Bound
 - Global Youth Service Corps
 - Study abroad
 - Non-degree educational courses
 - G.I. Bill approved courses

FAQ:

Where can I find more?

Is my education award taxed?

- Education awards are taxed as you use them.
 - For example: If you use \$700 of your education award in a calendar year, you will be taxed on \$700
- You will receive a 1099-MISC form that contains the amount you have spent from your education award for that tax year.
 - Your 1099-MISC form will be mailed to the address listed in your MyAmeriCorps account.
 - Be sure to update your address on your account so that you get your mail!
 - You can also access your 1099-MISC through your MyAmeriCorps account by January 31st by clicking on "My Tax Statements"

FAQ:

Is my education award taxed?

Your 1099-MISC will look like this:

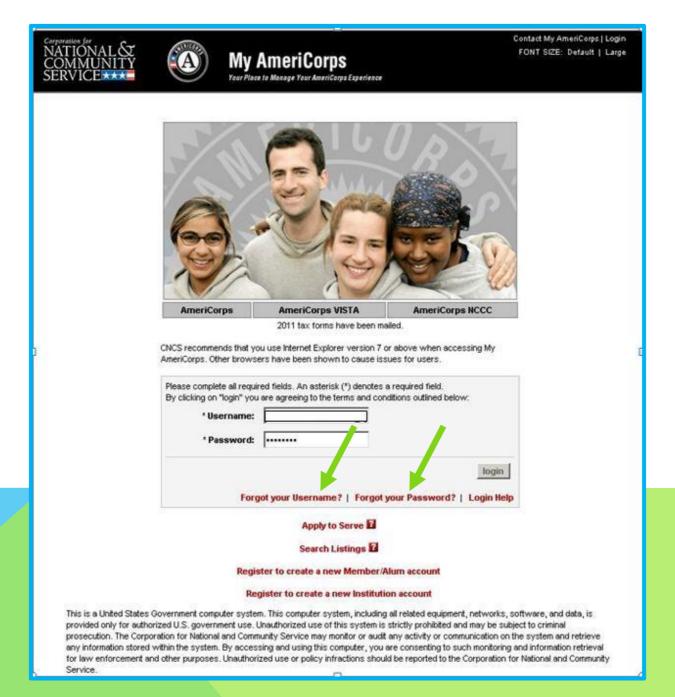
Form 1099-MISC	CORREC	TED	(if checked) (kee	ep f	or your records)			
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1111 SOME ADDRESS DRIVE		\$	Royalties	2007		'	Miscellaneous Income	
SOMECITY, OK 000	00	\$		Fo	orm 1099-MISC	Departm	38-2099803 ent of the Treasury IRS	
		3	Otherincome	4	Fed. inc. tax wit	thheld	Copy B For Recipient	
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PAYER'S rederal identification number	RECIPIENT SIDENTIFICATION NUMBER	"	Fishing boat proceeds	°	payments	care		
12-1234567	444-44-4444	\$		\$				
RECIPIENT'S name, address, and ZIP o	o de	7	Nonemployee compensation	8	Substitute payment of dividends or inte		This is important tax information and is being furnished to	
		\$	650.00	\$			the Internal Revenue Service. If you are	
P. O. BOX 11211		9	Payer made direct sales of \$5,000 or more of consumer products to a buyer (recipient) for resale	10	Crop insurance pro	ceeds	required to file a return, a negligence penalty or other	
OKLAHOMA CITY, O	K 73127	11		12			sanction may be imposed on you if this income is taxable and the IRS	
Account number (see instructions)			Excess golden parachute payments		Gross proceeds par attorney	id to an	determines that it has not been reported.	
15a Section 409A deferrals	15b Section 409A income	16	State tax withheld	17	State/Payer's state		18 State income	
TOO SECTION 409A DETERMAN	TOD Gection 409A income	\$	State tax withheld		2-1234567		\$	
\$	\$	\$					\$	

How do I access my education award?

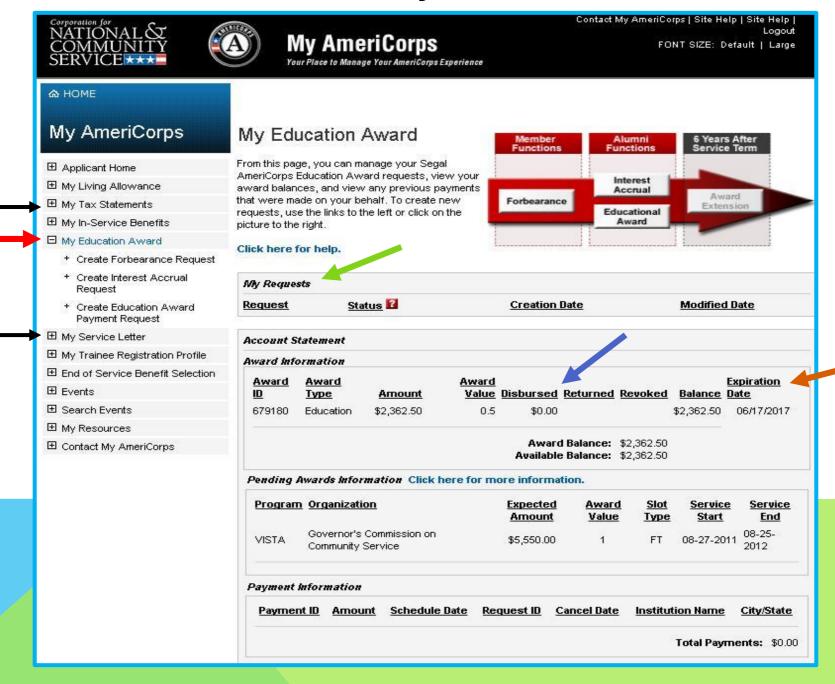
- The education award is available for your use immediately following the close of your service term; what this equals in real time is about one to two weeks
- You can access your education award through the MyAmeriCorps portal
 - You can find the MyAmeriCorps account log in page by "googling":

MY AMERICORPS LOG IN

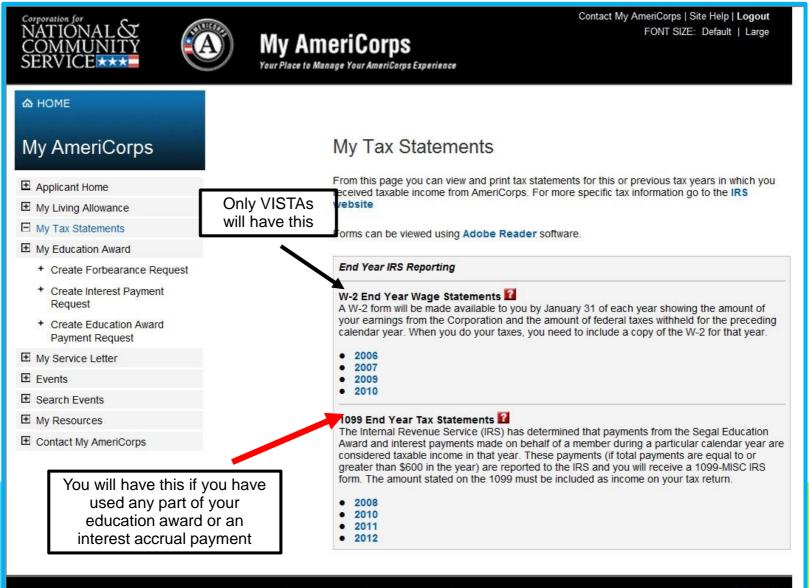
How do I access my education award?



How do I access my education award?

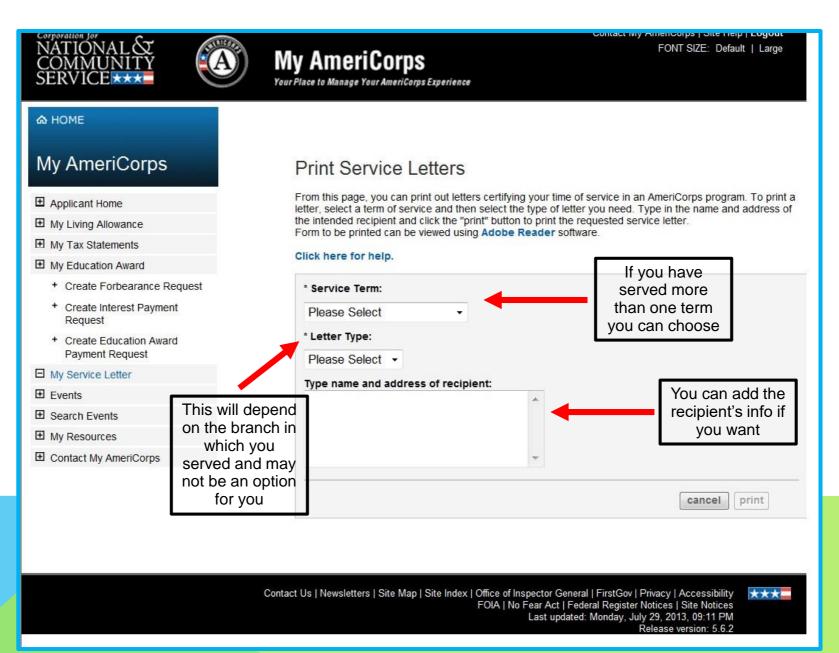


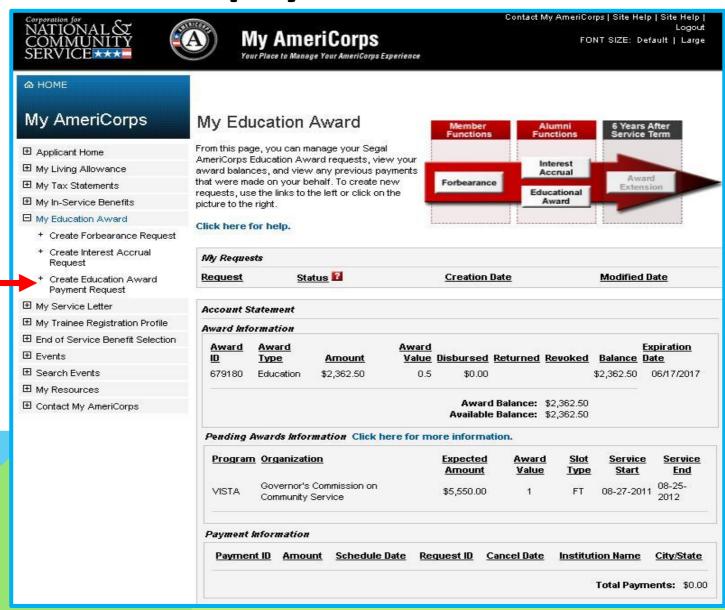
My Tax Statements

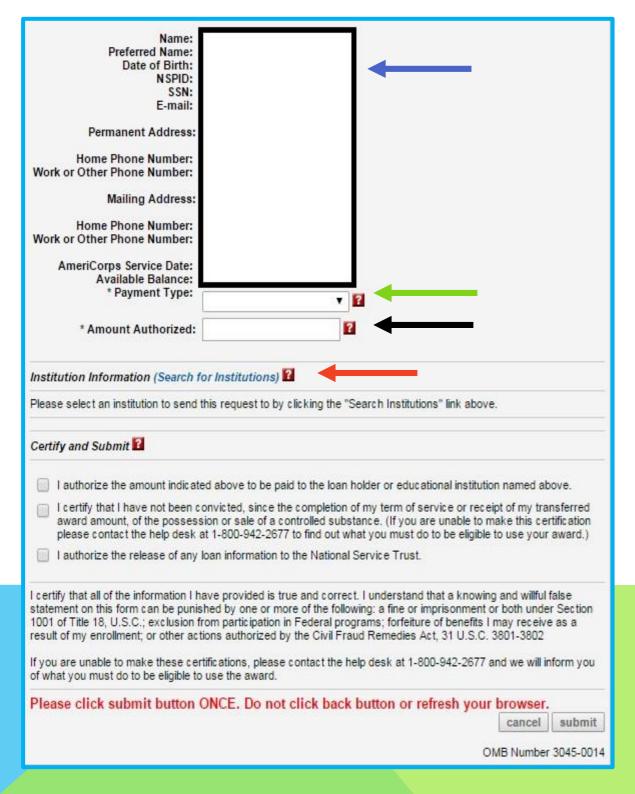




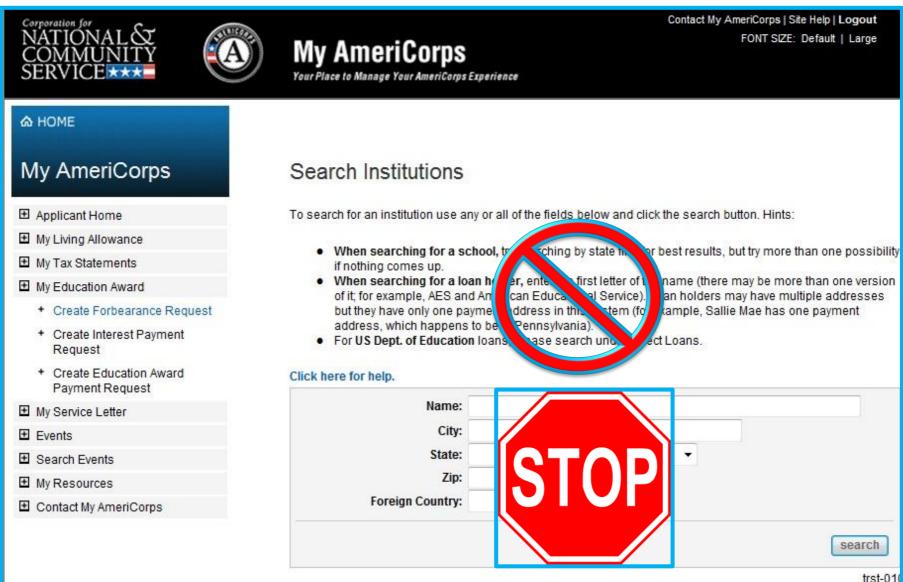
My Service Letter







- On the left side of your portal home page, click on "My Education Award" and then click on "Create Education Award Payment Request."
- Select payment type
- Enter the dollar amount of the payment you would like to make
- Click on "Search for Institution" and select the entity that the payment will go to
- Check the "Certify" boxes and click submit



Loan Company Time Saver

Nelnet:

- Search for "Nelnet"
- Select the result that is called "Nelnet OBO Department of Education Loans"

Navient:

- Search for "Navient"
- Select the result that is called "Navient Department of ED Servicing"

FedLoan Servicing:

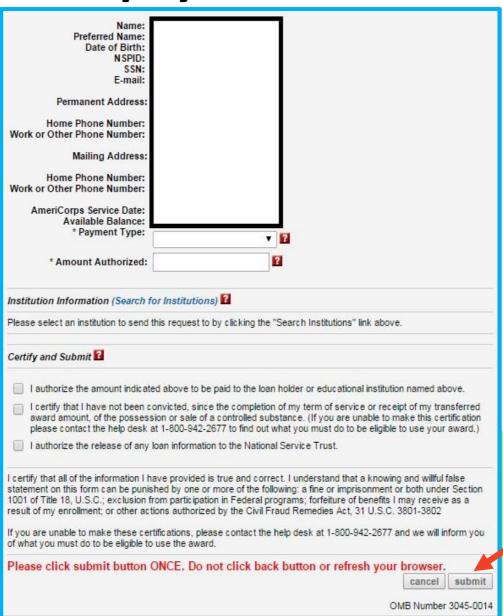
- Search for "FedLoan"
- Select the result that is called "FedLoan Servicing" even though the payment address is incorrect

Great Lakes:

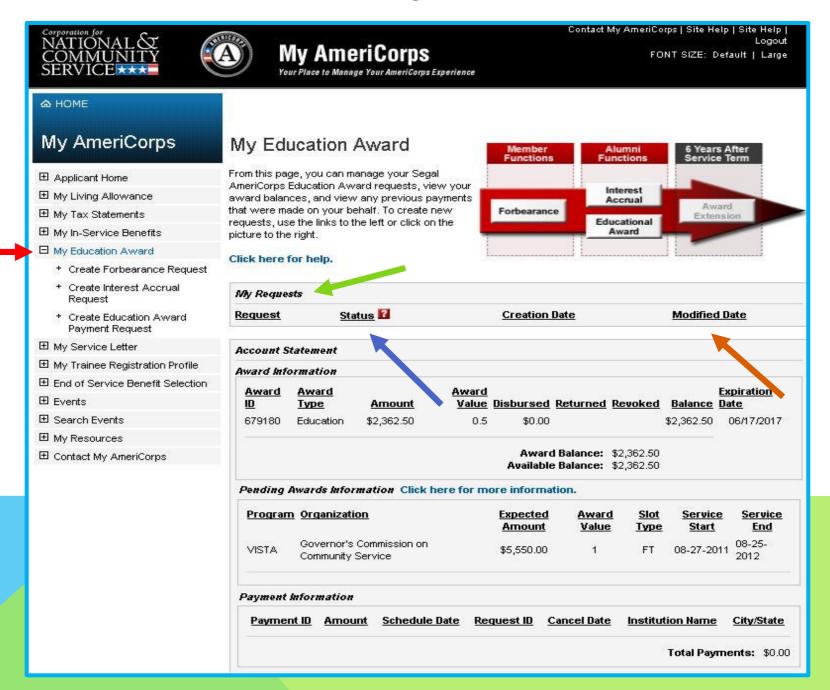
- Search for "Great Lakes"
- Select the result that is called "Great Lakes/DOE"

FAQ:

How do I figure out who my loan company is?



I submitted a request, now what?



Request Education Award - Loan



Creation Date 2/07/2008

Modified Date 2/11/2008

What you should do:

Wait for your loan company or school to take action

Request	t Status 🖸		Modified Date	
Education Award - Loan	Accepted by Institution	2/07/2008	2/11/2008	

What you should do:

Call your loan company or school to verify that the payment went through

Request	Status 2	Creation Date	Modified Date	
Education Award - Loan	Denied by Institution	2/07/2008	2/11/2008	

What you should do:

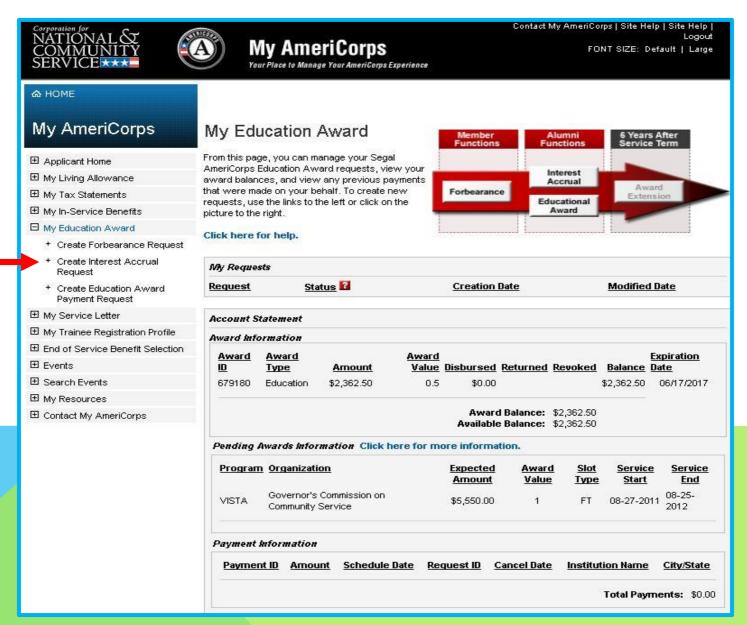
• Check the reason for denial by clicking on "Education Award" and scrolling to the bottom and resolve the situation with your loan company or school

What is an Interest Accrual Payment?

- If you had student loans in forbearance while serving in AmeriCorps, they will accrue interest during your term.
- AmeriCorps will pay the interest that accrued on your loans with what is called an "Interest Accrual Payment."
- An interest accrual payment does not come out of your education award.
- You can request an Interest Accrual Payment once your term is complete through your MyAmeriCorps account.
- Make your Interest Accrual Payment request BEFORE you use the entire balance of your award or you will forfeit your Interest Accrual Payment.

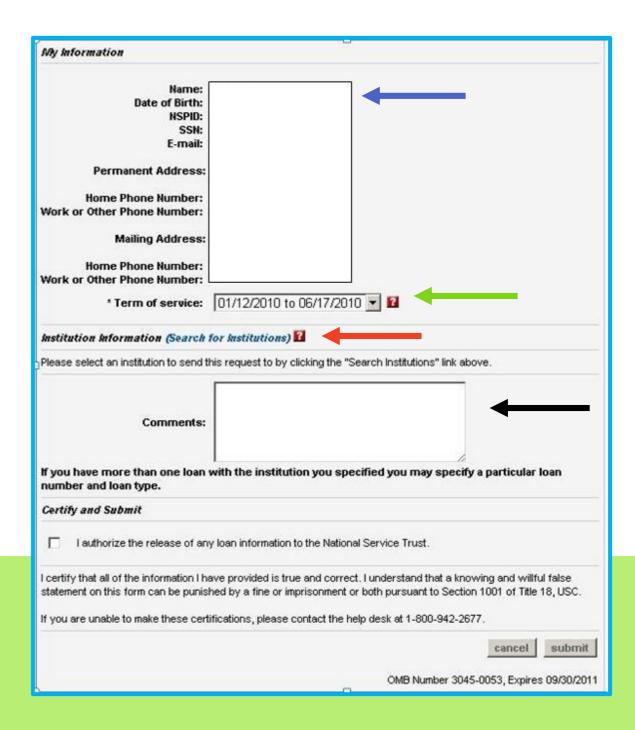
FAQ:

How do I request an interest accrual payment?



How do I request an Interest Accrual Payment?

- To request an Interest Accrual Payment, log into your MyAmeriCorps account, and click on "My Education Award."
- After that, click on "Interest Accrual Payment Request."
- Fill in all needed information and click submit.
- You <u>MUST</u> submit an Interest Accrual Payment Request for <u>EVERY</u> loan you had in forbearance.



Still have questions?

Consult these resources:

- Contact the AmeriCorps Help Desk: 1-800-942-2677
- Google: "AmeriCorps Education Award"
- Google: "My Federal Student Aid"
- Google: "My AmeriCorps Log In"



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