



## What We'll Ask of You

### **Serve daily in a school setting**

AmeriCorps members serving with the Iowa Reading Corps implement the K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade Reading Corps model with fidelity, which includes meeting with their students every day of the school week during (and sometimes beyond) normal school hours. Your schedule must be consistent throughout the school year so the student tutoring schedule is consistent.

### **Commit to 9 months**

After we recruit and extend a service offer to an AmeriCorps member, we rely on that member to serve at his or her assigned school for the entire term of service – no substitutes or replacements. Our service term runs from September 5, 2017 through May 2018. The term duration may be adjusted up to 11 months depending on school needs.

### **Serve 900 hours (school year only)**

- Half-time members serve at least 30-35 hours per week for a minimum of **900 hours**. The majority of these hours are accrued during typical school-day hours. Members may also participate in literacy-based school functions to earn additional service hours and further engage with the school community.

### **Participate in professional training**

If you are accepted into the program, you will attend required training sessions. We explain below under “What You’ll Gain” why our training model sets us apart, and why we aren’t shy about making it a requirement. The initial training, called Reading Corps Institute, will take place on Sept. 5-8 and will cover everything you will need to know to get started at your school. Additional trainings throughout the year will continue to build your skills.

### **Engage in your community**

Reading Corps AmeriCorps members spend their year viewing their community through the lens of service. They also participate in AmeriCorps Week to engage in the spirit of national service and share their AmeriCorps stories. Occasional weekend or evening service may be necessary to participate in special school events such as literacy nights.

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## What You'll Gain

### **Training, coaching, and experience in research-based literacy strategies**

Our training is one of many things that make our program powerful. AmeriCorps members receive training from well-respected literacy experts. They provide the knowledge and tools members need to be effective and confident in their ability to help children grow their literacy skills. Each member is also assigned an Internal Coach at their school to provide ongoing and individual support throughout the year. The literacy strategies used by Reading Corps are based entirely on research and are proven to be effective.

### **Professional skill-building & networks**

We invest so much in our members because they are each given real responsibility in their school. For members who are pursuing or continuing an education career, the hands-on experience and literacy training offer an invaluable stepping stone. Members work closely with on-site staff who can offer insight and a “foot in the door” in the field. For members not pursuing an education career, being part of Reading Corps provides professional experience and skills.



# Financial Benefits

## Living allowance

Half-time AmeriCorps members receive a living allowance. Prior to taxes, the living allowance is \$6,315 over the length of the term. It is paid in equal distributions, twice per month during the term of service. Applicants must take a careful look at their financial situation to determine if they can afford to commit to serve with Reading Corps.

## Education Award

AmeriCorps members who successfully complete their year of service will receive an [education award](#) of \$2907.50. The education award can be used to pay back federal student loans, the cost of tuition or other educational purposes. The award has a seven-year expiration period and can be used at any accredited post-secondary school. Please note that the Education Award is considered taxable income at the federal level in the year that it is used. The award is not taxed at the state level in Iowa.

Tutors who are 55 or older at the start of their service enjoy an additional benefit. They may choose to transfer their education award to a child, grandchild or foster child within seven years. The award must be used within ten years of the tutor receiving it.

## Student loan forbearance

If a member is making payments to a federally-backed education loan, payments can be [put into forbearance](#) during his or her year of service. Upon successful completion of the program, the accrued interest will be paid by the National Service Trust.

## Childcare assistance

Members serving a 900 hour term **may** qualify (based on income) to receive child care reimbursement assistance if they serve in a fulltime capacity-- an average of 35 hours per week. This benefit is **not** available to members serving 900 hours over an 11 month timeframe.

Our AmeriCorps Reading Corps tutors are highly effective AmeriCorps National Service members.

**Are you ready to serve? Apply today at**  
**[https://fs20.formsite.com/readingcorps/form132/form\\_login.html](https://fs20.formsite.com/readingcorps/form132/form_login.html)**

If you have questions about the commitment or benefits, don't hesitate to reach out to Crystal Meier at [cmeier@uwiservice.org](mailto:cmeier@uwiservice.org).