



What We'll Ask of You

Serve daily in a school setting

Iowa Reading Corps AmeriCorps members implement the 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. Full-time AmeriCorps members also participate in after-school activities and some evening school functions to earn all of their service hours.

Commit to 12 months (Full time) or 9 months (School year only)

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 3, 2019-August 31, 2020; 9/3/19-5/31/20 for school year only. During the summer months, members participate in summer programs that promote opportunities for volunteer recruitment and community engagement. Summer programming is secured under the guidance of the AmeriCorps Program Manager, school site, and local United Way. Options include assisting with literacy-based Summer Food Service Programs, children's literacy programs at local libraries, and summer tutoring programs.

Serve 1700 (full-time) hours

- **Full-time members** serve at least 40 hours per week for a minimum of **1700 hours**; **school year only members** serve 30 hours per week for a minimum of **900 hours**. The majority of these hours are accrued during typical school-day hours. Most full-time members also participate in before- or after-school, literacy-based programs to ensure a full 8 hours are served each day.

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 September 3-6, 2019 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 seize opportunities to be involved in literacy-based programs at their school that focus on literacy development and academic achievement. Occasional weekend or evening service may be necessary to participate in special school events (such as literacy nights, book fairs, etc.).

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.

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

Full-time AmeriCorps members receive a living allowance. Prior to taxes, the living allowance for the entire term is \$14,000 to be paid twice per month in equal installments over the length of the term.; School year only tutors receive \$7,000. 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 full time year of service will receive an [education award](#) of \$6,095; school year only members receive \$3047.50. 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.

Health insurance

Full-time members are eligible to enroll in a health insurance plan at no cost to themselves through Iowa Reading Corps. Health coverage is available for full-time members only. The insurance does not cover dependents. Using a health care provider "in the network" will save money.

Childcare assistance

Full-time members may qualify (based on income) to receive child care reimbursement assistance.

If you have questions about the commitment or benefits, don't hesitate to reach out to Chris Pratt at cpratt@uwiservice.org or Crystal Meier at cmeier@uwiservice.org.

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