Effective Dates of Serve America Act Provisions

AmeriCorps State & National Grantees and Members

Oct. 1, 2009. – *These provisions take effect on Oct. 1, 2009*

- Beginning Oct. 1, 2009, no member – including members who enrolled prior to that date – may provide abortion services or make referrals for such services.
- Programs must perform criminal background checks on *all* members enrolled on or after Oct. 1, 2009, regardless of whether the member has recurring access to vulnerable populations.
- Programs may extend terms of service for members serving in positions related to disaster relief for disaster purposes for up to 90 days (only with Corporation approval). Programs may continue to provide living allowances and health benefits to members during extensions, but members will not earn a larger or additional education award for hours served during an extension.
- Programs have responsibility for determining whether to release a member for compelling personal circumstances, and documenting the reason for release.
- State Commission composition requirements include a "representative of the volunteer sector."
- Ex-officio member of Commission designated by Corporation may not be a voting member (conforms with current practice).
- State Commissions will include new required components when developing next three-year State Plan. This State Plan will be subject to approval of the Governor.

For members who commence service on or after October 1, 2009

- AmeriCorps State and National members who commence service on or after Oct. 1, 2009, who are age 55 or older at the time they commence service, may, upon successful completion of a term of service, transfer the education award to a child, grandchild, or foster child. (To be included in a proposed rule, anticipated November 2009).
- All members beginning on or after Oct. 1, 2009 that will be serving in a tutoring program must have a high school diploma, and tutoring programs must align with local standards set for curriculum and training.
- Members enrolling on or after Oct. 1, 2009, may serve in a full-time term for fewer than 9 months.

Upon enactment of 2010 Appropriations. – *These provisions take effect immediately upon enactment of 2010 Appropriations.*

- State Commissions must submit a Supplemental State Plan for Adults Age 55 or Older in order to receive funding in 2010.
- Administrative grants must be at least $250,000 (ceiling of $1 million).
- State Commissions that demonstrate hardship may be eligible for an alternative match schedule for administrative grants.

For programs supported with funds received under 2010 Appropriations – *These provisions take effect for programs funded under the 2010 grant cycle.*

- State Competitive and National Direct programs will be selected in a single competition for 62.7% of AmeriCorps funds.
- The Corporation will make an effort to allocate not less than 10% of AmeriCorps funding to organizations operating "encore service programs" (programs that engage a significant number of individuals age 55 and older).
- National Directs will be required to include in application a description of the manner and extent to which they consulted with State Commissions in the States they propose to operate.

- The Corporation will solicit and consider the views of State Commissions on National Directs proposing to operate in their state when making funding decisions.
- Applicants will consult with municipalities and county governments, where appropriate, when developing programs that operate in those areas.
- Cost per member may not exceed $18,000 (waiver authority up to $19.5K, costs to be adjusted for inflation).
- Applicants may apply for full-time fixed-amount grants.
- The maximum cost per MSY of EAPs is set at $800 per member (possibly up to $1,000 for programs supporting at least 50% disadvantaged youth).
- Organizations that have violated a Federal statute are ineligible for funding.
- AmeriCorps members serving in programs funded with 2010 dollars who successfully complete a term of service will receive an education award tied in value to the Pell Grant.

Later –

- October 1, 2011, programs will conduct FBI fingerprint checks on members with recurring access to vulnerable populations (pending findings of DOJ study).

Rulemaking

- The Corporation will be undertaking a rulemaking this fall to implement provisions in the Serve America Act related to the National Service Trust, including the maximum number of terms an individual may serve in an approved national service position. Until this rulemaking is complete, all current rules on term limitations remain in place.