



## What is AmeriCorps?

*AmeriCorps*, sometimes referred to as “the domestic Peace Corps,” is the national service program that engages Americans of all ages and backgrounds in results-driven service in the five priority areas of education, public safety, environment, homeland security, and other human needs. AmeriCorps programs provide full and part-time opportunities for members to provide service to their communities through community organizations and agencies. Nearly 500,000 people have served in AmeriCorps since the program was founded in 1994.



## What is the Silicon Valley HealthCorps?

School and community gardens promote healthier eating and physical activity while enhancing civic engagement and our sense of community. They are a proven solution to the obesity epidemic, making nutritious food and physical activity more readily available to people of all ages. In an innovative new partnership, The Health Trust has joined together with AmeriCorps and nine local organizations to form the Silicon Valley HealthCorps. The goal of this collaboration is to use gardens, farm to school programs and the work of 46 AmeriCorps volunteers to bring fresh fruits, vegetables and education to residents of Santa Clara and San Mateo counties.

Each year, the Silicon Valley HealthCorps plans to produce and distribute 180,000 pounds of locally grown, organic produce through new community and school gardens, year-round community, school, and hospital based farm stands, and school based “Harvest of the Month” boxes.

## Member Terms

The term of service must be defined as including at least 1,700 hours of participation over a period of 9 to 12 months for full-time members, or at least 450 hours of participation over a period of 3 to 10 months for quarter-time members. The time period will be pre-determined for each position.

## Member Benefits

- Living allowance of \$16,000 for full time members, \$4,000 for quarter time members, distributed bi-weekly
- An education award of \$5350 for full time members, \$1415 for quarter time members upon completion of term of service
- Health Care coverage for full time members
- Loan deferment
- Professional development training

## Member Eligibility

To be eligible to enroll in AmeriCorps, an individual must:

- be a U.S. citizen or U.S. national or a lawful permanent resident alien of the United States
- be at least 17 years old;
- have a high school diploma or GED or agree to obtain one while serving;
- submit to and clear a criminal background check