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Title: AmeriCorps State and National Childcare Eligibility Benefits

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Summary: This is guidance on the AmeriCorps Child Care Benefit.

The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

TO: State Service Commissions and AmeriCorps State and National grantees

FROM: Jennifer Bastress Tahmasebi
Acting Director, AmeriCorps State and National

SUBJECT: 2017.02: AmeriCorps State and National – Child Care Benefit Eligibility Update

DATE: 23 February 2017

AmeriCorps State and National is excited to announce an update to the child care benefit eligibility requirements for members; please share as appropriate to project sites, members and other stakeholders.

Effective January 1, 2017:

- Full-time Professional Corps, EAP, and Partnership Challenge members are now eligible to apply for the AmeriCorps Child Care Benefit; please note that qualifying members (meeting all eligibility requirements) will be awarded benefits with the effective date of January 1, 2017.
- Guidance has been published that outlines child care benefit support that may be provided for members who are placed in a temporary suspended status. To qualify for coverage while under temporary suspended status, members must meet all of the requirements as outlined in the Q & A below.

Are members eligible for child care benefits while under suspension?

No. Members are not eligible for benefits while under suspension. However, if a member is put in a **temporary suspended status** and meets all of the below requirements, that member may be eligible to receive up to 12 consecutive weeks of continued benefits:

- The Member may not be suspended for cause and/or other disciplinary actions (an example of a qualifying suspension would be if a member was given a temporary suspension under the Family Medical Leave Act);
- The Member must intend to return to service;
- Member must certify he/she needs the continued benefit in order to be able to return to service.

To ensure no lapse in coverage, the grantee must notify the AmeriCorps Child Care benefit administrator (GAP Solutions, Inc.) in writing within five business days after a member's status changes. Costs incurred due to the grantee's failure to keep the benefit administrator informed of changes in a member's status may be charged to the grantee's organization.

For more information on the AmeriCorps Child Care Benefit Program, please visit: <http://www.americorpschildcare.com/>.