



October 29, 2021

**Re: Extending CARES Act COVID-19 Flexibilities**

Dear AmeriCorps Grantees and Partners,

Thank you for your inquiries regarding AmeriCorps' COVID-19 flexibilities and for sharing context and data to illustrate your concerns. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact us all - both personally and professionally - I want you to know that I recognize the difficulties you face in your work have not gone away. Accordingly, **AmeriCorps intends to continue Education Award and Fixed Price Grant flexibilities – authorized by the CARES Act – through the end of programming funded with FY 2021 program grant dollars.** Please see key information below.

AmeriCorps understands the Education Award flexibility is incredibly valuable to AmeriCorps members. Provided the member has completed more than 50% of their service hours for AmeriCorps State and National Members (or 50% of service days for AmeriCorps VISTA members), if an FY 2021 program year member is short service hours due to documented impacts related to COVID-19, they will be eligible for their full Education Award. We agree members should not be penalized for COVID-19 related factors outside of their control that impact their ability to complete their service hours. If you have questions about how to determine which members are eligible for the flexibility, please consult with your Portfolio Manager.

As stewards of public funds, we must also comply with monitoring and oversight regulations, so we ask for your continued help to maintain documentation of the COVID-19 related impacts that contributed to the loss of service hours. The COVID-19 FAQs posted on our website provide more information and guidance related to documentation.

AmeriCorps also intends to maintain the CARES Act flexibility to provide full-cost fixed amount grants to maintain a pro rata amount of grant funds for participants who exited, were suspended, or were serving in a limited capacity due to COVID-19 through the end of the FY 2021 program year. We understand that even if AmeriCorps members are unable to complete their service hours or days due to COVID-19, grantees need to draw the full cost per Member Service Year to maintain their program. Again, we ask for your help in meeting monitoring and oversight obligations by maintaining the highest quality records and documentation possible around COVID-19 related shortened service hours or days.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and communication, and for reaching out about these important issues. I am grateful for your dedication and innovation throughout this challenging period. You are an integral part of achieving our mission and making a difference in communities across our nation.

In service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Mal Coles'.

Mal Coles  
Acting Chief Executive Officer, AmeriCorps