

Revised Policy Clarification

Cash Assistance – All – PCA-21941-150

Medical Assistance – All – PMA-21941-350

Long-Term Care – All – PMN-21941-450

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance – All –
PFS-21941-550**

**Low-Income Home Energy Assistance – All –
PLC-21941-650**

Children’s Health Insurance – All – PCH-21941-1107

Submitted: **July 9, 2025**
September 19, 2024

Agency: CAOs

Subject: **Revised** AmeriCorps Stipends as Excluded Income

Question: How should the County Assistance Office (CAO) count AmeriCorps Stipends?

Response By: Policy Clarification Unit

Date: October 10, 2024

All AmeriCorps stipends will now be considered excluded income for all programs except for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in accordance with federal law 42 U.S.C.A § 12637(d). All AmeriCorps stipends will be excluded income for the Children’s Health Insurance Program, Long-Term Care, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Medical Assistance and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

SNAP policy has separate rules for the treatment of AmeriCorps stipends. **Please see SNAP Handbook chapter 550.514, Titles I and II of the 1973 Domestic Volunteer Services Act.**

~~Previously not all programs under AmeriCorps were considered excluded income.~~ The Department of Human Services is updating their policies to align with the National and Community Service Act of 1990. Applicants and recipients will not have to choose between new or continued service with AmeriCorps and public assistance that is essential to their wellbeing.

[AmeriCorps](#) has three main programs for individuals 17 and older: National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), State and National, and Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA). **AmeriCorps NCCC and AmeriCorps State and National payments are excluded from income for SNAP purposes. AmeriCorps VISTA** This income is only excluded for SNAP benefits for volunteers who were already receiving SNAP or TANF benefits when they joined AmeriCorps VISTA. **Temporary interruptions in SNAP benefits do not change the exclusion once an initial determination has been made.**

[AmeriCorps Seniors](#) has three programs for individuals 55 and older: Seniors Foster Grandparent Program, Seniors RSVP, and Seniors Companion Program. The CAO must exclude any payment to volunteers in RSVP, Foster Grandparents, and other programs under Title II of the Domestic Volunteer Services Act of 1973, regardless of whether they were receiving SNAP or TANF benefits when they joined AmeriCorps.

Applicants and recipients must still meet specified program eligibility requirements. The stipend is required to be entered into the case record using the correct exemption code(s) based on the program benefit(s).

- Please enter the income for the VISTA program on the Employment Wage screen under Employment Status “12-Participates in VISTA Volunteer Program” with the appropriate Employment Type.

Please enter the income for NCCC, State and National and Seniors on the Employment Wage screen using the appropriate Employment Status and Employment Type based on if they are volunteering full-time or part-time.