

## **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: September 19, 2024**

**Agency: CAOs**

**Subject: AmeriCorps Stipends as Excluded Income**

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

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**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). This income is only excluded for SNAP benefits for volunteers who were already receiving SNAP or TANF benefits when they joined AmeriCorps VISTA.

[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.