



2025-2026  
COLLEGE CORPS PROGRAM HANDBOOK  
FELLOWS VERSION

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## Section I

### Introduction & General College Corps Information

#### **About GO-Serve and California Volunteers**

The California Governor's Office of Service and Community Engagement (GO-Serve), led by Director and Chief Service Officer Josh Fryday, is the state office tasked with engaging Californians in service, volunteerism and civic action to address pressing state challenges. GO-Serve includes California Volunteers, the Youth Empowerment Commission and the Office of Community Partnerships and Strategic Communications (OCPSC). California Volunteers, Office of the Governor supports #CaliforniansForAll College Corps, AmeriCorps California, California Climate Action Corps, Youth Service Corps and the deployment of thousands of individual service members. These members provide important service to organizations across the state including schools, nonprofits, public agencies and community centers.

#### **About #CaliforniansForAll College Corps**

[#CaliforniansForAll College Corps](#) (College Corps) is a Governor's Initiative administered by California Volunteers in partnership with California colleges and universities with a strong commitment to civic and community engagement. College Corps helps students from diverse backgrounds graduate college on time and with less debt. The program is building the next generation of civic leaders by engaging students in meaningful community service that builds leadership skills, while providing them with a path toward reducing college debt. Fellows will support the work of community-based organizations focused on key local priorities K-12 Education, Food Insecurity, Climate Action, and other locally identified areas.

## Section II

### Partner Roles and Responsibilities

California Volunteers implements the College Corps program with multiple partners: higher education institutions and systems, community-based organizations, and college students. Each partner has a distinct set of roles and responsibilities, as outlined below.

#### Role of California Volunteers

- Selects and funds partner colleges and universities, to run the program for their students (hereafter referred to as a College Corps Partner Campus, or "Partner Campus").
- Provides ongoing policy guidance and support.
- Supports Partner Campus student recruitment through statewide marketing, storytelling, and communications.
- Provides a statewide technology platform to facilitate timekeeping and data collection.
- Offers College Corps events and programming to connect Fellows at a statewide level.
- Connects Partner Campuses for peer learning and regional collaboration.
- Provides statewide onboarding for community-based organizations (hereafter referred to as Community Host Partners or "CHP").
- Conducts a statewide program evaluation to better understand College Corps results and inform future improvements.

#### Role of Partner Campuses

- Recruits and selects students (hereafter referred to as College Corps Fellows or "**Fellows**").
- Selects and supports the Community Host Partners that will host Fellows.
- Manages academic coursework and other forms of reflection.
- Pays Fellow's living allowance and manages program using California Volunteers funding.
- Provides initial orientation and ongoing training for Fellows and Community Host Partners.
- Builds a cohesive College Corps cohort at the campus-level.
- Reports metrics and narratives to California Volunteers, as requested.
- Participates in statewide evaluation, as requested.
- Supports continuous improvement of both Fellows and Community Host Partners, including providing regular feedback and implementing corrective action, as needed.
- Conducts Community Host Partner site visits.
- Provides ongoing communication with Fellows, site supervisors and other stakeholders.
- Responsible for upholding the Fellow Rules of Conduct.
- Responsible for overseeing accurate Fellow timekeeping and timely submission of hours.

#### Role of the Community Host Partner

- Plays an integral role in the quality of the Fellow experience.
- Collaborates with Partner Campuses to:
  - Clearly define each Fellow's roles and responsibilities with a focus on direct service and interaction with community members.

- Develop a check-in schedule with Fellow's (weekly) and Partner Campus (at least monthly) to facilitate ongoing communication toward continuous program improvement.
- Identifies a site supervisor to manage the Fellow's day-to-day service and provide ongoing mentoring and support.
- Works with Partner Campus and Fellows to create a consistent schedule that supports Fellows in completing the required 450 service hours over the course of an academic year. To be reviewed, as Fellows schedules change, each quarter or semester.
- Provides trainings and skill-building opportunities for Fellows.
- Reports data and requested information to the Partner Campus and/or California Volunteers.
- Conducts Fellow performance evaluations.
- Responsible for having a system in place to accurately track and verify Fellow hours.
- Verifies and approves Fellow timesheets in America Learns platform in a timely manner to ensure Fellows receive their living allowance and education awards.

### Role of Fellows

- Meets Community Host Partner expectations and makes a positive contribution to the work of their host organization.
- Develops and maintains a schedule that allows them to complete 450 service hours in one academic year, as per the Hours Completion Plan in the Fellow Service Agreement.
- Maintains full-time enrollment status at partner campus for full academic year.
- Communicates with their Partner Campus AND host site supervisor, in a timely manner, when facing challenges or if they will miss any of their shifts.
- Completes and submits accurate timesheets regularly (bi-weekly or monthly based on Partner Campus schedule) to ensure living allowance payments and qualification for the Education Award.
- Responds to periodic surveys from California Volunteers or its evaluation partner.
- Participates in on-campus cohort-building, as well as statewide cohort-building events and opportunities.
- Adheres to policies outlined in the Fellow Code of Conduct provided in this document and agreed to in the Fellow Service Agreement.

## Section III

### Eligibility and Code of Conduct

#### Eligibility to Apply

To participate in College Corps, students must meet the following minimum requirements:

- Full-time, enrolled undergraduate student at a College Corps Partner Campus (i.e. Allan Hancock College)
- Has a high school diploma or its equivalent by start of program year.
- Minimum 2.0 GPA to remain in good academic standing as determined by Allan Hancock College's Admission and Records Department.

- Ability to commit to the program for the full academic year.
- Must be a US Citizen, US National, legal permanent resident, or AB 540 CA Dream Act student.

**Financial Need:** This program is designed to support low- to moderate-income students. Students selected to join College Corps should meet **at least one** of the following criteria:

- Qualifies for a [Federal Pell Grant](#).
- Qualifies for a [State Cal Grant](#).
- Qualifies for a [Middle Class Scholarship](#).
- Needs to work part time and/or borrow student loans to meet educational costs.

### Selection Criteria for Fellows

College Corps has a competitive selection process. Given the high demand for Fellowship slots, Partner Campuses establish their own criteria and process for selecting students. To be selected, students must demonstrate a willingness to fully commit to the program, complete the required number of service hours, and fully engage in all program activities throughout the entire academic year. In addition, successful applicants should demonstrate:

- Passion for working in partnership with communities to make positive change.
- Flexibility to work in different areas and adapt to changing circumstances.
- Growth mindset and eagerness to try new things.
- Interest in connecting with and learning from other students and partners across the state.
- Willingness to be an ambassador for the Fellowship on campus and beyond.
- Maintain full-time enrollment for both Fall 2025 and Spring 2026
  - Defined as 12+ units at Allan Hancock College
    - Exceptions will be granted for students who provide documentation from the [Learning Assistance Program \(LAP\)](#)
- Throughout the term of service, the candidate must be in Good Academic Standing as defined by [Admissions and Records](#).
  - “Good standing is achieved when a student meets or exceeds a 2.00 cumulative grade point average (GPA) and complete at least 50 percent of their cumulative attempted units with a letter grade (A,B,C,D, or F) or P (pass).

### Maintaining Eligibility

To remain eligible for College Corps, Fellows are expected to maintain full-time enrollment and remain in good academic standing for the entire academic year. Fellows understand that service hours should be spread evenly throughout the year, allowing the Fellow to serve at a reasonable pace of service that fits their schedule and supports the needs of their Community Host Partner. Fellows should continually progress toward completing their 450 hours of service by **Click or tap to enter a date** **Sunday, May 31, 2026**, and no later than **Friday, July 31, 2026**. **Extensions until July will be granted on a case by case basis between the Fellow and College Corps staff.** Finally, Fellows must comply with the Fellow Code of Conduct below.



## Fellow Code of Conduct

Fellows are expected to comply with all policies and requirements outlined in the Fellow Service Agreement, this Program Handbook, and any additional requirements communicated by the Partner

### Campus and/or Community Host Partner.

Students at Allan Hancock College are expected to uphold standards of student conduct in accordance with the Allan Hancock College Board Policy 5500. These standards can be found at:

### Allan Hancock College Standards of Student Conduct

A. While acting in an official capacity in the College Corps program, the Fellow is expected to:

1. Comply with the rules and standards of their community host partner
2. Comply with rules and standards of the partner campus, and the program, as outlined by their campus, in the Fellow Service Agreement and in this handbook
3. Demonstrate mutual respect toward others
4. Follow directions
5. Direct concerns, problems, and suggestions to College Corps Staff
  1. Kenneth Perez (Kenneth.perez@hancockcollege.edu)
  2. Dee Dee Escalante-Ramirez ([Deedee.Ramirez@hancockcollege.edu](mailto:Deedee.Ramirez@hancockcollege.edu))
  3. Jovany Cardenas Vargas (jovany.cardena@my.hancockcollege.edu)

B. The Fellow understands that the following acts constitute a violation of the Program's rules of conduct:

1. Unauthorized tardiness
2. Unauthorized absences
3. Repeated use of inappropriate language (i.e., profanity) at a service site
4. Failure to wear appropriate clothing to service assignments
5. Stealing or lying
6. **Falsely reporting of hours served or recording false hours in the timekeeping platform (see III (g) above)**
7. Engaging in any activity that may physically or emotionally damage other Fellows in the program or people in the community (see Civil Rights & Harassment Policy section X) Types of activities include, but are not limited to, sexual harassment or unwanted advancements, physical altercations, and verbal pressuring or disrespect
8. Unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of any controlled substance or illegal drugs during the term of service
9. Consuming alcoholic beverages during the performance of service activities or at College Corps sponsored events
10. Being under the influence of alcohol, marijuana, or illegal drugs during the performance of service activities or at College Corps sponsored events
11. Failure to notify the program of any criminal arrest or conviction that occurs during the term of service

Below is a non-exhaustive list of requirements, which if not followed, may result in coaching, discipline, and/or release from the program. Fellows are expected to:

- Arrive on time for scheduled trainings, meetings, and shifts at their service site, and should be ready to meet the expectations outlined in their Fellow Service Agreement. Use appropriate

language, wear professional clothing and act in a manner consistent with the expectations of the College Corps Program and their own institution.

- Have a full understanding of their Community Host Partner's workplace policies and procedures and act in accordance with these policies at all times.
- Consistently serve hours as detailed on their Service Hours Completion Plan.
- Communicate with the service site supervisor, in a timely manner, if they will be late or miss a scheduled shift.
- Treat all College Corps staff, other Fellows, and partners with respect and not act in a manner that could physically or emotionally harm any other Fellows or program partners.
- Abstain from consuming or being in possession of drugs or alcohol during their service hours, while at service site, or while attending any College Corps events.
- Be truthful in all conversations and on all records and documents, including but not limited to eligibility criteria, program documentation, criminal history, timesheets, and professional communications.
- Notify the Community Host Partner and Partner Campus immediately should any of the following occur during the term of service:
  - Criminal charge of any kind
  - Detainment of any kind
  - Arrest of any kind
  - Conviction of any crime

## Section IV

### Fellow Training and Development

#### Orientation & Training Overview

A core objective of the College Corps program is to provide Fellows with ample opportunity for personal and professional growth. Partner Campuses, Community Host Partners, and California Volunteers will provide Fellows with orientations and trainings, including a combination of mentorship and coaching, skill-building workshops, and peer learning and exchange.

In close collaboration with campus program staff, Fellows are permitted to track and count up to 90 training hours toward their 450-hour service requirement (**no more than 20%**). To be counted as training hours, the activity should be directly related to the Fellow's area of service and/or specific objectives of the College Corps program. Training hours will be provided by the Partner Campus, the Community Host Partner, or California Volunteers. Each Partner Campus will help Fellows determine which training hours should be counted toward the Fellow's service hour requirement.

All Fellows should receive some combination of the following training:

- Initial in-person Fellow orientation from program staff at Partner Campus.
- Ongoing training and reflection with their campus-level cohort on topics such as identity, community asset mapping, power and privilege, , etc.
- Training and/or coursework specific to the focus area in which they will be serving.
- Onboarding, ongoing training and/or professional development opportunities from Community Host Partners.
- Coaching and mentoring from site supervisor, on a consistent and ongoing basis.
- Opportunities to participate in California Volunteers statewide cohort activities.

#### Academic Coursework and Credit

Some institutions are offering for-credit courses specifically for their College Corps Fellows. Depending on the Partner Campus, these courses may be required or optional, and the number of course credits offered will vary. Partner Campuses will provide information to Fellows on the academic components of their program no later than the College Corps Fellow Orientation. Coursework provides an excellent opportunity for Fellows to better understand the community context, issues related to their service focus area, and to reflect on what they are seeing and learning.

- Students at Hancock College interested in receiving units for academic coursework can visit the following page to enroll in the [Work Experience Education Program \(WEE\)](#) under the direction of Career Readiness Specialist: Work Experience Education:
  - Maria Ramirez-Camacho (Maria.ramirezgaribay@hancockcollege.edu)

## Career Development

Partner Campuses will work with Fellows to ensure they are prepared to serve in a professional setting and to leverage their College Corps experience to strengthen their resume and job interviewing skills, as well as to help inform their future career path. California Volunteers will also offer opportunities for Fellows to begin building a professional network through the Statewide Cohort Experience and access to an alumni network for those Fellows who complete the program.

## Statewide Cohort Experience

Ensuring that Fellows from across the state feel a shared sense of identity and a common sense of purpose is a priority for the College Corps Program. California Volunteers aims to promote the following priority outcomes through the Statewide Cohort Experience:

- 1. Solidarity:** Fellows feel connected to each other across diverse backgrounds and geographies and connected to California Volunteers.
- 2. Bridging:** Fellows learn leadership and cross-cultural collaboration skills that help them bridge divides and navigate differences to solve problems.
- 3. Inspiration:** Fellows are inspired to pursue a lifetime of service through connections with a network of state and local leaders.

To advance these outcomes, California Volunteers will offer Fellows the opportunity to participate in the following activities and events:

- Statewide Launch & Swearing-In Celebration brings together all California Service Corps members from across the state for an energetic kick-off to their service experience.
- Fellow Ambassador Program will engage at least one Fellow from each partner campus to receive additional training that will help them serve as spokespersons for College Corps on their campus and beyond.
- Mid-Year Leadership Workshops bring regional cohorts of Fellows together, in-person to build relationships, learn new skills, and share what they are learning through their own service experience.
- California Service Corps Regional Service Days will offer College Corps Fellows the opportunity to gain service hours serving side by side with other California Service Corps members.
- End-of-Year Ceremony will celebrate the end of a transformative year and recognize California Service Corps members statewide for their accomplishments.

## Section V

### Fellow Service Placements

#### College Corps Focus Areas

Communities will benefit from the support of College Corps Fellows in tackling California's most pressing challenges. Fellows will serve in nonprofit and governmental organizations in four primary focus areas identified by California Volunteers:

- K–12 Education
- Climate Action
- Food Insecurity
- Healthy Futures

Not all Partner Campuses will offer all four focus areas, and some may offer opportunities for Fellows to serve outside of these three areas. Fellows should consult directly with their Partner Campus for information on their chosen focus areas.

#### Service Placement Guidelines

The purpose of these guidelines is to ensure that Fellows have a meaningful service and learning experience. Community Host Partners play an important role in mentoring Fellows, ensuring they are doing meaningful work, and gaining practical job skills. California Volunteers shared the following guidelines with Partner Campuses and Community Host Partners.

College Corps Fellows must:

- Serve primarily with one Community Host Partner throughout their term of service.
- Spend the majority of service hours engaging directly with beneficiaries in the community, **not conducting desk research or performing administrative tasks.**
- Conduct service directly aligned with their program's stated focus area(s) and performance measures.
- Accurately log service and training hours in America Learns on a daily or weekly basis.
  - **Please be aware that any hours recorded that are in any way dishonest, can be considered fraud due to their connection to the federal grant that funds this program and the education awards. Dishonest timekeeping can lead to severe penalties as well as be subject to campus policy for misconduct including expulsion. It could also lead to the requirement to pay back the living allowance.**
- Be assigned a dedicated supervisor at their service site.

College Corps Fellows may:

- Serve at secondary placements as determined and approved by Partner Campus.
- Do a combination of direct service (at least 50 percent) and capacity-building (I.e., volunteer mobilization) for their community host organization, as agreed upon by the Partner Campus, Community Host Partner and Fellow.
- Serve with on-campus organizations, provided the above requirements are met.
- Serve additional service hours at other sites through a process defined by Partner Campus.

Partner Campus manages the process to match College Corps Fellows with their service placement. All questions about the matching process should be directed to Partner Campus staff, as each institution has a unique approach to matching student interest with community need.

Allan Hancock College has taken a multi-step approach to placing fellows:

1. Community Partners submitted position descriptions to the College Corps Canva [website](#)
2. College Corps sat down with students to review position descriptions and find a placement site that accommodated student interest, transportation modality, and Fall 2025 class schedule.
3. Students then were placed at their chosen site and introduced to their community host organizations
  - a. *Hancock College cannot guarantee a perfect match, but considering multiple variables, Allan Hancock College aims to mitigate future conflicts between fellows and their assigned sites.*

### Establishing a Predictable Schedule

Fellows are required to develop a plan at the start of each academic term as to how they will consistently meet the College Corps service hours requirement over the course of the academic year and how they will manage this with their coursework and other obligations. It is highly recommended Fellows establish a consistent schedule where they serve an average of **15 hours per week**, or the minimum required in their Fellow Service Agreement. This is important both to ensure Fellows successfully complete the program, and to ensure that the Community Host Partner will be able to assign them meaningful and time-sensitive projects. Fellows are required to complete a Service Hours Completion Plan each semester (or quarter) and track progress toward completing their service hours in America Learns. If Fellows have not completed 50% of their service hours by the midpoint of the program **(January / February)**, they will need to work with their Partner Campus staff to develop a detailed plan for how they will complete their hours before the program end date, and no later than **Sunday, May 31, 2025. On a case-by-case basis, College Corps may extend students to Friday, July 31, 2026, as needed.** Fellows who are not consistently meeting the average hours requirement risk being exited early from the program.

### Site Supervisor Role

Fellows will be matched with a site supervisor at their Community Host Partner site. The supervisor will manage the Fellow's day-to-day tasks, provide coaching and support, ensure the Fellow meets the expectations outlined in the Fellow Service Agreement, and enforce program policies and Fellow Code of Conduct, as needed. Fellows should have at least one hour of direct interaction with their supervisor each week during the service term unless the supervisor's absence prevents this meeting. These weekly meetings are an opportunity to discuss successes and challenges. Some topics to discuss could include:

- Questions about the Community Host Partner's work or the local context.
- Clarifying program objectives, expectations, and policies.
- Goal setting and progress toward assigned tasks.
- Confirming the weekly/daily schedule.
- Discussing overcoming barriers and challenges.
- Celebrating successes.

## Performance Evaluations

Fellow development is an important component of the College Corps program. With honest feedback, Fellows can make improvements to enhance their performance, both now and as they prepare for future careers. Fellows are encouraged to request regular feedback on their progress as part of their weekly meetings with site supervisors. At the end of their service term, each Fellow's site supervisor is expected to provide a brief written evaluation of the Fellow's overall performance and to set aside time to talk through this feedback individually with each Fellow under their supervision.

The site supervisor's performance evaluation is expected to address the following topics:

- What progress has been made on assigned projects? Were expectations met?
- What are the Fellow's strengths?
- What are areas for growth and development?
- What is the Fellow's level of initiative, follow-through, judgement, collaboration skills, etc.?
- Describe the overall performance of the Fellow.

## Prohibited Activities

Per federal regulations, Fellows may not participate in any of the following activities as part of their College Corps service placement:

- **Supplantation:** Fellows may not be used to replace State and local public funds that had been used to support programs of the type eligible to receive AmeriCorps support.
- **Legislative Advocacy:** Fellows may not be used to assist, provide, or participate in direct or indirect attempts to influence passage or defeat of legislation or proposals by initiative petition.
- **Religious Activities:** Fellows may not be used to assist, provide, or participate in religious instruction, conduct worship services, engage in any form of proselytization, or any other religious activity as an official part of a Fellow's duties.
- **Political Activity:** Fellows may not be used to assist, provide, or participate in partisan and non-partisan political activities associated with a candidate, including voter registration.
- **Labor Organizations:** Fellows may not be used to assist, provide, or participate in labor or anti-labor organization or related activities.
- **Nonduplication:** Fellows may not be used to duplicate an activity that is already available in the locality of a program. And, unless the non-displacement requirements listed below are met, will not be provided to a private nonprofit entity to conduct activities that are the same or substantially equivalent to activities provided by a State or local government agency in which such entity resides.
- **Non-displacement:** A Fellow may not perform any services or duties or engage in activities that would otherwise be performed by an employee as part of the assigned duties of such employee.

A complete listing and additional details on prohibited activities and restrictions can be found at the links below:

[eCFR :: 45 CFR 2520.65 -- What activities are prohibited in AmeriCorps subtitle C programs?](#)

[eCFR :: 45 CFR 2540.100 -- What restrictions govern the use of Corporation assistance?](#)





## Section VI

### Financial Benefits

**All Fellows who complete their 450-hour term of service will receive a total maximum financial benefit of \$10,000, paid in the form of a living allowance during service, plus an educational award upon completion of required service hours.**

#### Living Allowance

Each Fellow will receive a living allowance to cover living expenses throughout their term of service. The living allowance is not an hourly wage and **will not fluctuate based on the number of hours served** (The Fellow must log at least one service hour and be fully enrolled in all applicable platforms to be considered fully enrolled and for payments to begin). Throughout the year, Fellows should consistently progress toward completing their total 450 service hours, serving an average target of **15 hours per week with a minimum average of 12-15 hours per week required to** receive the living allowance. The Partner Campus will pay each Fellow a living allowance in regular increments, monthly, throughout their term of service. The living allowance will cease when the Fellow reaches the end of their service term or is released from their term of service. Fellows will receive more details from their college or university regarding how frequently the living allowance will be paid, what the payment amount will be, and which entity on campus will be issuing those payments. Fellows should review and be familiar with the Living Allowance Suspension Policy included in their Fellow Service Agreement. Fellows who exit early from the program will **no longer be eligible to receive their living allowance**. Fellows who reach the hours completion milestone prior to the service end date on their Hours Completion Plan are required to continue to log hours and to continue to participate in the program in order to be eligible to continue to receive the balance of their living allowance.

#### **During Term of Service (1-450 hours):**

- *Fellows are expected to adhere to the College Corps Payment Schedule. This schedule has been created in consultation with Allan Hancock College's Financial Aid Department, which releases living stipends. \*Please note benchmark hours ensure adherence to 12 hours per week, concluding service on May 31, 2025*

- [2025-26 Payment Schedule College Corps Fellows.xlsx](#)

#### **After Term of Service (450 hours+):**

- *In the event a fellow completes their hours prior to the program completion date (May 31, 2026), the fellow is expected to continue serving **5 hours per week** until the completion of the program.*
- *This stipulation is to ensure the Community Host Partner receives services and coverage for the duration of the 2025-2026 program as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding. It is the fellow's responsibility to work with Hancock College Corps to plan out the timely completion of the 450 service hours as fellows will **NOT** receive additional compensation for any hours worked beyond the 450 requirement.*

## Education Award

Upon successful completion of the College Corps Program all Fellows will receive an education award. This requires completing service hours by Sunday, May 31, 2025, or Fellows may be extended to July 31, 2026 (contingent on prior approval from the College Corps team).

There are four types of education awards, based on the category of student receiving the award: AmeriCorps (Segal Education Award), California Student Aid Commission (Dream Act Service Incentive Grant), the State of California (State Supplemental Education Award), and an Institutional Education Award. Partner Campuses will inform Fellows as to which education award(s) they will be receiving as part of the Fellow Service Agreement and will provide detailed instructions on the process to access the education award(s).

## Documented Students / AmeriCorps Members

Documented students, who are considered AmeriCorps members, will receive a \$7,000 living allowance paid throughout the term of service and education awards totaling \$3,000 upon completion of service, for a maximum financial benefit of \$10,000 for those who complete the College Corps program.

The education awards will be provided through two different funding sources. A federal award of **\$1,956.35** will be provided as a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award. Based on the AmeriCorps guidelines, Fellows can utilize the Segal Education Award to pay current or future educational expenses, including paying off student loans from past years or paying for tuition in a future term. AmeriCorps guidance does permit the award of a full or prorated Segal Award, in line with the AmeriCorps compelling personal circumstance (CPC) exit policy outlined in the [AmeriCorps Terms & Conditions](#). Fellows will access the Segal Award on their [MyAmeriCorps portal](#). Additional resources on how to access, use, and understand the Segal Education Award can be found in the [Segal Education Award Fact Sheet 2025](#).

Californians For All Education Award: To augment the Segal Education Award, Fellows will also receive the Californians for All Education Award, a supplemental education award in the amount of **\$1,043.65**, funded by the State of California. The Partner Campus will pay this supplemental state award to Fellows upon completion of the program.

**Compelling Personal Circumstances Exit:** Fellow may qualify for a pro-rated Segal and Californians For All Education Awards if exited under a Compelling Personal Circumstance Exit. Per [eCFR :: 45 CFR 2522.230](#) the Program may release a Fellow from their term of service for **compelling personal circumstances** if the Fellow has completed at least 15% of required hours and demonstrates circumstances beyond the Fellow's control that prevent the individual from completing their term of service. Additional information on Compelling Personal Circumstances can be found in the Fellow Service Agreement. This information should be reviewed, by Fellow, prior to signing the Fellow Service Agreement of which this document is a part.

## AB 540 CA Dream Act Fellows

### *Dream Act Service Incentive Grant (DSIG) Eligible Fellows*

AB 540 CA Dream Act students who are eligible for the Dream Act Service Incentive Grant (DSIG) administered by the California Student Aid Commission will apply through the California Student Aid Commission with the guidance of their Partner Campus for the DSIG award. To be eligible for DSIG, students must be either Cal Grant A or B recipients, and must be eligible for Cal Grant B. This award provides up to **\$4,500** in an education award to students who complete the College Corps program. Eligible Fellows will receive a **\$5,500** College Corps living allowance, paid throughout the term of service, for a maximum financial benefit of **\$10,000** upon completion of the program.

Fellows should contact their Partner Campus for instructions on the California Student Aid Commissions process to apply for and to request payments for the DSIG award. The award can be accessed in up to two installments for Fellows on the semester system and up to three installments for Fellows on the quarter system. Payments are based on minimum number of hours served. The compelling personal circumstances exit policy does not apply to the DSIG award. If a Fellow does not complete the required hours for the DSIG award, they will not be eligible to access this award on a prorated basis. Additional information on the DSIG award can be found here [CA Dream Act Service Incentive Grant FAQ's](#)

### *Institutional Education Awards for Non-DSIG Eligible AB 540 CA Dream Act Fellows*

AB 540 CA Dream Act students who are **not** eligible for the DSIG award, but were selected as College Corps Fellows, will receive a **\$7,000** living allowance paid throughout the term of service and an education award in the amount of **\$3,000**, paid by Partner Campus, upon completion of service, for a total financial benefit up to **\$10,000** for those who complete the College Corps program. A Fellow must complete 450 hours to receive this education award. Fellows in this category should verify with the College Corps staff at their college or university when and how they will receive this award, as payment mechanisms vary by campus.

### *Summary of College Corps Financial Benefits*

	<b>Living Allowance</b>	<b>Education Award</b>
Documented Students	\$7,000 <i>Paid throughout term of service</i>	\$1,956.35 Segal Education Award \$1,043.65 State Supplemental Award <i>Paid upon completion of service</i>
AB-540 Dreamers DSIG Recipients	\$5,500 <i>Paid throughout term of service</i>	\$4,500 DSIG Education Award <i>Paid in 2 or 3 installments: mid-service and at completion</i>
AB-540 Dreamers NON DSIG Recipients	\$7,000 <i>Paid throughout term of service</i>	\$3,000 education award <i>Paid upon completion of service</i>

## Tax Implications

Because payment mechanisms vary across institutions and funding for the living allowance and education awards are provided through various sources, **Fellows are advised to consult with their college or university and/or a tax advisor regarding the tax implications for the payments of the living allowance and education awards.**

## Financial Aid Implications

Fellows are encouraged to consult with the Financial Aid Advisor on campus, regarding the coordination and impact of the College Corps Living Allowance and Education Award(s) on their current or future financial aid package. The education award(s) that Fellows receive are treated differently than the living allowance, as they are provided through various funding sources. Depending on the type of education award and when it is disbursed, it may be possible for certain award(s) to be used toward educational expenses in future academic years. FAQ's on financial aid impacts can be found in the [Financial Benefit FAQs for Fellows](#) folder in Box.

## Public Assistance Programs & Benefits

Fellows acknowledge that their eligibility for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) could be impacted by their living allowance; however, they have the option to lower their living allowance rate, if they feel it will maintain eligibility for the benefits they wish to receive.

- o **SSI, SSDI:** The HEART (Hero Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax) Act of 2008 specifies that any cash or in-kind benefit paid to a participant in the AmeriCorps Program is excluded from the SSI income calculation. This means that SSI recipients can freely serve as AmeriCorps Fellows without the fear of losing their SSI. HOWEVER, there is no exemption for SSDI benefits so the stipend could impact said benefits.
- o **Food Stamps (Cal Fresh):** The AmeriCorps State and National Program was authorized by the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (NCSA), 42 U.S.C. § 12501 et seq. The NCSA states allowances, earnings, and payments to participants in AmeriCorps Programs "shall not be considered income for the purposes of determining eligibility for and the amount of income transfer and in-kind aid furnished under any Federal or federally assisted Program based on need, other than as provided in the Social Security Act." 42 U.S.C. § 12637(d).
- o **Temporary Assistance to Needy Families:** Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) is one of the programs that may be affected by the living allowance. By signing this service agreement, the member acknowledges their understanding that their eligibility for SSDI and TANF could be impacted by their stipend; however, they have the option to lower their stipend rate, or waive the stipend entirely, if they feel it will impact eligibility for benefits they wish to receive. They may also ask that the stipend be reinstated if things change but would not be eligible for previously waived stipend payments.
- **Unemployment Insurance:** The U.S. Department of Labor ruled on April 20, 1995, that federal unemployment compensation law does not require coverage for Fellows because no employer-employee relationship exists. California Labor law also states AmeriCorps Fellows are not eligible for unemployment as they are not employees.

- **Financial Aid:** Fellows also acknowledge their understanding that their financial aid could be impacted by the financial benefits of this program. The impact will vary per individual. It is recommended that all Fellow who are receiving financial aid meet with their campus financial aid advisor to understand the possible impact and options for their individual situation.
- California Volunteers has created [CV Member Benefits Exemption Letter 2025](#) to support AmeriCorps members who may have or be applying for public benefits such as **Cal Fresh** (food program), **Medi-Cal**, or **HUD housing**. These programs should not be counting the living allowance/stipend as income when determining eligibility.

## Section VII

### Technology Platforms

#### America Learns Overview

America Learns is an online platform provided by California Volunteers. All College Corps partners and Fellows will use America Learns for timekeeping and data collection.

Fellows will use the platform to:

- Input service and training hours on a regular basis
  - This will be bi-weekly in accordance with the payment schedule [linked](#)
- Submit accurate timesheets to their supervisor for approval.
- Participate in surveys to provide feedback and help improve the program.
- Timesheets from America Learns will be used to demonstrate Fellow's eligibility for Living Allowance payments, education awards and completion of the program.

Prior to service, Fellow's will be required to complete asynchronous timesheet training provided by America Learns. Partner Campuses will provide supplemental training to Fellows on how to access America Learns, complete their Fellow profile, and submit their timesheets. Fellows who need support using America Learns should first contact the appropriate person at their Partner Campus. If Fellows are not able to resolve their issues with the support of their Partner Campus, they can contact California Volunteers technical assistance through this link: [CCTechSupport@CV.CA.Gov](mailto:CCTechSupport@CV.CA.Gov).

#### MyAmeriCorps

Fellows who are AmeriCorps members and are eligible for the Segal Education Award will receive an email invitation to register in MyAmeriCorps. Fellows need to create an account on the MyAmeriCorps Portal, in a timely manner, in order to complete enrollment prior to the start of service. Once registered, Fellows will receive an automated email from [myamericorps@americorps.gov](mailto:myamericorps@americorps.gov) containing a link to complete enrollment. Fellows must complete this process to be successfully enrolled in the National Service Trust and to receive a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award. Upon completion of the program, Fellows can access their Segal Education Award through the MyAmeriCorps portal. Fellows must complete this process prior to serving any service or training hours. Once earned, Segal Award funds are available to be transferred directly from the National Service Trust to the qualified educational agency or loan holder. There is no option to receive a direct case award in lieu of the Segal Education Award. Additional information about the use and limitations of the Education Award can be found [here](#).

#### Alumni Network

Fellows who complete the program will be invited to participate in the [California Volunteers Alumni Network](#). The Alumni Network brings together all California Service Corps alumni from #CaliforniansForAll College Corps, California Climate Action Corps, Youth ServiceCorps, and AmeriCorps California, to connect and engage beyond their service term. Alumni of California Service Corps programs will be able to access career development resources, connect with other service alumni, become ambassadors of their service program, and take advantage of networking opportunities.

## Computer, Internet Usage, and Social Media

The college's [Graphic Identity Standards](#) serve to provide consistency in the graphic identity of Allan Hancock College. The standards outline proper use of college colors, fonts, and logos (both official college logo and Spike the mascot), and provides guidance on college apparel, photography, and ADA compliance.

## Section VIII

### Program Evaluation and Measurement

The College Corps program is committed to understanding and tracking the impact of this program for participating students. The program has identified the following key desired outcomes. Fellows will:

- Report finding their experience meaningful and positive.
- Experience financial relief and reduced debt burden as a result of their participation.
- Persist toward graduation and attain their academic goals.
- Help clarify their career and/or academic goals through experiences in the program.
- Develop confidence, self-efficacy, and build career readiness competencies.
- Gain an increased sense of civic responsibility and remain committed to civic engagement.
- Feel better prepared to collaborate with people from different backgrounds.
- Feel connected to the statewide College Corps cohort.

California Volunteers has contracted with an external evaluator to track these outcomes from the time Fellows begin the program, through program completion and beyond. The goal is to better understand the benefits Fellows receive, any challenges encountered, and to identify potential improvements for future programming. All surveys will be conducted through America Learns and individual responses will be kept confidential.

Fellows will be asked to complete the following:

- **Fellow Profile Information** [in America Learns] to disaggregate program information and survey results to provide insight on the extent the program is reaching the intended student population and whether program benefits are experienced equitably.
- **Fellow Pulse Checks** will be administered occasionally in America Learns and will consist of a few short questions used to gauge Fellows' satisfaction in the program. Fellows will be prompted to complete these when submitting their timesheets.
- **Fellow Entrance and Post-Program Surveys** [in America Learns] will take no more than 15-20 minutes to complete and are voluntary. The survey data will provide California Volunteers with important information needed to improve the program for future participants.

California Volunteers will also work with Partner Campuses to collect information on Fellows' contributions to the work of Community Host Partners, including community-level results such as the number of students tutored, number of trees planted, and number of meals served.



## Section IX

### Administrative Policies

#### Attendance

Fellows are expected to show up on time for scheduled training and shifts. Fellows should work with Partner Campus staff and the site supervisor to create a predictable schedule that works with the Fellows academic commitments while meeting the needs of the Community Host Partner. Fellows should contact the site supervisor as soon as they know that they will be late or will not be able to make a scheduled shift. Throughout the year, they should continually progress toward completing their total 450 service hours, serving an average target of **15 hours** per week.

#### Timesheets

Timekeeping is a critical responsibility, since every Fellow must document their service hours to continue receiving their living allowance, complete the program and be eligible to receive their education award(s). Fellows are responsible for tracking both their training and service hours in America Learns. Timesheets should be completed accurately (daily or weekly) and submitted on a regular basis **(bi-weekly)** for approval by site supervisors (service or training hours completed at the CHP) or by the College Corps lead on the Fellow's campus (training hours completed through the campus and additional service hours). This data will help both Fellows and Partner Campuses monitor their progress towards meeting the 450-service hour requirement. It is the responsibility of the Fellow to accurately track and record their service hours. **Please be aware that any hours recorded that are in any way dishonest, can be considered fraud due to their connection to the federal grant that funds this program and the education awards. Dishonest timekeeping can lead to severe penalties as well as be subject to campus policy for misconduct including expulsion. It could also lead to the requirement to pay back the stipend.**



## Payment Suspension Plan

To successfully complete the program by **Sunday, May 31, 2026**, Fellows should log **12 hours+** per week (amounting to **24 hours+** every two weeks). As outlined in the Fellow Payment Schedule, Fellows should strive to meet benchmarks to ensure continued payment of their living stipend.

- Stipend #1 (paid 9/29/2025). By September 21, Fellows should be at **56 hours+**
  - **8/11/2025-8/24/2025 (Milestone: 12 hours)**
  - **8/25/2025-9/7/2025 (Milestone: 34 hours)**
  - **9/8/2025-9/21/2025 (Milestone: 56 hours)**
- Stipend #2 (paid 11/03/2025). By October 19, Fellows should be at **100 hours+**
  - Encompasses:
    - **9/22/2025 - 10/5/2025 (Milestone: 78 hours)**
    - **10/6/2025 - 10/19/2025 (Milestone: 100 hours)**
- Stipend #3 (paid 12/08/2025). By November 16, Fellows should be at **144 hours+**
  - Encompasses:
    - **10/20/2025 - 11/2/2025 (Milestone: 122 hours)**
    - **11/3/2025 - 11/16/2025 (Milestone: 144 hours)**
- Stipend #4 (paid 1/12/2026). By December 14, Fellows should be at **188 hours+**
  - Encompasses:
    - **11/17/2025 - 11/30/2025 (Milestone: 166 hours)**
      - *\*To account for Thanksgiving closures, Fellows can make specific accommodations to meet Fellowship targets*
    - **12/1/2025 - 12/14/2025 (Milestone: 188 hours)**
      - *\*To account for Hancock College Finals Schedules (December 4-11, Fellows can make specific accommodations to meet Fellowship targets*
- Stipend #5 (paid 1/19/2026). By January 11, Fellows should be at **232 hours+**
  - Encompasses:
    - **12/15/2025 - 12/28/2025 (Milestone: 210 hours)**
      - *To account for Christmas closures, Fellows can make specific accommodations to meet Fellowship targets*
    - **12/29/2025 - 1/11/2026 (Milestone: 232 hours)**
      - *To account for New Year closures, Fellows can make specific accommodations to meet Fellowship targets*
- Stipend #6 (paid 2/17/2026). By February 8, Fellows should be at **276 hours+**
  - Encompasses:
    - **1/12/2026 - 1/25/2026 (Milestone: 254 hours)**
    - **1/26/2026 - 2/8/2026 (Milestone: 276 hours)**
- Stipend #7 (paid 3/23/2026). By March 8, Fellows should be at **320 hours+**
  - Encompasses:
    - **2/9/2026 - 2/22/2026 (Milestone: 298 hours)**
    - **2/23/2026 - 3/8/2026 (Milestone: 320 hours)**

- Stipend #8 (paid 4/20/2026). By April 5, Fellows should be at **364 hours+**
  - Encompasses:
    - **3/9/2026 - 3/22/2026 (Milestone: 342 hours)**
    - **3/23/2026 - 4/5/2026 (Milestone: 364 hours)**
- Stipend #9 (paid 5/18/2026). By May 3, Fellows should be at **408 hours+**
  - Encompasses:
    - **4/6/2026 - 4/19/2026 (Milestone: 386 hours)**
      - *To account for Santa Maria Joint Union High School District, Guadalupe Union School District, and Lompoc Unified School District closures (April 6-10), Fellows can make specific accommodations to meet Fellowship targets*
    - **4/20/2026 - 5/3/2026 (Milestone: 408 hours)**
- Stipend #10 (paid 6/22/2026). By May 3, Fellows should be at **450 hours+**
  - Encompasses:
    - **5/4/2026 - 5/17/2026 (Milestone: 430 hours)**
      - *\*To account for Hancock College Finals Schedules (May 13-20), Fellows can make specific accommodations to meet Fellowship targets*
    - **5/18/2026 - 5/31/2026 (Milestone: 450 hours+)**

On a case-by-case basis, the Allan Hancock College Corps reserves the right to amend this stipend schedule by completing a Fellow Hours Completion plan with the Fellow. Upon demonstrated improvement in hours working towards the individualized goals outlined in the Fellow Hours Completion plan, the College Corps will release withheld stipends for students.

Fellows who start late or are otherwise delayed in starting the program (i.e. after August 18, 2025), will be worked with on a case-by-case basis to catch up to the benchmarks and ensure timely completion by **Sunday, May 31, 2026**.

Fellow is in danger of being exited early from the program if:

- They are **50 hours or more behind** the total target hours served for the time period, as per the Fellow Hours Completion Plan included in the Fellow Service Agreement and they are not making progress toward making up those hours.
- OR
- They have logged **0 hours** for two consecutive months.
- The College Corps makes **3** documented attempts to contact the student (email, phone, and a site visit) and is unsuccessful in scheduling a completion plan with the Fellow.
- If a Fellow has more than **2** unexcused absences in a pay period, their living allowance payment for the pay period will be suspended.

## Breaks

If serving for a period of more than five (5) hours in one (1) day, Fellows must be provided with a meal period of between thirty (30) minutes and sixty (60) minutes, during which time Fellows are to be relieved of all service-related duties. *Exception:* If a period of no more than six (6) hours will complete the day, and the meal period has been waived by both the Fellow and the Community Host Partner at the beginning of the shift, then the Fellow does not need to take a meal period. The meal period cannot be taken at the beginning or the end of the service day. Fellows are expected to clock out for meal periods, so this time will not count towards hours served. Fellows are authorized to take a fifteen (15) minute break for every four (4) hours of service.

## Discipline Procedure

There will be consequences for continued issues with a Fellow's performance or violations of the Fellow Code of Conduct (see Section III). Community Host Partners and Partner Campuses will work together to implement progressive discipline -- a system of incrementally escalating responses to correct a Fellow's negative behaviors or violations of the Code of Conduct. Discipline may take the form of verbal warnings, written warnings, suspension, or termination. The process is designed for Community Host Partner Supervisors to collaborate with their Partner Campus to determine the appropriate response under the circumstances. Because it is based on communication and collaboration, progressive discipline also helps Fellows improve and succeed in the program. Fellows cannot be treated in the same way as "at will" employees. They commit to providing service, and there is no employer/employee relationship. Under no circumstances can a Community Host Partner take action to dismiss a Fellow from their term of service; the decision to exit a Fellow from the College Corps program can only be made by Partner Campus staff. However, when warranted, supervisors may suspend a Fellow from service at their host site; this option can be used when there is a safety concern, or when the severity of a situation is such that it is not appropriate for the Fellow to remain at their current host organization.

Fellows must be made aware that if behaviors do not improve to meet program expectations and requirements, they are jeopardizing their position with the College Corps Program, as well as continued payment of their living allowance. It is the goal of the College Corps Program to provide clear communication to Fellows so that each Fellow can correct, and thereby improve, their behavior and/or performance. Refer to Appendix 2 for more details about progressive discipline policies and procedures.

## Release for Cause

The Program may release the Fellow for **cause**:

A release for cause encompasses any circumstances *other than* compelling personal circumstances that warrant an individual's release from completing a term of service. **This includes both release for misconduct and for a Fellow deciding to leave the program.**

- Programs must release for cause any participant who is convicted of a felony or the sale or distribution of a controlled substance during a term of service.
- A Fellow who is released for cause may not receive any portion of the education award or any further payment from the College Corps Program.
- A Fellow who is released for cause must disclose that fact in any subsequent applications to participate in an AmeriCorps or State service program. Failure to do so disqualifies the individual for an education award, regardless of whether the individual completes a term of service.
- A Fellow who is released for cause may contest the program's decision by filing a grievance in accordance with their institution's Grievance Procedure below. Pending the resolution of this grievance procedure, the individual's service is considered to be suspended and they should not receive any financial benefits.
- An individual's eligibility for a subsequent term of service in AmeriCorps will not be affected by release for cause from a prior term of service so long as the individual received a satisfactory end-of-term performance review as described in § 2522.220(c)(2) for the period served in the prior term.
- For College Corps Fellows who are AmeriCorps members, a term of service from which an individual is released for cause counts as one of the maximum AmeriCorps terms needed to attain 2 full-time education awards.

### Release Due to Compelling Personal Circumstances (CPC)

The Partner Campus may release a Fellow from their term of service for compelling personal circumstances if the Fellow has completed at least 15% of their required hours and demonstrates circumstances beyond the Fellow's control that prevent them from completing their term of service. Fellows must provide campus with required supporting documentation in order to qualify for this option.

Compelling personal circumstances include those that are beyond the Fellow's control, such as, but not limited to:

- A Fellow's disability or serious illness.
- Disability, serious illness, or death of a Fellow's family member if this makes completing a term unreasonably difficult or impossible.
- Conditions attributable to the program or otherwise unforeseeable and beyond the Fellow's control, such as a natural disaster, strike, relocation of a spouse, or the non-renewal or premature closing of a project or program, that make completing a term unreasonably difficult or impossible.

Additional circumstances may include:

- Military service obligations.

Compelling personal circumstances **do not** include leaving a program:

- Due to an increased courseload.

- To obtain employment.
- Because of dissatisfaction with the program.

### Service Abandonment

The term “service abandonment” refers to situations where a Fellow has not reported for service for a period of **three (3) days or more** without providing an explanation, not returned to service from a leave of absence, or not returned to service from a period of suspension. **Service abandonment can be cause for dismissal.** If a Partner Campus terminates a Fellow from the College Corps program for service abandonment, the Fellow will not continue to receive the living allowance, will not receive any portion of the Education Award for that term of service and will not be eligible to serve any future terms as a College Corps Fellow.

### Unscheduled Absences

The Community Host Partner supervisor will report to the appropriate Partner Campus staff, within 24 hours, the unscheduled absence or departure of an assigned Fellow. Repeated absences or early departures will result in disciplinary action. Site supervisors must also keep the Partner Campus informed of changes in Fellow status, such as arrests, medical emergencies, and hospitalization. Similarly, Partner Campus staff should keep site supervisors apprised of any changes in the Fellow’s status as they become aware.

### Resignation

A Fellow may choose to resign from the College Corps program for personal reasons. **Resignations must always be in writing.** When practicable, written notice of resignation should be given at least two weeks in advance to ensure that the departure will be minimally disruptive to the Community Host Partner. Fellows who intend to resign early from College Corps service should notify the appropriate staff at their Partner Campus, who will contact the Community Host Partner site supervisor.

### Issues and Complaint Process

While Fellows may experience moments of challenge in this program, we anticipate that most will be able to resolve any problems they face. For some Fellows, these barriers will require assistance from campus staff, campus administrators, or possibly, the California Volunteers College Corps staff. Before a Fellow brings an issue of complaint to the attention of the California Volunteers, they should first start with the College Corps program staff at their campus and keep in mind the following:

- Ensure they have contacted the appropriate campus staff to address issues and complete all the steps to give campus staff a chance to address the issue.
  - Before contacting the campus staff, Fellows should have all the necessary information regarding the complaint, including, written documentation, a rough timeline of events,

and the outcome or resolution they are seeking. Fellows will be asked to submit this information in writing.

- Resist the temptation to go “right to the top.”
  - In large complex organizations, like colleges/universities/California Volunteers, elevating complaints right to the top may delay the response time, as the inquiry or complaint must be forwarded to the office/department/agency that can best address the issue and respond to the complexities and technicalities involved.
- Utilize the chain of communication, on campus to appeal an outcome.
  - It is most efficient to initiate an inquiry or complaint at the level of the organization that has the appropriate expertise to resolve the situation.
- Advocate on their own behalf.
  - It is not recommended to ask a parent, family member, or another individual to escalate a concern of question on the Fellow's behalf.
  - Federal privacy laws, known as FERPA, make it virtually impossible to share information about a Fellow's participation in the College Corps program, unless the Fellow signs a written release.
  - You have the answers needed to best understand your situation.

For additional information, please contact the Allan Hancock College Corps staff at [Collegecorps@hancockcollege.edu](mailto:Collegecorps@hancockcollege.edu).

### Grievance Procedure

- Student Grievances and Complaints, both informal and formal, will be subject to the procedures established by Allan Hancock College. Policies ascertaining to student grievances and complaints can be found at the [Allan Hancock College Student Grievances and Complaints website](#).
- Grievances with the College Corps program/staff should be addressed through an uninvolved member of the Allan Hancock College Corps staff. As necessary, administration can be called upon.
- Grievances between a Fellow and their Site will be resolved through mediation between the Allan Hancock College Corps staff and the respective site supervisor. All efforts will be made to resolve the matter and continue the College Corps Fellowship.

### Prohibition of Nepotism

To avoid actual or apparent favoritism, the College Corps program prohibits certain Fellow placement and assignment arrangements, as follows below.

A Fellow cannot be placed or assigned to a Community Host Partner, if the Fellow is:

- In the immediate family (e.g., spouse, domestic partner, parent or guardian whether by blood or adoption, child whether by blood or adoption) of a Community Host Partner staff member or a member of its Board of Directors.
- A close relative, whether by blood or adoption, (e.g., grandparent, grandchild, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, first cousin) of a Community Host Partner staff member or a member of its Board of Directors.

## Fraternization

To maintain a standard of professionalism and responsibility in leadership, it is necessary to establish guidelines for personal relationships between Fellows, program staff, and service recipients.

Fellows have a responsibility to notify their Community Host Partner supervisor of any family or social relationship with staff, co-members, and service recipients who they interact with during their College Corps position. It is at the discretion of the Partner Campus staff as to what action will be taken. Actions include discussing confidentiality and clearly setting expectations or possibly transferring the Fellow to an alternate Community Host Partner. The actions taken are intended to best support the Fellow's success in their service position. Every effort must be made for the potential service recipient to receive service through another avenue, while simultaneously providing the Fellow with the opportunity to successfully complete their term of service.

## Jury Duty

Partner Campuses must allow the Fellows to serve on a jury without being penalized for doing so. During the time Fellows serve as jurors, they will continue to receive credit for their normal service hours and a living allowance.

## Dress Code

Allan Hancock College Corps fellows are subject to the College's standards for professional etiquette. These standards should be in alignment with the [Standards of Student Conduct](#) and follow the requirements of the Community Host Partner. Throughout the fellows' term of service, they will be provided with professional attire and other Allan Hancock College Corps branded apparel. This apparel should generally be used when conducting service unless otherwise specified by the Community Host Partner.

## Fellow Safety

Allan Hancock College Corps fellows will be subject to the College's standards for [Illness and Injury Prevention](#) as well as any safety policies enforced by the Community Host Partners.

Fellow safety is of the utmost importance. Should any injuries occur during service, the Community Host Partner is responsible for mitigating additional injuries, calling for first-response assistance, and notifying College Corps staff as soon as possible. College Corps staff can be reached by email at [Collegecorps@hancockcollege.edu](mailto:Collegecorps@hancockcollege.edu).

## Transportation Stipends and Travel Reimbursement

Fellows utilizing personal automobiles for necessary travel in carrying out their assigned duties as a College Corps Fellow of the Allan Hancock Joint Community College District will be entitled to submit a "Claim for On-The-Job Mileage Reimbursement."

- These are the processes for requesting mileage
  1. Submit an open encumbrance to Dee Dee Escalante Ramirez ([deedee.ramirez@hancockcollege.edu](mailto:deedee.ramirez@hancockcollege.edu)) or the Office Service Technician
    - a. Submit a valid California Driver's License
  2. Submit monthly reimbursement forms (mileage reimbursement)
    - a. Due Date:
      - i. 1-3<sup>rd</sup> of each month to ensure time for corrections. If submissions/corrections are not received by the 12:00pm of the 4<sup>th</sup> of the month, Allan Hancock College may be unable to process the mileage reimbursement claim



## Section X

### Human Resource Policies

To protect their students, all College Corps Partner Campuses must have and clearly communicate their institutional policies in the following areas with their Fellows as part of this College Corps Fellow Handbook:

- Civil rights and equal opportunity
- Nondiscrimination
- Sexual harassment
- Reasonable accommodation
- Drug-free workplace
- Grievance procedure

The Partner Campus institutional policies in these areas must at least meet the minimum standards of the federal policies that are attached here as Appendix 1.

## Appendix 1: AmeriCorps Human Resource Policies

Many of the required policies and procedures can be found in the [AmeriCorps Terms & Conditions](#). Below is a sampling of the policies that College Corps requires to be documented in this handbook and made available to all Fellows.

### Non-Discrimination Public Notice and Records Compliance

1. Public Notice of Non-discrimination. The recipient must notify members, community beneficiaries, applicants, program staff, and the public, including those with impaired vision or hearing, that it operates its program or activity subject to the non-discrimination requirements applicable to their program found at §§ 175 and 176(f) of the NCSA or § 417 of the DVSA, and relevant program regulations found at 45 CFR Parts 2540 (AmeriCorps State and National), 2551 (Senior Companion Program), 2552 (Foster Grandparent Program), 2553 (RSVP), and 2556 (AmeriCorps VISTA). The notice must summarize the requirements, note the availability of compliance information from the recipient and AmeriCorps, and briefly explain procedures for filing discrimination complaints with AmeriCorps.

**Sample language is:** *Any benefits and terms and conditions of this program, are available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, disability, gender identity or expression, political affiliation, marital or parental status, genetic information and military service. **Cal Poly Corporation** policy and federal law prohibits reprisal for engaging in protected activity (reporting discrimination or harassment, participating in investigations of such allegations, or intervening to assist those who are subjected to prohibited behaviors), and it will not be tolerated. In addition to filing a complaint with local and state agencies that are responsible for resolving discrimination complaints, you may bring a complaint to the attention of the Corporation for National and Community Service. If you believe that you or others have been discriminated against, or if you want to seek advice, contact:*

- (Name, address, phone number – both voice and TTY, and preferably toll free – FAX number and email address of the recipient) or Equal Employment Opportunity Office (EEO)
- AmeriCorps 250 E Street, SW Washington, DC 20525
- (202) 606-7503
- eo@cns.gov (email)

The recipient must include information on civil rights requirements, complaint procedures and the rights of beneficiaries in member or volunteer service agreements, handbooks, manuals, pamphlets, and post in prominent locations, as appropriate. The recipient must also notify the public in recruitment material and application forms that it operates its program or activity subject to the nondiscrimination requirements. Sample language, in bold print, is: This program is available to all, without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, disability, gender identity or expression, political affiliation, marital or parental status, genetic information and military service. Where a significant portion of the population eligible to be served needs services or information in a language other than English, the recipient shall take reasonable steps to provide written material of the type ordinarily available to the public in appropriate languages.

2. Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient (LEP) Persons. Pursuant to Executive Order (EO) 13166 – Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency, recipients are required to provide meaningful access to their programs and activities by LEP persons. For more information, please see the policy guidance at 67 FR 64604.

### **Program Civil Rights and Non-Harassment Policy ([AmeriCorps Policy linked here](#))**

Affirmatively advancing equity, civil rights, racial justice, and equal opportunity is the responsibility of the whole of government, and AmeriCorps is committed to these principles, including treating all persons who participate in our programs with dignity and respect. The maintenance of diverse, equitable, inclusive, and accessible service environments demands that AmeriCorps maintains zero tolerance for unlawful harassment or discrimination against any individual or groups engaged in national service.

AmeriCorps expects the same commitment from all recipients (Recipients) of its financial or service member/volunteer assistance, including associated individuals, organizations, programs, and projects. This policy is incorporated by reference into the terms and conditions for receiving AmeriCorps financial and service member/volunteer assistance, inclusive of sub-grantees. Recipients are expected to notify service members and volunteers of their rights under this policy.

In accordance with applicable laws and regulations, AmeriCorps prohibits all forms of discrimination and harassment based on the protected categories of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, sexual orientation, disability (mental or physical), gender identity or expression, political affiliation, marital or parental status, pregnancy, reprisal, genetic information (including family medical history), or military service. All programs administered by, or receiving, federal financial or service member/volunteer assistance from, AmeriCorps must be free from all forms of discrimination and harassment. Harassment is any unwelcome conduct that is based on any of the protected categories or done in reprisal for opposing discrimination or participating in the discrimination complaint process, when such behavior has the purpose or effect of interfering with service performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive service environment.

Harassment may include slurs and other verbal or physical conduct relating to an individual's gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other legally protected category. Examples of harassing conduct include but are not limited to: explicit or implicit demands for sexual favors; pressure to engage in a romantic relationship or for dates; deliberate touching of another person without consent, leaning over, or cornering a person; repeated offensive teasing, jokes, remarks, or questions; unwanted letters, text messages, emails, or phone calls; distribution or display of offensive materials, including on social media; offensive looks or gestures; gender, racial, ethnic, or religious baiting. Harassment can also include physical assault or other threatening behavior; and demeaning, debasing, or abusive comments or actions that intimidate. AmeriCorps does not tolerate discrimination and harassment from anyone, including Recipients, AmeriCorps employees or supervisors; project or site employees and supervisors; project or site non-employees (e.g., contractors or clients of a project or site); or national service participants. Harassment is unacceptable in AmeriCorps' offices or campuses, and in other service-related settings such as convenings, training sessions, service sites, and at service-related social events, whether in person or online.

Any discrimination or harassment, when substantiated, will result in corrective action, up to and including, removal or termination of any individual engaging in such misconduct. AmeriCorps Recipients permitting discrimination or harassment in violation of this policy will be subject to a finding of non-compliance, which may result in termination of federal financial assistance.

Recipients are expected to take prompt action to effectively address service member and volunteer complaints. Recipients must immediately investigate complaints of discrimination or harassment and take appropriate measures to remedy the situation. Supervisors and managers of AmeriCorps programs and projects, when made aware of alleged discrimination or harassment by employees, service members and volunteers, or any other associated individuals, must report the matter to the personnel in the Recipient's organization who are responsible for investigating such claims or AmeriCorps' Office of Civil Rights (OCR). OCR conducts service member and volunteer discrimination and harassment inquiries. AmeriCorps prohibits any retaliatory action against a person who raises discrimination or harassment concerns.

Service members and volunteers who believe they have been subjected to treatment in violation of any civil rights laws, regulations, or this policy, or have been subject to retaliation for opposing discrimination or participating in discrimination complaint proceedings (e.g., filing a complainant or acting as a witness) in any AmeriCorps program or project, may contact the OCR at (202) 606-7503 or [eo@cns.gov](mailto:eo@cns.gov). Service members and volunteers must contact OCR within 45 calendar days of an occurrence of discrimination or harassing conduct to initiate an inquiry.

Service members and volunteers are not required to use a program, project, or sponsor dispute resolution process before contacting OCR. While Recipients are expected to take prompt action to effectively address service member and volunteer complaints, Recipients cannot institute policies requiring any such matters be handled "in house." If a service member or volunteer chooses to pursue another dispute resolution or complaint procedure, it does not suspend the 45 calendar-day time limit for contacting OCR. Discrimination and harassment claim not brought to the attention of OCR within 45 calendar days of the occurrence may not be accepted for investigation if a formal complaint of discrimination is filed. Service members, volunteers, and Recipients may contact OCR at [eo@cns.gov](mailto:eo@cns.gov) for information or assistance.

## **Reasonable Accommodation**

No qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the program, services, or activities of the program, or be subjected to discrimination by the program. Nor shall the program exclude or otherwise deny equal services, programs, or activities to an individual because of the known disability of an individual with whom the individual is known to have a relationship or association. According to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the term "disability" means, with respect to an individual, a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the individual's major life activities, a record of having such an impairment, or being regarded as having such an impairment. "Major life activities" means functions such as caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working.

A "qualified individual with a disability" is an individual with a disability who with or without reasonable accommodations meets the essential eligibility requirements for the receipt of services or

the participation in programs or activities provided by the program. Reasonable accommodations may include modifying rules, policies, or practices, the removal of architectural, communication, or transportation barriers, or the provision of auxiliary aids and services.

As part of the College Corps program, the Partner Campus and Community Host Partner shall make reasonable accommodations in policies, practices, or procedures when the accommodations are necessary to avoid discrimination on the basis of disability, unless the program can demonstrate that making the modifications would fundamentally alter the nature of the service, program, or activity, and/or impose an “undue hardship”. A reasonable accommodation may include making facilities readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities; job restructuring; part-time or modified schedules; acquisition or modification of equipment or devices, training materials, or policies; etc.

Fellows may request reasonable accommodations by completing the **Reasonable Accommodation Request Form**. **Fellows should contact the College Corps staff ([Collegecorps@hancockcollege.edu](mailto:Collegecorps@hancockcollege.edu)) for additional information on how to submit a request for accommodation.**

## Self-Identification

A potential Fellow or current Fellow with a disability is not required to disclose information about any physical or mental limitations, whether or not they believe it will interfere with their capability to perform the essential functions of the position sought or held. If a Fellow would like, however, for the program, to consider any special arrangements to accommodate a physical or mental impairment, they may identify that impairment, describe the functional limitations that result from that impairment, and suggest the type of accommodation that they believe would be appropriate. Medical verification of the condition may be requested for the Fellow to be protected under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

## Confidentiality

Information provided regarding a Fellow's disability, by a potential Fellow or a current Fellow shall be kept confidential, except that appropriate supervisors, managers, and safety and health personnel may be informed regarding any restrictions in service duties or necessary accommodations. Government personnel may be provided information in compliance with various laws and regulations.

V. BREACHES OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION (PII) All recipients and subrecipients need to be prepared for potential breaches of Personally Identifiable Information (PII). OMB defines PII as any information about an individual, including, but not limited to, education, financial transactions, medical history, and criminal or employment history and information which can be used to distinguish or trace an individual's identity, such as their name, social security number, date and place of birth, mother's maiden name, biometric records, etc., including any other personal information which is linked or linkable to an individual. All recipients and subrecipients must ensure that they have procedures in place to prepare for and respond to breaches of PII and notify the Federal awarding agency in the event of a breach.

If your AmeriCorps grant-funded program or project creates, collects, uses, processes, stores, maintains, disseminates, discloses, or disposes of PII within the scope of that Federal grant award, or uses or operates an information system, you must establish procedures to prepare for and respond to a potential breach of PII, including notice of a breach of PII to AmeriCorps. Grantees experiencing a breach should immediately notify AmeriCorps' Office of Information Technology, and the AmeriCorps Portfolio Manager.

## Grievance Procedures

### CNCS requirements for grievance policies.

Text of [eCFR :: 45 CFR 2540.230](#) for use in creating a policy:

State and local applicants that receive assistance from the Corporation must establish and maintain a procedure for the filing and adjudication of grievances from participants, labor organizations, and other interested individuals concerning programs that receive assistance from the Corporation. A grievance procedure may include dispute resolution programs such as mediation, facilitation, assisted negotiation and neutral evaluation. If the grievance alleges fraud or criminal activity, it must immediately be brought to the attention of the Corporation's inspector general.

a) Alternative dispute resolution.

1. **The aggrieved party may seek resolution through alternative means of dispute resolution such as mediation or facilitation. Dispute resolution proceedings must be** initiated within 45 calendar days from the date of the alleged occurrence. At the initial session of the dispute resolution proceedings, the party must be advised in writing of his or her right to file a grievance and right to arbitration. If the matter is resolved, and a written agreement is reached, the party will agree to forego filing a grievance in the matter under consideration.
2. If mediation, facilitation, or other dispute resolution processes are selected, the process must be aided by a neutral party who, with respect to an issue in controversy, functions specifically to aid the parties in resolving the matter through a mutually achieved and acceptable written agreement. The neutral party may not compel a resolution. Proceedings before the neutral party must be informal, and the rules of evidence will not apply. With the exception of a written and agreed upon dispute resolution agreement, the proceeding must be confidential.

b) Grievance procedure for unresolved complaints. If the matter is not resolved within 30 calendar days from the date the informal dispute resolution process began, the neutral party must again inform the aggrieving party of his or her right to file a formal grievance. In the event an aggrieving party files a grievance, the neutral may not participate in the formal complaint process. In addition, no communication or proceedings of the informal dispute resolution process may be referred to or introduced into evidence at the grievance and arbitration hearing. Any decision by the neutral party is advisory and is not binding unless both parties agree.

c) Time limitations. Except for a grievance that alleges fraud or criminal activity, a grievance must be made no later than one year after the date of the alleged occurrence. If a hearing is held on a grievance, it must be conducted no later than 30 calendar days after the filing of such

grievance. A decision on any such grievance must be made no later than 60 calendar days after the filing of the grievance.

d) Arbitration

Arbitrator

1. Joint selection by parties. If there is an adverse decision against the party who filed the grievance, or 60 calendar days after the filing of a grievance no decision has been reached, the filing party may submit the grievance to binding arbitration before a qualified arbitrator who is jointly selected and independent of the interested parties.
2. Appointment by Corporation. If the parties cannot agree on an arbitrator within 15 calendar days after receiving a request from one of the grievance parties, the Corporations Chief Executive Officer will appoint an arbitrator from a list of qualified arbitrators.
3. Time Limits
  - a. Proceedings. An arbitration proceeding must be held no later than 45 calendar days after the request for arbitration, or, if the arbitrator is appointed by the Chief Executive Officer, the proceeding must occur no later than 30 calendar days after the arbitrator's appointment.
  - b. (Decision. A decision must be made by the arbitrator no later than 30 calendar days after the date the arbitration proceeding begins.
  - c. The cost. The cost of the arbitration proceeding must be divided evenly between the parties to the arbitration. If, however, a participant, labor organization, or other interested individual prevails under a binding arbitration proceeding, the State or local applicant that is a party to the grievance must pay the total cost of the proceeding and the attorney's fees of the prevailing party.

e) Suspension of placement. If a grievance is filed regarding a proposed placement of a participant in a program that receives assistance under this chapter, such placement must not be made unless the placement is consistent with the resolution of the grievance.

f) Remedies. Remedies for a grievance filed under a procedure established by a recipient of Corporation assistance may include—

1. Prohibition of a placement of a participant; and
2. In grievance cases where there is a violation of non-duplication or non-displacement requirements and the employer of the displaced employee is the recipient of Corporation assistance—
  - a) Reinstatement of the employee to the position he or she held prior to the displacement;
  - b) Payment of lost wages and benefits;
  - c) Re-establishment of other relevant terms, conditions and privileges of employment; and
  - d) Any other equitable relief that is necessary to correct any violation of the nonduplication or non-displacement requirements or to make the displaced employee whole.

g) Suspension or termination of assistance. The Corporation may suspend or terminate payments for assistance under this chapter.

h) Effect of noncompliance with arbitration. A suit to enforce arbitration awards may be brought in any Federal district court having jurisdiction over the parties without regard to the amount in controversy or the parties' citizenship.

## Drug-Free Workplace

In accordance with the Drug-Free Workplace Act (41 U.S.C. 701 et seq.) and in recognition of the fact that drug abuse may cause poor service performance and/or attendance, the program shall provide a drug-free workplace for Fellows and:

- The unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in any site wherein service is performed for the College Corps program.
- Any Fellow who unlawfully manufactures, distributes, dispenses, or uses a controlled substance in service shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination from service.
- Any Fellow who is arrested, charged, detained, or convicted of a drug-related violation must inform their supervisor and their Partner Campus in writing immediately following such an incident. Failure to notify the supervisor in writing within the specified period of time shall be regarded as grounds for immediate termination.
- Any Fellow who is convicted of a drug-related violation at their Community Host Partner shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination from service.

More specific details about the action's programs must take for drug violations can be found in 45 CFR §2522.230 and must be included in the "Consequences" section of the member service agreement.



## Appendix 2: Progressive Discipline Policies

### Verbal Warning

A verbal warning may be appropriate for a first-time, minor infraction of a College Corps Program policy or procedure, rules of the Community Host Partner/Partner Campus, or certain performance deficiencies. A verbal warning is typically delivered in a meeting between a Fellow and their Community Host Partner supervisor, as soon as possible after observation of the issue. The verbal warning may be accompanied by a performance improvement plan to guide the conversation and set clear expectations. During the meeting, the site supervisor will:

- Provide specific examples of the unacceptable behavior or situation.
- Specifically state how the behavior or situation is to be corrected and provide a time frame for improvement; complete a Performance Improvement Plan as necessary.
- State the consequences if the behavior or situation is not corrected.

### Written Warning Action Plan

If the unacceptable behavior persists after a verbal warning, or if the severity of an action or situation cannot be corrected by a verbal warning, a Written Warning Action Plan may be appropriate. The Community Host Partner should consult with the Partner Campus to identify next steps. A Written Warning Action Plan is typically delivered in a meeting between a Fellow and the Community Host Partner supervisor, as soon as possible following observation of the Fellow's performance, conduct, or attendance issue. It is recommended that a Partner Campus representative also join this meeting. During the meeting, the Community Host Partner supervisor and Partner Campus staff person will:

- Establish the seriousness of the behavior or situation.
- Review the Written Warning Action Plan and any accompanying documentation with the Fellow.
- Provide specific examples of the unacceptable behavior or situation.
- Specifically state how the behavior or situation is to be corrected and provide a time frame for improvement.
- State the consequences if the behavior or situation is not corrected.
- Obtain the Fellow's signature on the Written Warning Action Plan. If the Fellow refuses to sign, this will be noted on the form.
- The Written Warning Action Plan must be sent to the Partner Campus staff for review, signature, and record.

### Suspension

There may be performance, conduct, or safety incidents so problematic or harmful that the most effective action may be the temporary removal of the Fellow from the Community Host Partner. Community Host Partner supervisors may suspend Fellows pending the results of an investigation for reasons including, but not limited to, when: immediate action is necessary to ensure the safety of the

Fellow or others; the Fellow has falsified documentation (including time sheets); or the Fellow has intentionally violated a policy or procedure. Community Host Partner supervisors must immediately inform Partner Campus staff if they are recommending the suspension of a Fellow. Fellows may not receive a living allowance or other benefits during a period of suspension if the suspension encompasses an entire living allowance period.

Unless an immediate suspension is appropriate, the Community Host Partner supervisor and Partner Campus representative will schedule a meeting with the Fellow as soon as possible following observation of the Fellow's performance, conduct, or attendance issue. During the meeting, the site supervisor and Partner Campus staff Lead will:

- Establish the seriousness of the behavior or situation.
- Provide verbal and written communication directly to the Fellow.
- Provide specific examples of the unacceptable behavior or situation.
- State the consequences of the outcome of the pending investigation.
- Provide the Fellow with information regarding the length of the suspension, if known, and any items with which they are required to comply during the suspension period.

Following the initiation of the suspension, the Community Host Partner supervisor will communicate any changes in the suspension period with the Fellow as quickly as possible. For example, if a required investigation has been completed earlier than expected, the Community Host Partner supervisor may ask the Fellow to return to service to begin the next steps in the discipline process, if any. If a Written Warning Action Plan is completed as part of the suspension process, the steps above for Written Warning Action Plans will be followed. A Partner Campus representative should be informed and consulted throughout all stages of the progressive discipline process.