

# IS READING CORPS RIGHT FOR YOU?

MEC Reading Corps • 2018-19

## What We'll Ask of You

### Commit to a 9 month service term

After we select and train a Reading Corps Interventionist for a school, our program and those we serve rely on that individual for the whole term of service— no substitutes or replacements. Our K-3 service term runs from August 27, 2018 –June 1, 2019.

### Serve 1200 or 900 hours in a full-time or half-time capacity

- Reading Corps Interventionists serving in a full-time capacity serve at least 35 hours per week. The majority of these hours are accrued during typical school-day hours. Additional hours and opportunities are provided through required trainings and participation in other AmeriCorps service projects.
- Reading Corps Interventionists serving in a half-time capacity serve at least 25 hours per week. The majority of these hours are accrued during typical school-day hours. Additional hours and opportunities are provided through required trainings and participation in other AmeriCorps service projects.

### Serve daily in a school setting

Interventionists implement the Reading Corps model with fidelity, which includes meeting with their students every day of the school week during (and sometimes beyond) normal school hours. Your schedule must be regular and reliable throughout the year so that the student tutoring schedule is consistent. To meet the minimum number of service hours required, Reading Corps Interventionists are expected to adhere to the consistent schedule.

### Participate in professional training

Interventionists accepted into the program must attend all required training sessions. “What You’ll Gain” (below) explains how our training model sets us apart, and why we aren’t shy about making it a requirement. The initial training, called Reading Corps Institute, is generally 4.5 days and covers everything you will need to know in order to get started at your school. Additional required and optional trainings will be hosted throughout the year to continue to build your skills.

### Engage in your community

Reading Corps Interventionists spend their year viewing their community through the lens of service. They seize opportunities to be involved with community-based service activities, such as volunteering at a library and getting involved with AmeriCorps National Days of Service. Occasional weekend or evening service may be necessary.

---

## What You'll Gain

### Training, coaching, and experience in research-based literacy strategies

Our training is one of many things that make our program powerful. Well-respected literacy experts train our interventionists in proven, research-based literacy strategies. Each interventionist is also assigned an Internal Coach at their school to provide ongoing and individual support. This tiered approach provides the content knowledge and tools needed to be effective and confident in their ability to help children grow their literacy skills.

### Professional skill-building & networks

We invest so much in our interventionists because they are each given real responsibility in their school. For those individuals who are pursuing or continuing a career in education, the hands-on experience and literacy training offers an invaluable stepping stone. You work closely with on-site staff who can offer insight and a “foot in the door” in the field. For those individuals not pursuing an education career, being part of Reading Corps provides transferrable professional experience and skills, while adding the impressive AmeriCorps service experience to their résumés.



## Financial Benefits

### Living allowance

Interventionists receive a living allowance, rather than an hourly wage or salary. Prior to taxes, the living allowance for full time those serving 1200 hours is approximately \$676.40 to be paid biweekly. Half time/Part-Time members are \$338.20. Applicants must carefully consider their financial situation to determine if they can afford the commitment to serve with Reading Corps.

### Education Award

Interventionists who successfully complete their year of service will receive an [education award](#) of up to \$4,144.00 for full time service or \$2,960.00 for half time service. The education award can be used to pay back federal student loans, and/or to pay for tuition or other educational purposes. The award has a seven-year expiration period and can be used at any accredited post-secondary school. Please note that the Education Award is considered taxable income in the year that it is used.

Interventionists who are 55 or older at the start of their service enjoy an additional benefit. They may choose to transfer their education award to a child, grandchild, or foster child within seven years. The award must be used within ten years of the individual receiving it.

### Student loan forbearance

If an Interventionist is making payments to a federally-backed education loan, payments may be [put into forbearance](#) during his or her year of service. Upon successful completion of the program, the accrued interest will be paid by the National Service Trust.

### Health insurance

Interventionists serving in a full-time capacity (1200 service hours) are eligible to enroll in a health insurance plan through MEC Reading Corps. This plan may differ from a traditional major medical health plan. Interested applicants are encouraged ask about the coverage to determine if the insurance provided by MEC Reading Corps will meet their health needs during their term of service. The insurance does not cover dependents. Using a health care provider "in the network" will save money.

### Childcare assistance

Full-Time Interventionists may qualify to receive child care reimbursement assistance. If you are interested in this benefit, please contact Thomas Bobo at [tbobo@hopenetwork.org](mailto:tbobo@hopenetwork.org) to learn more about this benefit before accepting a position.

Our Reading Corps Interventionists are highly effective. By now, you've read the position description. You've also studied the benefits and commitments to service on these two pages.

## Are you ready to serve?

MEC Reading Corps accepts applications until all positions have been filled.

Contact for more information - Thomas Bobo at [tbobo@hopenetwork.org](mailto:tbobo@hopenetwork.org).

Reading Corps will not discriminate for or against any AmeriCorps service member or applicant based on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, familial status, disability, sexual orientation, age, or any other category protected by law. Reasonable accommodations provided upon request. This document is available in alternative formats.