

# MISSISSIPPI DIVISION OF MEDICAID

## Eligibility Policy and Procedures Manual

CHAPTER 200 – Income: Aged, Blind and Disabled (ABD) Categories

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### 200.07.45 AMERICORPS AND NATIONAL CIVILIAN COMMUNITY CORPS (NCCC) PAYMENTS

The National and Community Service Trust Act established the Corporation for National and Community Services (CNCS). Through CNCS, the federal government administers a number of national and community service programs. It is also the federal agency that administers VISTA and the Service Corps, programs formerly administered by the ACTION agency.

**NOTE:** AmeriCorps State and National, AmeriCorps NCCC and AmeriCorps VISTA (formerly VISTA) are three different programs.

#### AmeriCorps State and National and AmeriCorps NCCC

Both of these are national service programs authorized by the National and Community Service Trust Act.

- **AmeriCorps State and National** provides grants to states, Indian tribes, private and public nonprofit organization and Institutes of Higher Education for community service projects such as educational programs, environmental activities and disaster relief.
- **AmeriCorps NCCC** is a residential service program for young adults between the ages of 19 and 24 in which participants provide work teams for a variety of community service projects.

Participants in both programs receive a stipend or living allowance generally based on minimum wage requirements. Participants are also eligible to receive an educational award for the cost of college attendance or for outstanding college loans. They may also receive a direct payment in lieu of the educational award as well as other types of assistance.

#### Treatment of Income

Effective September 1, 2008, cash or in-kind payments provided by AmeriCorps State and National and AmeriCorps NCCC are excluded from income, even if they meet the definition of wages. Such payments include, but are not limited to:

- Living allowance payments;
- Stipends;
- Food and shelter;
- Clothing allowances;
- Educational awards and payments in lieu of educational awards.

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### **AMERICORPS AND NATIONAL CIVILIAN COMMUNITY CORPS (NCCC) PAYMENTS**

(Continued)

#### **AmeriCorps VISTA and Other Former ACTION Programs**

ACTION consisted of a number of volunteer service programs including:

- Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA, now AmeriCorps VISTA);
- Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP);
- University Year for Action (UYA);
- Foster Grandparent Program; and
- Senior Companion Program.

All payments to volunteers made by CNCS under former ACTION programs are excluded from income and resources.