



# IS PREK READING CORPS RIGHT FOR YOU?

## What We'll Ask of You

### **Commit to a 7 month service term**

After we select and train an interventionist for a school, we rely on that interventionist for the whole term of service—no substitutes or replacements. Our PreK service term runs from November 4, 2019-May 30, 2020. *Interventionists have the option of finishing at the close of the school year if they have met the minimum requirements.*

### **Serve 900 hours in a full-time capacity**

- 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. The balance of the hours would be served in before- or after-school programming and community-based service opportunities (e.g., volunteering at the library).

### **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 consistent throughout the year so that the student tutoring schedule is consistent. To meet the minimum number of service hours, interventionists serving in a full-time capacity may also participate in after-school activities and some evening school functions as needed.

### **Participate in professional training**

Interventionists accepted into the program 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 up to 10 days and covers everything you will need to know in order to get started at your school. Additional required and optional trainings throughout the year will continue to build your skills.

### **Engage in your community**

PreK 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 in AmeriCorps National Days of Service. Occasional weekend or evening service may be necessary.

## What You'll Gain

### **Training, coaching, and experience in evidence-based literacy strategies**

Our training is one of many things that make our program powerful. Well-respected literacy experts train our interventionists in proven, evidence-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 interventionists need 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 interventionists who are pursuing or continuing a career in education, the hands-on experience and literacy training offer an invaluable stepping stone. Interventionists work closely with on-site staff who can offer insight and a “foot in the door” in the field. Additionally, if an interventionist serves the entire school year (August – June), they can opt to earn their Child Development Associate credential. Individuals with this credential are eligible to work as an assistant teacher in state and federal funded preschool classrooms and as a lead teacher in private preschool programs. For interventionists not pursuing an education career, being part of Reading Corps provides transferrable professional experience and skills, while adding the impressive AmeriCorps name 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 interventionists serving 35 hours per week is approximately \$645 to be paid biweekly.

Applicants must carefully consider their financial situation to determine if they can afford the commitment to serve with Michigan Education Corps.

## Segal AmeriCorps Education Award

Interventionists who successfully complete their year of service will receive an [education award](#) of up to \$3,047.50 for 900 hours of service. The Segal AmeriCorps 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 interventionist receiving it.

## Student loan forbearance

If an interventionist is making payments to a federally-backed education loan, payments may be [put into forbearance](#) during their 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 are eligible to enroll in a health insurance plan through Michigan Education Corps. This plan may differ from a traditional major medical health plan. Interested applicants are encouraged to ask about the coverage to determine if the insurance provided by Michigan Education 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

Interventionists serving in a full-time capacity may qualify (based on income) to receive child care reimbursement assistance. If you are interested in this benefit, please contact Grace Kelley at [gkelley@hopenetwork.org](mailto:gkelley@hopenetwork.org) to learn more about this benefit before accepting a position.

By now, you've learned what it takes to be a PreK Reading Corps Interventionist and the benefits to serving with our program.

## Are you ready to serve?

To apply, visit <http://bit.ly/2019meced>

Michigan Education Corps accepts applications until all positions have been filled.

If you have questions about the commitment or benefits, don't hesitate to reach out to Ariel DuVal-Zinn at [aduvalzinn@hopenetwork.org](mailto:aduvalzinn@hopenetwork.org) or 616-729-2805.