

Policy Q and A from National Conference Session

- 1. Does the single match affect the cap on administrative costs?**
No, the single match does not affect the cap on administrative costs.
- 2. Is there any plan for changing the number of terms a member can serve?**
Right now a member can only receive education awards for the first two terms of service. The only way this will change is through Congressional action and we have no reason to believe such a change will occur in the near future. The GIVE Act, if passed, would have allowed each member to earn up to the equivalent of two full-time education awards (currently a less than full-time term still counts as one of the two terms), but this is just a bill, not a law.
- 3. Is there a plan to allow the transfer of the education award?**
This would also have to come about through an act of Congress. It remains a topic of interest in Congress but cannot be affected any other way.
- 4. We at the commission have asked our programs for home/cell phone numbers in order to contact them in the event of a disaster. Some program staff members think that this is against some Corporation law or provision. Is there a basis for this?**
The Corporation has no objection to an emergency plan that includes alternative telephone numbers, and there is no statute or law prohibiting you from collecting the information.
- 5. At one point we heard the requirement for an independent evaluation for programs that receive over \$500,000 was going to be dropped. Will this still occur at some point?**
We continue to explore possibilities around national evaluations conducted by the Corporation that would lift this burden from the programs.
- 6. The regulations required that we conduct an internal or independent evaluation but there is no clear guidance on what should be included in these studies. Do you plan to issue additional guidance or provide one-on-one assistance in evaluation planning?**
No, we do not plan on providing additional guidance in evaluation planning other than the evaluation requirements in the regulations at 45 CFR 2522.700 and the evaluation FAQs that you will find on the “Manage Current Grants and Projects” page of www.americorps.gov. Your Program Officer is always available to discuss your evaluation as you plan. We will continue to work on developing national evaluations that will meet the requirement for an evaluation for participating programs. We have intentionally refrained from providing more guidance in order to allow you the most flexibility to design an evaluation that will be the most useful to you in terms of continual improvement and learning.

7. We are still encountering many obstacles in obtaining cost-effective childcare in compliance with the regulations. Can you help?

We are working to identify obstacles and to see if we can find a way to eliminate or reduce them. The Corporation relies on the rules and regulations in each of the 50 states and each of the territories that define a family, that establish the allowed income per household, and that set the rates that will be paid for child care. The rates paid are the same as the rates allowed by the state. The rules used are the rules used by the states.

The two largest obstacles we have encountered so far are the failure of the provider to complete the forms required and the difficulty of getting from the member documents that prove the age of the child and that prove the household income.

8. Where can I find out more about childcare options? Is NAACRA the only option?

If you want the Corporation to cover the childcare costs of eligible members, you must use NACCRRA which is funded by the Corporation to administer the child care benefits. NACCRRA uses the pertinent rules and regulations that are established by each state. A member may apply for child care with the state in which the care is provided but the rates will be the same as those provided by NACCRRA and the rules that apply for approval will be the same as those used by NACCRRA.

9. An issue of great concern to rural programs is the lack of licensed childcare providers. Most members have to drive great distances to find a licensed provider. In developing new childcare policy, please consider allowing kinship care.

The Corporation neither allows nor disallows kinship care; allowability is determined at the state level. Some states have approved family-provided childcare and some do not. Our regulations address our childcare requirements at 45 CFR 2522,250 (a) (2).

10. The Corporation needs to work with the Social Security Administration so that our members stop getting the letter that demands that they pay back income they have earned.

We are also aware of and working on this issue.

11. Every year the health insurance provider costs increase. What can we do about this?

The health care working group is working on this issue. We are well aware of rising costs; however, the Corporation has no control over pricing in the health care industry. This year's provisions lift the \$150 cap on the use of CNCS funds.