



**COLORADO YOUTH
FOR A CHANGE**

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AmeriCorps F.A.Q.s

What is a typical day like?

- **Corps for a Change:** For this program, a typical day very much depends on the specific school or district the member is serving in. Members spend their days pulling students from class to meet with them one on one, engaging students in the classroom, coordinating resources for students and families, and entering meeting summaries into our data entry system.
- **Reading Corps (RC):** For this program, a typical day consists of tutoring and data entry. The tutoring is in a one-on-one setting for approximately 20 minutes with a caseload of 15 –20 K-3 students. Members also administer weekly 1-minute assessments to log daily student progress. Lastly, a typical day consists of entering data in our Data Management System and prepping reading materials.
- **Math Corps (MC):** For this program, a typical day depends on the need of the service site and the member. Tutoring will make up 90 minutes of your week per student and outside of tutoring there will be time to prep your interventions throughout the day. When you are not tutoring or prepping interventions, the last part of your day would be data entry.
- **Early Learning Corps (ELC):** For this program, a typical day consists of implementing literacy and math-rich activities, games and songs within the schedule of your assigned classroom, as well as tutoring a small group of students once a day for approximately 10-15 minutes. Tutoring is in groups of 2-7 students within the classroom. Members also administer bi-weekly 5-minute assessments to log Tier 2 student progress. Members should plan on entering tutor logs and student data each week into our Data Management System and prep tutoring materials during planning time.

What if I need to take a sick/mental health day?

- Members are provided with free mental health services during their terms of service, we encourage members to take advantage of these. If a member needs to miss a day because of any reason, we ask that you communicate with your Internal Coach/Site Supervisor and your CYC supervisor as soon as you know you will not be present at your service site.



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What is the training like?

- Currently all programs use a hybrid approach of virtual self-paced learning modules and live zoom meetings both in the morning and afternoon.

How is the caseload formed?

- **Math Corps:** The caseload is formed by collaborations with the Internal Coach (School Staff) and Coaching Specialist (Corps for a Change Staff). After completing two assessments, the caseload will be decided based on test scores and the student's schedule. The minimum expectation is 24 students on a caseload but may exceed that depending on the member's comfort level.
- **Corps for a Change:** The caseload is formed from members collaborating with their Corps for a Change Supervisor and their Site Supervisor (School Staff) during their first few weeks of service. The caseload is built through a combination of attendance data from the previous school year, current school year attendance, and referrals from other school staff and grades. Additionally, we do our best to ensure we are supporting students who are not already receiving other support services from the school or community.
- **Reading Corps:** The caseload is formed by the Internal Coach or school staff. Then we assess that group of students to determine eligibility. Once completed, Internal Coach (School Staff), Coaching Specialist (Reading Corps Staff) and Tutor review data and determine caseload based on assessment criteria, scheduling, and needs of the school.
- **Early Learning Corps:** The Tier 1 caseload is the entire assigned classroom (one classroom per member), and Tier 2/3 groups are determined after benchmarking assessments with the Internal Coach (school staff), Coaching Specialist (Early Learning Corps Staff), lead teacher and tutor as we review data. We determine small groups based on assessment criteria, other services being provided, and age of students.

What happens if I have to leave in the middle of the term?

- As we have made clear, it is very detrimental to the success of our students when members leave in the middle of their term, so we strongly discourage this. However, life happens and we understand that sometimes it is necessary to leave the term



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early due to family emergencies or medical reasons. We support the member through the exit process in order to ensure they have their data up to date, have submitted all timesheets, create a plan for returning materials, and fill out the proper exit forms from the program.

What is the uniform requirement?

- Members are required to wear the AmeriCorps logo at all times while they are serving. Members are provided different AmeriCorps/Colorado Youth for a Change gear depending on their program. Members are also expected to follow the guidance of their specific school site – some schools have very casual dress codes and others are more specific.

If I wanted to do the program again, would I need to reapply for next term?

- We often have members serve multiple terms with us – we love returning members! People can serve up to four terms total in any AmeriCorps programs. Members are only eligible for the equivalent of two full-time education award amounts. During your term CYC will send out an interest form for the following school year. Once this is sent out you will fill out the interest form and when the applications are released you will fill it out again for the following school year. Current members are not automatically given spots in the program – the member's performance, position openings, and school openings can all be factors in the decision to hire a member for multiple terms.

What is the curriculum that is used by the program?

- **Math Corps:** Members will be trained using specific interventions through our Math Corps Program which is a replication of a successful program from the Minnesota Math Corps (Ampact). Members will be using an online platform to learn the model itself called Math Corps Learning Management System and will have access to a provided Database as well.
- **Corps for a Change:** Members complete an intake process with all students. This intake helps the member to facilitate a conversation with the student around their salient identities and life experiences, and how those may be impacting their



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education. Members also ensure that all students on their caseload complete a pre- and post-Developmental Assets Profile Assessment (DAP). This assessment looks at areas of strength/growth as positive identity, social competencies, constructive use of time, etc. The member then supports each student through focusing on interventions that targets the areas on the DAP in which the student would like to see growth in.

- **Reading Corps:** Members will be trained using specific interventions through our Reading Corps Program which is a replication of a successful program from Minnesota Reading Corps (Ampact). It uses the Fast Bridge Learning materials which is a research-based program based out of Minneapolis, Minnesota. We use their assessments in addition to interventions ranging from early literacy interventions of learning letter sounds to connected text interventions of reading passages and working through errors, fluency, and comprehension.
- **Early Learning Corps:** Members will be trained using specific interventions through our Early Learning Corps Program which is a replication of a successful program from Minnesota Early Learning Corps (Ampact). It uses the Preschool Early Literacy Indicators (PELI) and Early Math Inventory (EMI), as well as the SEEDS of School Readiness research-based emergent literacy and math curriculum. We use the PELI and EMI assessments as well as evidence-based interventions to work on skills such as numeracy, subitizing, comparisons, visual discrimination, oral language, and phonological awareness.

If I choose to opt into health coverage, does it only cover myself?

- Yes, the health insurance only covers you as the member, it does not include any dependents you may have. If you have any further questions on the health insurance, please reach out to CYC's Senior Human Resources Manager, Nadine Meux, nadinem@youthforachange.org.

Who do I contact for questions about my background check?

- If you have questions about the background check process, please reach out to CYC's Senior Human Resources Manager, Nadine Meux, nadinem@youthforachange.org.

How much is the stipend and when do I get paid?



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- The stipend amount for the 2022/2023 term is \$1,215.00 (before taxes) paid out twice per month on the 3rd and the 18th.

If I have tattoos, will they need to be covered?

- This will be up to the school you are placed in; some schools will be okay with tattoos; other schools will ask you to cover them.

Do I need to use the education award right away or can I use it over time?

- Once you receive the education award you have it for up to seven years. The choice is up to you whether you decide to use it for one semester or make smaller payments over time. Though if the award is not used after the seven years it will no longer be available to you.

Are there any commitments on the weekends or is this a Monday through Friday position?

- This position operates in a typical school schedule, which can vary district by district and site by site. While it is not typical or often that members will need to serve on the weekends, there may be service projects or extracurricular school activities on the weekends that you may choose to be a part of.

What happens if I do not reach the number of required hours?

- Members make a commitment to serving a minimum of 1200, 900, or 675 hours (depending on when in the year your service term starts). We ask prospective members to take this commitment seriously. If a member does not complete the required number of hours, students do not receive appropriate support and services. Members are also not eligible for their education award if they do not serve their required hours.