

proved national service position may release a participant from completing a term of service in the position—

(A) for compelling personal circumstances as determined by the organization responsible for granting the release, if the participant has otherwise performed satisfactorily and has completed at least 15 percent of the term of service; or

(B) for cause.

(2) Effect of release for compelling circumstances

If a participant eligible for release under paragraph (1)(A) is serving in an approved national service position, the recipient of assistance under section 12571 of this title or a program sponsoring an approved national service position may elect—

(A) to grant such release and certify the participant's eligibility for that portion of the national service educational award corresponding to the portion of the term of service actually completed, as provided in section 12603(c) of this title; or

(B) to permit the participant to temporarily suspend performance of the term of service for a period of up to 2 years (and such additional period as the Corporation may allow for extenuating circumstances) and, upon completion of such period, to complete the remainder of the term of service and obtain the entire national service educational award.

(3) Effect of release for cause

A participant released for cause may not receive any portion of the national service educational award.

(Pub. L. 101-610, title I, § 139, as added Pub. L. 103-82, title I, § 101(b), Sept. 21, 1993, 107 Stat. 810; amended Pub. L. 111-13, title I, § 1314, Apr. 21, 2009, 123 Stat. 1510.)

AMENDMENTS

2009—Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 111-13, § 1314(1)(A), struck out “not less than 9 months and” before “not more than 1 year”.

Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 111-13, § 1314(1)(B), substituted “during a period of not more than 2 years.” for “during a period of—

“(A) not more than 2 years; or

“(B) not more than 3 years if the individual is enrolled in an institute of higher education while preforming all or a portion of the service.”

Subsec. (b)(4). Pub. L. 111-13, § 1314(1)(C), added par. (4).

Subsec. (c)(1)(A). Pub. L. 111-13, § 1314(2)(A), substituted “as determined by the organization responsible for granting the release, if the participant has otherwise performed satisfactorily and has completed at least 15 percent of the term of service” for “as demonstrated by the participant”.

Subsec. (c)(2)(A). Pub. L. 111-13, § 1314(2)(B)(i), substituted “certify the participant's eligibility for that portion of the national service educational award” for “provide to the participant that portion of the national service educational award”.

Subsec. (c)(2)(B). Pub. L. 111-13, § 1314(2)(B)(ii), struck out “to allow return to the program with which the individual was serving in order” before “to complete the remainder”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2009 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 111-13 effective Oct. 1, 2009, see section 6101(a) of Pub. L. 111-13, set out as a note under section 4950 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Oct. 1, 1993, see section 123 of Pub. L. 103-82, set out as an Effective Date of 1993 Amendment note under section 1701 of Title 16, Conservation.

§ 12594. Living allowances for national service participants

(a) Provision of living allowance

(1) Living allowance required

Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), a national service program carried out using assistance provided under section 12571 of this title shall provide to each participant who participates on a full-time basis in the program a living allowance in an amount equal to or greater than the average annual subsistence allowance provided to VISTA volunteers under section 4955 of this title.

(2) Maximum living allowance

Except as provided in subsection (c), the total amount of an annual living allowance that may be provided to a participant in a national service program shall not exceed 200 percent of the average annual subsistence allowance provided to VISTA volunteers under section 4955 of this title.

(3) Federal work-study students

The living allowance that may be provided under paragraph (1) to an individual whose term of service includes hours for which the individual receives a Federal work-study award under part C of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.)¹ shall be reduced by the amount of the individual's Federal work study award.

(4) Proration of living allowance

The amount provided as a living allowance under this subsection shall be prorated in the case of a participant who is authorized to serve a term of service that is less than 12 months.

(5) Waiver or reduction of living allowance

The Corporation may waive or reduce the requirement of paragraph (1) with respect to such national service program if such program demonstrates that—

(A) such requirement is inconsistent with the objectives of the program; and

(B) the amount of the living allowance that will be provided to each full-time participant is sufficient to meet the necessary costs of living (including food, housing, and transportation) in the area in which the program is located.

(6) Exemption

The requirement of paragraph (1) shall not apply to any program that was in existence on September 21, 1993.

(b) Coverage of certain employment-related taxes

To the extent a national service program that receives assistance under section 12571 of this title is subject, with respect to the participants in the program, to the taxes imposed on an em-

¹ See References in Text note below.

ployer under sections 3111 and 3301 of title 26 and taxes imposed on an employer under a workmen's compensation act, the assistance provided to the program under section 12571 of this title may be used to pay the taxes described in this subsection.

(c) Exception from maximum living allowance for certain assistance

A professional corps program described in section 12572(c)(1)(D) of this title that desires to provide a living allowance in excess of the maximum allowance authorized in subsection (a)(2) may still apply for such assistance, except that—

(1) any assistance provided to the applicant under section 12571 of this title may not be used to pay for any portion of the allowance; and

(2) the national service program shall be operated directly by the applicant and shall meet urgent, unmet human, educational, environmental, or public safety needs, as determined by the Corporation.

(d) Health insurance

(1) In general

A State or other recipient of assistance under section 12571 of this title shall provide or make available a basic health care policy for each full-time participant in a national service program carried out or supported using the assistance, if the participant is not otherwise covered by a health care policy. The Corporation shall establish minimum standards that all plans must meet in order to qualify for payment under this part, any circumstances in which an alternative health care policy may be substituted for the basic health care policy, and mechanisms to prohibit participants from dropping existing coverage.

(2) Option

A State or other recipient of assistance under section 12571 of this title may elect to provide from its own funds or make available a health care policy for participants that does not meet all of the standards established by the Corporation if the fair market value of such policy is equal to or greater than the fair market value of a plan that meets the minimum standards established by the Corporation, and is consistent with other applicable laws.

(e) Child care

(1) Availability

A State or other recipient of assistance under section 12571 of this title shall—

(A) make child care available for children of each full-time participant who needs child care in order to participate in a national service program carried out or supported by the recipient using the assistance; or

(B) provide a child care allowance to each full-time participant in a national service program who needs such assistance in order to participate in the program.

(2) Guidelines

The Corporation shall establish guidelines regarding the circumstances under which child

care shall be made available under this subsection and the value of any allowance to be provided.

(f) Individualized support services

A State or other recipient of assistance under section 12571 of this title shall provide reasonable accommodation, including auxiliary aids and services (as defined in section 12102(1)¹ of this title), based on the individualized need of a participant who is a qualified individual with a disability (as defined in section 12111(8) of this title).

(Pub. L. 101-610, title I, §140, as added Pub. L. 103-82, title I, §101(b), Sept. 21, 1993, 107 Stat. 811; amended Pub. L. 111-13, title I, §1315, Apr. 21, 2009, 123 Stat. 1511.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Higher Education Act of 1965, referred to in subsec. (a)(3), is Pub. L. 89-329, Nov. 8, 1965, 79 Stat. 1219. Part C of title IV of the Act was formerly classified generally to part C (§2751 et seq.) of subchapter I of chapter 34 of this title prior to transfer to part C (§1087-51 et seq.) of subchapter IV of chapter 28 of Title 20, Education. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1001 of Title 20 and Tables.

Section 12102 of this title, referred to in subsec. (f), was amended generally by Pub. L. 110-325, §4(a), Sept. 25, 2008, 122 Stat. 3555, and, as so amended, no longer defines "auxiliary aids and services". However, such term is defined in section 12103(1) of this title.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 140 of Pub. L. 101-610 was set out as a note under section 12501 of this title, prior to the general amendment of subtitle D of title I of Pub. L. 101-610 [former part D of this subchapter] by Pub. L. 103-82, §102(a).

AMENDMENTS

2009—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 111-13, §1315(1)(A), substituted "paragraphs (2) and (3)" for "paragraph (3)".

Subsec. (a)(2), (3). Pub. L. 111-13, §1315(1)(B)-(D), added par. (3), redesignated former par. (3) as (2), and struck out former par. (2). Text of former par. (2) read as follows: "The amount of the annual living allowance provided under paragraph (1) that may be paid using assistance provided under section 12571 of this title and using any other Federal funds shall not exceed 85 percent of the total average annual provided to VISTA volunteers under section 4955 of this title."

Subsec. (a)(4). Pub. L. 111-13, §1315(1)(E), substituted "a term of service that is less than 12 months" for "a reduced term of service under section 12593(b)(3) of this title".

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 111-13, §1315(2), substituted "may be used to pay the taxes described in this subsection." for "shall include an amount sufficient to cover 85 percent of such taxes based upon the lesser of—

"(1) the total average annual subsistence allowance provided to VISTA volunteers under section 4955 of this title; and

"(2) the annual living allowance established by the program."

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 111-13, §1315(3), substituted "section 12572(c)(1)(D)" for "section 12572(a)(8)" and "subsection (a)(2)" for "subsection (a)(3) of this section" in introductory provisions, redesignated par. (3) as (2), and struck out former par. (2) which read as follows: "the applicant shall apply for such assistance only by submitting an application to the Corporation for assistance on a competitive basis; and".

Subsec. (d)(1). Pub. L. 111-13, §1315(4)(A), substituted "shall provide or make available" for "shall provide" and struck out second sentence which read as follows:

“Not more than 85 percent of the cost of a premium shall be provided by the Corporation, with the remaining cost paid by the entity receiving assistance under section 12571 of this title.”

Subsec. (d)(2). Pub. L. 111-13, §1315(4)(B), substituted “provide from its own funds or make available” for “provide from its own funds”.

Subsecs. (g), (h). Pub. L. 111-13, §1315(5), struck out subsecs. (g) and (h) which allowed waiver in whole or in part of limitation on Federal share and limited number of terms of service for federally subsidized living allowance, respectively.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2009 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 111-13 effective Oct. 1, 2009, see section 6101(a) of Pub. L. 111-13, set out as a note under section 4950 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Oct. 1, 1993, see section 123 of Pub. L. 103-82, set out as an Effective Date of 1993 Amendment note under section 1701 of Title 16, Conservation.

§ 12595. National service educational awards

(a) Eligibility generally

A participant in a national service program carried out using assistance provided to an applicant under section 12571 of this title shall be eligible for the national service educational award described in division D if the participant—

- (1) serves in an approved national service position; and
- (2) satisfies the eligibility requirements specified in section 12602 of this title with respect to service in that approved national service position.

(b) Special rule for VISTA volunteers

A VISTA volunteer who serves in an approved national service position shall be ineligible for a national service educational award if the VISTA volunteer accepts the stipend authorized under section 4955(a)(1) of this title.

(Pub. L. 101-610, title I, §141, as added Pub. L. 103-82, title I, §101(b), Sept. 21, 1993, 107 Stat. 814.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 141 of Pub. L. 101-610 was classified to section 12571 of this title prior to the general amendment of subtitle D of title I of Pub. L. 101-610 [former part D of this subchapter] by Pub. L. 103-82, §102(a).

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Oct. 1, 1993, see section 123 of Pub. L. 103-82, set out as an Effective Date of 1993 Amendment note under section 1701 of Title 16, Conservation.

Division D—National Service Trust and Provision of Educational Awards

CODIFICATION

Subtitle D of title I of Pub. L. 101-610, comprising this division, was formerly classified to part D (§12571 et seq.) of this subchapter prior to the general amendment by Pub. L. 103-82, §102(a).

Pub. L. 111-13, title I, §1401(a), Apr. 21, 2009, 123 Stat. 1512, amended div. heading generally.

§ 12601. Establishment of the National Service Trust

(a) Establishment

There is established in the Treasury of the United States an account to be known as the

National Service Trust. The Trust shall consist of—

(1) from the amounts appropriated to the Corporation and made available to carry out this division, such amounts as the Corporation may designate to be available for the payment of—

(A) national service educational awards, summer of service educational awards, and silver scholar educational awards; and

(B) interest expenses pursuant to section 12604(e) of this title;

(2) any amounts received by the Corporation as gifts, bequests, devises, or otherwise pursuant to section 12651g(a)(2) of this title, if the terms of such donations direct that the donated amounts be deposited in the National Service Trust;

(3) any amounts recovered by the Corporation pursuant to section 12602a of this title; and

(4) the interest on, and proceeds from the sale or redemption of, any obligations held by the Trust.

(b) Investment of Trust

It shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to invest in full the amounts appropriated to the Trust. Except as otherwise expressly provided in instruments concerning a gift, bequest, devise, or other donation and agreed to by the Corporation, such investments may be made only in interest-bearing obligations of the United States or in obligations guaranteed as to both principal and interest by the United States. For such purpose, such obligations may be acquired on original issue at the issue price or by purchase of outstanding obligations at the market price. Any obligation acquired by the Trust may be sold by the Secretary at the market price.

(c) Expenditures from Trust

Amounts in the Trust shall be available, to the extent provided for in advance by appropriation, for—

(1) payments of national service educational awards, summer of service educational awards, and silver scholar educational awards in accordance with section 12604 of this title; and

(2) payments of interest in accordance with section 12604(e) of this title.

(d) Reports to the authorizing committees on receipts and expenditures

Not later than March 1 of each year, the Corporation shall submit a report to the authorizing committees on the financial status of the Trust during the preceding fiscal year. Such report shall—

(1) specify the amount deposited to the Trust from the most recent appropriation to the Corporation, the amount received by the Corporation as gifts, bequests, devises, or otherwise pursuant to section 12651g(a)(2) of this title during the period covered by the report, and any amounts obtained by the Trust pursuant to subsection (a)(3);

(2) identify the number of individuals who are currently performing service to qualify, or have qualified, for national service educational awards, summer of service educational awards, or silver scholar awards;