



Governor Rick Scott

Commissioners

Executive Committee

Mike Andrew
Chairman
Orange County

Lt. Gen. Bob Milligan USMC (Ret.)
Vice Chairman
Leon County

Aileen Pruitt
Treasurer
St. Lucie County

Yolanda Londoño
Orange County

Nina Traviesa
Hillsborough County

Kherri Anderson
Martin County

Danny Berenberg
St. Johns County

Connie Bookman
Escambia County

Debbie Carswell
Orange County

Brody Enwright
Alachua County

Susan Glickman
Pinellas County

Marcia Gonzalez
Miami-Dade County

Ted Granger
Leon County

Joyce Hobson
Leon County

Beverly Houglan
Osceola County

Linda King
Duval County

Jon Levinson
Palm Beach County

Judithanne McLauchlan
Pinellas County

Penny Miller
Marion County

Rhonda Rolle
Leon County

Connie Stophel
Duval County

Susan Towler
Duval County

Bryan Vaughan
Leon County

Joe Follman, Ex-officio
Leon County

Suzanne Richards, Ex-officio
Orange County

Wendy Spencer
Chief Executive Officer

To : AmeriCorps State Programs

From : Cat Keen, Director of National Service Programs

Date : March 30, 2011

Subject : Clarification of Food Stamp Eligibility

The Governor's Commission on Volunteerism & Community Service (Volunteer Florida) offers the following clarification regarding the impact of AmeriCorps living allowance on food stamp eligibility.

The following information can be found at the Department of Children and Families website, Access Florida Program Policy Manual Table of Contents, section 1800 (FS/TCA).

<http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/access/esspolicymanual.shtml>

1810.0931 National and Community Services Trust (FS)

Payments under the National and Community Services Trust Act (NCSTA) of 1993 (P.L. 103-82) are excluded as income.

NCSTA projects for youth in Florida are operated through the Florida Conservation Corps. The project name is the Florida Youth Conservation Corps.

The NCSTA of 1993 revised the National and Community Services Act (NCSA) of 1990 and established a corporation for National and Community Service.

The corporation established by the NCSTA administers all National Service Programs which include:

- 1. the Senior Corps, for participants over the age of 55;*
- 2. the Youth Corps, for participants 14-17 years of age;*
- 3. Learn and Serve, for participants in grades K-12; and*
- 4. AmeriCorps Network of Programs (also known as AmeriCorps State/National Programs).*

In addition, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) has provided the following guidance from the acting CNCS General Counsel (2007) and the additional USDA Ruling on AmeriCorps*State and National Eligibility for food stamps (2001). Both documents can be found at

http://www.americorps.gov/pdf/07_0604_OGC_foodstamps.pdf



Memorandum - Clarification of Food Stamp Eligibility
March 30, 2011
Page Two

*The AmeriCorps*State and National program was authorized by the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (NCSA), 42 U.S.C. § 12501 et seq. The NCSA states that allowances, earnings, and payments to participants in AmeriCorps programs “shall not be considered income for the purposes of determining eligibility for and the amount of income transfer and in-kind aid furnished under any Federal or federally-assisted program based on need, other than as provided in the Social Security Act.” 42 U.S.C. § 12637(d). Based on this language, the USDA issued an opinion in 2001 stating that AmeriCorps*State and National benefits are excluded from income for food stamp purposes.*

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Volunteer Florida.

/CK

