



# STATE OF WISCONSIN

## DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

### DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



## ReadyWisconsin AmeriCorps Disaster Preparedness Program

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### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

#### **As a “member”, will I get any compensation?**

Yes. You will receive a living allowance of \$5,740/year (approximately \$220 gross every two weeks, depending on your start date).

Upon the successful completion of your 900-hour commitment, you will receive an education award of \$2,822 that can be used for loan repayment, future schooling costs, and special educational opportunities. You have up to seven years to use the award, and may have the opportunity to serve multiple terms and earning up to \$11,000 in educational awards.

#### **For whom will I be working?**

You will be serving as an agent of and will receive your living allowance checks from the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs.

If you serve in one of the project’s host communities, a site supervisor assigned by the emergency management director in your host municipality/county will directly manage you. The program co-directors at Wisconsin Emergency Management will provide additional support and direction.

If you serve in the WEM central office, the program co-directors will oversee your activities.

#### **What do you mean by flexible scheduling?**

You must complete 900 hours of service during the 12-month term of service, which averages to 17 hours per week.

- Since you will be giving presentations to organizations and business and recruiting and training volunteers, it is likely that some of these events will take place during evenings or weekends.
- Some events, such as training or actual emergency response activities could entail serving more hours in one week than another.

You will work out your schedule with your site supervisor.

#### **What training will I receive?**

- A 2-day orientation retreat at the Volk Field near Camp Douglas, Wisconsin
- A 1-day mid-term training retreat at a central location in Wisconsin (to be determined)
- A final group event at the end of the term of service at a central location in Wisconsin (to be determined)
- Monthly conference calls with the entire AmeriCorps cohort, program co-directors, and site supervisors
- Access to a substantial number and variety of free online emergency management courses offered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- Other local training/exercising events and WEM courses as deemed appropriate by your site supervisor

**Why do I need to have my own transportation?**

If you serve in one of the project's host communities, a large part of your service will involve attending meetings and giving presentations to community organizations and businesses. Sometimes your site supervisor will attend, but you must be prepared to travel to these events independently.

If you serve in the WEM central office, this is not a requirement.

**Will I receive reimbursement for my travel expenses?**

Yes.

- You will submit travel vouchers to Wisconsin Emergency Management for training events, such as the member orientation.
- For routine daily work-related travel, you will submit your travel expenses to your host jurisdiction for reimbursement.