**Americorps / Vista – Operation Fresh Start through Community Action:**

*Income: count or don’t count ????*

**BC Handbook 16.2…**

The following types of income are not included in the countable income when determining eligibility for BadgerCare Plus.

**AmeriCorps/ Vista**

# 22 Special programs:

L. AmeriCorps (VISTA) income is disregarded income.

**FS Handbook 4.3.2.2 Disregarded Earned Income**

**4.3.2.2 Disregarded Earned Income**

[*Disregard*](javascript:TextPopup(this)) *means do not count, exempt, or exclude* means "do not count.” When you are calculating the total amount of income a person has received, you should exempt or exclude any of the following kinds of income:

#11 - All AmeriCorps income is exempt for FoodShare benefits.

**CC Handbook 1.5.4**

**1.5.4 Limited Income Exclusions from the Financial Eligibility Test**

The following types of income are excluded as income in the child care budget under the limited circumstances as detailed below:

* AmeriCorps and or VISTA (PL 93-113): Exclude income if the stipend amount divided by the number of hours of activity equals less than minimum wage.
* Operation Fresh  Start: Disregard Operation Fresh  Start  income unless the agency director verifies that participants are receiving the equivalent of minimum wage. If the Operation Fresh  Start participant is receiving minimum wage or more, count the income in determining gross income.

**CC approved activity for Fresh Start (Americorps / Vista) program:**

**1.4.8.7 Basic Education**

Participation in basic education, including English as a second language course; literacy tutoring; high school or course of study meeting the standards established by the state superintendent of public instruction for the high school equivalency.

**Eligibility requirements for Basic Education:**

* If the basic education is high school or equivalent and the parent is age 19 or younger (a teen parent), education can be a standalone approved activity. Please see section [1.4.8.2](https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/manuals/wishares-cc-manual/chapt1-program-overview-eligibility/1.4.8.2-high-school.htm) on High School. \*\* this will not count against the parent’s 24 month limit for basic education \*\*\*

**1.4.8.2 High School**

If the individual is under the age of 18, he or she must meet one of the following requirements:

* + - Residing with his or her custodial parent
    - Residing with a kinship relative who may or may not be receiving the Kinship Care benefit
    - Residing in a foster home
    - Residing in a subsidized guardianship or interim caretaker home
    - Residing in an independent living arrangement that is approved by a licensed or public child welfare agency and is supervised by an adult; the supervised living arrangement must be documented in CWW case comments
    - Married
* If the basic education is high school or equivalent and the parent is age 20 or older, the parent must be working at least twenty (20) hours per month throughout the semester to maintain eligibility for education-related child care and the authorized weeks will count toward the parent’s 24-month limit for child care for basic education
* School and work schedules are required for all individuals
* The student’s satisfactory progress must be documented by scanning the grade report in ECF and updating CWW case comments. Satisfactory progress is assumed if the student has passing grades for the term, or if passing grades are not achieved, there must be documentation that the student took part in the required classes and performed the required work.
  + **Note:** Future authorizations cannot be withheld or denied for a previous semester’s lack of progress or attendance.

**1.6.11 Approved Activity Verification**

**HSED, GED, High School:** Enrollment letter from school. The most current grade report for the student must be obtained to review for satisfactory progress; if passing grades are not achieved there must be documentation that the student took part in the required classes and performed the required work. If a teen parent will remain a dependent child on their parent’s case, the agency must collect written documentation from education institution which identifies the high school graduation or high school equivalency requirements and the progress the teen parent has made; and based on this information the documentation must show that the student is expected to achieve graduation or its equivalent by their nineteenth (19th) birthday.

**Basic Education and Employment:** Proof of school enrollment and class schedule and employment verification of at least twenty (20) hours per month. The most current grade report for the student must be obtained to review for satisfactory progress; if passing grades are not achieved there must be documentation that the student took part in the required classes and performed the required work.

**\*\*\*\* If a 20 yr old loses his/her employment while attending school he/she can retain CC eligibility for the 3 month activity search period without a reduction in CC authorization per OPS Memo 17-45. \*\*\*\*\***