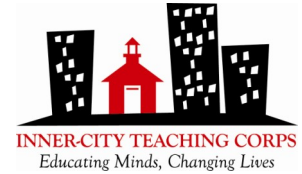


# Simple Living



## ***Why choose a simple lifestyle?***

Many forces in contemporary society work to convince us that a successful life is solely determined by material wealth. By choosing to serve in the VTC, Corps members reject this definition of success and embrace a simpler lifestyle. A portion of these savings is returned to the schools in the form of scholarship funds, teacher training, classroom supplies, and extracurricular funding. In this way, the simple lifestyle chosen by Corps members directly benefits children living in inner-city Chicago. Moreover, through an embrace of a simple lifestyle, you are encouraged to identify more closely with the socio-economic realities of those who live and serve in the inner-city. Simple living is about more than money and possessions; it is primarily concerned with building relationships. Simple living liberates Corps members by allowing you to focus on the truly important questions of how you live in relationship with and service for other community members, students, co-workers, God, and society at large.

## ***What living expenses are covered by ICTC?***

ICTC will cover the costs of housing, food, transportation, health insurance, teacher training, and certification. Corps members are given a modest stipend of \$150 per month for personal expenses.

## ***What kind of health insurance will I have?***

As teachers of the Archdiocese of Chicago, VTC members are enrolled in health and dental insurance through Blue Cross Blue Shield of IL. Vision coverage is also included. Coverage begins October 1st of your first year in the program.

## ***What type of transportation is provided?***

We are very fortunate to have a fleet of cars that allows our Corps members to provide the important service they commit to. Each community has historically been able to have 3 cars for both work and personal use. The community is responsible for the care of the vehicles and is expected to work together to accommodate carpool situations.

## ***How will I pay off my student loans while I'm in the program?***

In most cases, your loans can be deferred and/or partially cancelled because of your status as an AmeriCorps volunteer. Please contact your loan officer and the ICTC office for details.

## ***Am I eligible for an AmeriCorps Education Award?***

Yes. You will receive an AmeriCorps Education Award of \$4,725 for each successfully completed year in the program (unless you have already received an AmeriCorps award for previous service; you are eligible for two in a lifetime). The first award is used toward your summer training at Northwestern. The second award can be used at your own discretion to pay off student loans or for future graduate study.

## ***Is it hard to live on \$150 of personal spending money per month?***

You certainly have to watch what you spend, but at the same time you learn to take advantage of the things that are around and available to you at no or low cost. Whether you are enjoying nature itself (Chicago has a beautiful lakeshore with bike paths, parks, and beaches), playing games with housemates at home, going to the wonderful museums that Chicago offers (teachers get in for free), or renting a movie versus going to the theater, you learn to be creative with your social time.

## ***On Simple Living...***

*"Simple living is a process, it does not just happen. If approached with excitement and passion, it is not as much of a burden as it might seem."*

*Brian Ray, Xavier University*