Today’s Speakers

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Program, Impact, and Operations Director
AmeriCorps VISTA: Volunteers In Service To America

- One year, full time and summer opportunities
- Anti-poverty and sustainable development focus
- Minimum age 18+, no upper age limit
- Projects in all 50 states focusing on: economic opportunity, healthy futures, education, and more.
- Serve with non-profits, local government agencies, and Tribal governments.
National Civilian Community Corps

- 10 month, team-based residential program
- Regionally located, members travel around region
- Corps members are 18-24, leaders 18+
- Projects include: disaster recovery, trail building, parks maintenance, weatherization, construction
- Includes FEMA Corps, a specialization in disaster recovery and remediation
AmeriCorps Network (State and National)
• One year or short term, full-time or part-time positions
• State based (college campuses) and national projects (like City Year)
• Age 18+
• Projects in all 50 states focusing on: teaching, working at homeless shelters, veterans’ services, conservation, and health
ANNUAL IMPACT OF AMERICORPS VISTA

1. 8,500+ Members Serving
2. 4,500+ Locations Across the U.S.
3. 800,000 Volunteers Leveraged
4. $206M Raised from Other Sources
5. 220,000 Members Since 1965
Serve for one year at an organization or agency.
Gain leadership experience.
Serve in your hometown or anywhere in the US.
Apply to a location, project, or focus area of your choice.
Help advance local solutions to poverty and inequity while earning money for school.

The AmeriCorps VISTA Experience
AmeriCorps VISTA Focus Areas

- Education
- Economic Opportunity
- Healthy Futures
- Veterans & Military Families
- Disaster Services

*FY 2016 Primary Focus Areas
Benefits

Living Allowance
Receive a modest bi-weekly living allowance to cover basic expenses.

Relocation Allowance
If you move 50+ miles from your home to a new community, you receive relocation travel assistance and a settling-in allowance.

End of Service Award
Choose between a Segal Education Award ($5,920) to pay for a range of education expenses or a cash stipend ($1,800).

Healthcare Benefit
Choose between reimbursement for healthcare or a healthcare plan. Dental and vision are also included.

Non-Competitive Eligibility (NCE)
NCE is a unique hiring path which makes it easier for federal agencies to hire you.

Professional Development Training
Attend in-person and virtual professional development opportunities throughout the year.

Child Care
You may be eligible to receive a child care benefit if you have children under the age of 13.

And many more benefits...
You can find them at: www.VISTACampus.gov/in-service/benefits-service
Who Can Apply?

• Must be at least 18 years old, no upper age limit.

• Pass a criminal background check.

• AmeriCorps VISTA service is open to all US citizens, US nationals, lawful permanent residents, and persons legally residing in a state.
What makes a successful VISTA member?

- Commitment to Service
- Cultural Agility
- Open-Minded
- Flexibility
- Creativity
- Collaborative
- Willing to Learn
VISTA Members can...

• Create powerful partnerships with businesses, community leaders, and other stakeholders.

• Expand current programs in demographic, geographic, and/or programmatic scope.

• Build volunteer management, leadership and training systems.

• Build development systems and do development work.

• Live at the level of the community they serve.
VISTA Members cannot...

• Provide direct service
• Serve part-time
• Proselytize or lobby
• Supervise employees or volunteers, including other national service participants
Sponsor Responsibilities

- Develop and implement project plan and performance measures
- Design VISTA Assignment Descriptions (VADs)
- Recruit and place VISTA members
- Provide work space, equipment and supplies
Sponsor Responsibilities

• Conduct On Site Orientation & Training
• Assist VISTA members with community entry
• Provide supervision
• Conduct performance appraisals and track T&A
• Document achievements through Project Progress Reports (PPR)
• Mileage reimbursement for on-the-job travel
Application Process

• Contact your CNCS State Office
  • State@cns.gov
  • E.g. IN@cns.gov, VA@cns.gov

• Concept Paper
• Full Application
• Supervisor Orientation
• Recruit Members

eGrants: http://egrants.cns.gov
Veterans Serving Projects

• SECond Mission: Campus Compact of the Mountain West

• Support access to and persistence in higher ed and successful transitions to the civilian workforce

• Vanessa Moore, an Afghan war veteran, has been instrumental as a VISTA member bringing much needed services for student veterans.
Veterans Serving Projects

- Dog Tag Buddies, Billings, MT
- Started by a VISTA, this project trains rescue dogs to serve as no-cost emotional support animals to area veterans.
- Estimated that over 1,800 Billings-area Veterans and their families suffer from PTSD.
Questions?

You can always reach us at: vistaoutreach@cns.gov