

Corporation for NATIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE

## CNCS Overview

Resources to Support Capacity Building



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Corporation for NATIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE



## AmeriCorps VISTA – Capacity Building

- Non-profits, educational institutions, tribes, and state/local governments are eligible to apply.
- Identify a need and request support for **AmeriCorps VISTA members**.
- VISTA's work to build and expand the capacity of organizations, programs, or initiatives.
  - Not "direct service" like other AmeriCorps programs.
  - Need must be linked to anti-poverty mission.

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## Capacity Building Examples

Developing Curriculum  
 Public Affairs/ Communications  
 Fundraising/Grant Writing  
 Developing Volunteer Programs  
 Developing Databases  
 Partnership Development  
 Needs Assessments








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## AmeriCorps VISTA – Focus Areas

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

- Each focus area has a connection to the VISTA Anti-poverty mission.
- VISTA Sponsors demonstrate that connection.
- Opioid Epidemic is a major focus at this time



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## VISTA Project Example

**Phoenix, AZ-Governor’s Office of Youth, Faith and Family**

- Two currently serving VISTA members addressing drug abuse and misuse by:
  - Expanding and strengthening partnerships;
  - Providing technical assistance and training to community partners;
  - Working with law enforcement and drug treatment centers to expand the Angel Initiative program- a model that has successfully helped deal with the opioid crisis in other cities across the US.





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## AmeriCorps VISTA Benefits



### Living Allowance

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



### Non-Competitive Eligibility (NCE)

For one year for federal jobs.



### Relocation Allowance

Relocation travel assistance and a settling-in allowance.



### Professional Development Training

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



### End of Service Award

Choice between an Education Award (\$5,920) or a cash stipend (\$1,800).



### Child Care

May be eligible to receive child care benefits for children under the age of 13.



### Healthcare Benefit

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

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## Benefits/Barriers for Agencies

- AmeriCorps VISTA “grants” provide only a human resource thus management of federal funds is not required.
  - VISTA’s are paid directly from the Federal Government.
  - VISTA Sponsors conduct the hiring process.
  - Reporting is limited to progress reporting towards identified performance measures.
- Three-year resource only
  - Capacity building activities should lead to sustainability
- AmeriCorps Members are not Volunteers and not Employees
  - Creates a unique dynamic when it comes to management and supervision.
  - Can be a barrier for some state/local agencies
- AmeriCorps State Grants
  - Require management of federal funds.
  - Members can perform direct services.
  - Grantees pay the members directly – challenges for some state/local agencies

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## Nevada National Service Contacts

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