



## Fact Sheet

# AmeriCorps VISTA

— Celebrating 45 Years 1965-2010 —



### Statistical Highlights\* of VISTA Service

- Community Volunteers Mobilized by VISTAs  
1,258,000
- Youth Volunteers Mobilized  
70,500
- Hours Served by Volunteers  
11,725,000
- Children & Youth Mentored  
462,000

AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) taps the skills, talents, and passion of more than 7,000 Americans annually to support community efforts to overcome poverty. The program's nationwide corps of VISTAs commits full-time for a year at nonprofit organizations or local government agencies, building the capacity of these organizations to carry out programs that fight poverty by recruiting and managing community volunteers, raising funds, and helping to manage projects. VISTAs also combat illiteracy, expand job opportunities, develop financial assets, reduce homelessness, improve health services, reduce unemployment, increase housing opportunities, reduce recidivism, and expand access to technology for those living in rural and urban areas of poverty across America.

### Core Principles of AmeriCorps VISTA

**Anti-Poverty Focus:** AmeriCorps VISTA supports community efforts to overcome poverty. Any nonprofit organization, educational institution, or tribal or public agency with a project explicitly designed to alleviate poverty may sponsor a VISTA.

**Community Empowerment:** AmeriCorps VISTA values the inherent strengths and resources of the community. VISTA expects project sponsors to involve residents of the community in planning, developing, and implementing the VISTA project. This approach allows low-income individuals the freedom to speak for themselves in determining the projects that suit their specific needs.

### AmeriCorps VISTA Statistical Highlights\*

- AmeriCorps VISTAs 7,289
- Hours served by VISTAs 11.3 million
- Number of VISTA projects 1,310
- Value of cash and in-kind resources raised \$133 million
- Cash and in-kind resources raised per VISTA \$18,247
- Annual Federal Funding \$96 million

\* Federal funding level and all other statistics are for fiscal year 2009.

Corporation for  
**NATIONAL &  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICE** ★★☆☆

1201 New York Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20525  
202-606-5000  
www.AmeriCorps.gov

**Capacity Building:** AmeriCorps VISTA expands the ability of sponsor organizations to fight poverty. Rather than providing services to low-income individuals and communities, VISTAs strengthen and support organizations by building infrastructure, expanding community partnerships, securing long-term resources, coordinating training for participants, and much more.

**Sustainable Solutions:** VISTAs serve as a short-term resource to help sponsor organizations achieve lasting solutions to poverty.

## Become an AmeriCorps VISTA

AmeriCorps VISTA is open to U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents age 18 and older. VISTAs choose from projects throughout the country, based on their skills and interests, and serve full time for one year with community-based organizations. During their service, VISTAs receive a living allowance, as well as health care, child care, training, relocation expenses, and liability insurance. After successful completion of their service, VISTAs receive either a \$1,500 stipend or a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award of \$5,350 to pay for college, graduate school, or to pay back qualified student loans.

**Find out more at [AmeriCorps.gov](http://AmeriCorps.gov)**

**Or call 800.942.2677**

**TTY 800.833.3722**

## Sponsor a Project

Any nonprofit organization or public agency involved in alleviating poverty may partner with AmeriCorps VISTA to develop a project and host VISTAs. Potential sponsors must have the capacity and commitment to recruit, train, supervise, and support VISTAs.

**Contact your local Corporation State Office**

**Or call 202.606.5000**

**TTY 202.565.2799**

**Email: [vista@americorps.gov](mailto:vista@americorps.gov)**

## Corporation for National and Community Service

AmeriCorps VISTA is an anti-poverty program created by the federal government in 1964. The first class of VISTAs began serving in 1965. In 1993, VISTA became part of AmeriCorps, a network of national and community service programs that engages annually more than 85,000 Americans in intensive service to meet critical needs in education, the environment, public safety, homeland security, and other areas. AmeriCorps is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the federal agency that improves lives, strengthens communities, and fosters civic engagement through service and volunteering. Each year the Corporation engages more than five million Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service to meet local needs through its Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America programs, and leads President Obama's national call to service initiative, United We Serve. For more information on the Corporation, visit [www.NationalService.gov](http://www.NationalService.gov).

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