







Similarities & Differences

AmeriCorps NCCC, Volunteers in Service to America, and AmeriCorps State

Element/Item	 National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC)	 Volunteers In Service to America (VISTA)	 AmeriCorps State
Authorizing Legislation	Kennedy Serve America Act of 2011	Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 Kennedy Serve America Act of 2011	Nat'l & Community Services Act of 1990 Kennedy Serve America Act of 2011
Year Began	1994	1965 Volunteers in Service to America	1994
Citizenship	U.S. and/or permanent residency; can be from any state or U.S. territory	U.S. and/or permanent residency; can be from any state or U.S. territory	U.S. and/or permanent residency; can be from any state or U.S. territory
Age	18-24 for members; team leaders may be older than 24	18 and older	17 and older
Education	Varied	None; project determines education criteria	High school degree or GED
Criminal Background	National Sex Offender Registry and FBI fingerprints (paid by CNCS)	National Sex Offender Registry (prior to PSO) and FBI fingerprints (paid by CNCS obtained at PSO)	National Sex Offender Registry, full State Police and FBI fingerprints, and CPS check (paid by project)
Enrollment Status	Full time, residential	Full time only	Full time 1,700 hrs (equals one member service year or "MSY") Half time 900 hrs Reduced half time 675 hrs Quarter time 450 hrs Minimum time 300 hrs
Terms of Service	10 Months (11 Months for Team Leaders)	1 year; can be reenrolled for up to 5 years. Can be combination of VISTA and/or AC State or NCCC	Generally 12 months per term of service, depending on program design.
Living Allowance	Weekly living stipend (approx. \$91/week), food, housing, travel, and uniforms (worn during all work days) provided by NCCC	\$12,312-\$20,640/year depending on site location & term completion	\$13,732 annual minimum, \$27,464 maximum, for FT
Living Allowance Payments	Via direct deposit paid weekly by CNCS	Via direct deposit paid bi-weekly by CNCS	Paid from grant by sponsor organization
Health Insurance	Paid by NCCC	Paid by VISTA	Must be available for FT members
Childcare	Paid by NCCC if eligible	Paid by VISTA, if eligible	Must be available for FT members
Education Loan Deferments	Federal Loan Forbearance available, interest paid by CNCS	Federal Loan Forbearance until end of service; interest paid by CNCS	Available




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Leave	3 personal days off, 2 Life After AmeriCorps Days off (to be used for interviews and other events related to preparing for work/school after graduation). Also members receive 2 one-week breaks during their 10 month service year.	10 personal leave days; 10 sick days; agency holidays	Available on limited basis
Pre-Service Orientation	4 week Core Training Institute to ensure readiness to serve and paid for by NCCC	Mandatory PSO attendance coordinated by CNCS; in-service and OJT provided by project	Pre- and in-service training provided by project with support from OVCS
End of Service Benefits	\$5,920 education award; transportation back to home of origin.	\$5,920 education award or \$1,500 stipend; cannot be prorated, must complete year; no more than the equivalent of 2 education awards	\$5,920 education award for completed FT service; no more than the equivalent of 2 FT education awards
Match Requirements	No cash match required. However, sponsors must provide (and pay for, if necessary): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Lodging (if further than one hour from Vicksburg) ◦ Tools and materials ◦ Training and orientation ◦ Daily supervision 	Project sponsors provide work space, supervision and other necessary resources. Cost share may apply	Cash or in-kind of at least 24% of total project cost for programs in first 3 years, increasing thereafter up to 50%.
Application Process	2 Step Application Process: 1 page Concept Forms are accepted 3/year. A select number of organizations are invited to submit the full application. Technical assistance and a limited review period are provided.	Submitted to VA State Office via e-grants; Request for Concept Paper (RFCP); Submit Concept Paper anytime during the year; Once approved, submit full application. Technical assistance provided.	OVCS accepts applications annually. Once funded, a program generally remains in the Virginia portfolio for three years. Final recommendations for funding made to CNCS. Technical assistance provided. Applicants may request up to \$14,932 per member, but OVCS may offer less than requested. Applicants must request a minimum of 12 Member Service Year (MSY) & at least 20 members.

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Community Needs	Address critical community needs as defined by the project sponsor	Address critical community needs; must have anti-poverty focus	Address critical community needs
Eligible Activities	Indirect or direct service	Indirect service examples: Capacity building Community empowerment Sustainable solutions	Direct service examples: Teaching computer skills Building/rehabbing housing Tutoring students
Ineligible Activities	Partial list: Activities benefiting for-profit organizations; attempting to influence legislation; promoting or deterring union organizing; proselytizing or any religious instruction or worship; and any political advocacy.	Partial list: Activities benefiting for-profit organizations; attempting to influence legislation; promoting or deterring union organizing; proselytizing or any religious instruction or worship; and any political advocacy.	Partial list: Activities benefiting for-profit organizations; attempting to influence legislation; promoting or deterring union organizing; proselytizing or any religious instruction or worship; and any political advocacy.
Strategic Plan Focus Areas	Natural and Other Disasters (50%); Urban and Rural Development; Environmental Stewardship and Conservation; Energy Conservation; and Infrastructure	Education; Economic Opportunity; Veterans and Military Families; and Healthy Futures; very limited scope in Disaster Assistance and Environmental Stewardship	Education; Economic Opportunity; Veterans and Military Families; Disaster Readiness; Healthy Futures; and Environmental Stewardship
Local Priorities	None	None	Volunteer Recruitment
Management	NCCC Regional Office in Vicksburg, Mississippi	CNCS VA State Office	ED of OVCS with input from Governor's Advisory Board
Awards	NCCC team assigned; no funds awarded	VISTA placements assigned; no funds awarded	Grant with funds awarded (reimbursement basis only), based on a maximum of \$13,730 per MSY
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