AmeriCorps VISTA

2020-2021 Program Year

AGENDA

➢ WHAT IS AMERICORPS VISTA?

➢ FINANCIAL REQUIRMENTS

➢ APPLICATION PROCEDURE

➢ VISTA FAQ

VISTA OVERVIEW

▶ **What is VISTA**

▶ **What can VISTA do?**

   ▶ **VISTA project objectives**

Cost Share/ Financial Requirement

- **What is Cost Share?**
  - **Examples:**
  - **For 2017-2018 we had 8 VISTA Slots and our cost share increased to 4, that would be a total of $46800 due to CNCS which turns into approx. $5850/ member.**
  - **For 2018-2019 we had 12 VISTA Slots and our cost share increased to 5, that would be a total of about 67,500 due to CNCS which turns into approx. $5300/ member.**
  - **We aim to keep the cost down, but it is dependent on the number of slots we pay for vs. the number of sites we have.**
- **Mandatory VISTA Trainings**
  - **Budget Approx. $250**
- **Professional Development Opportunities**
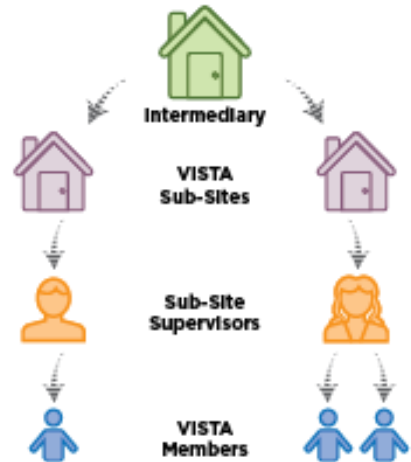 - **Budget Approx. $750**

VISTA Site Requirements

▶ **Site supervisor**

▶ **Professional Development Opportunities**

▶ **Workspace for VISTA**

▶ **All project related materials**

    ▶ **Phone**

    ▶ **Computer**

    ▶ **Supplies**

Sample Projects

- **Community Needs Assessment**
  - Survey design and collection
  - Focus group Design and individual meetings
  - Writing of the report
- **Strategic Planning**
  - Coordinate planning committee
  - Data collection and research

- **Program Creation**
  - Identify needed programing
  - Research best practices across country
  - Develop the scope of the program (time, cost, impact statement)
  - Create program curriculum
- **Fundraising and Development**
  - Research and write grants
  - Develop fundraising materials for staff and board

Sample Projects cont.

- **Developing a Marketing Plan**
  - Identifying best practices
  - Creating marketing materials (flyers, brochures, digital media, posters, etc)
  - Building or improving website and social media presence
  - Coordinate outreach opportunities

- **Summer Feeding Program Development**
  - Identify gaps in summer food sites
  - Create partnerships
  - Recruit volunteers for new or existing summer feeding sites
- **Volunteer Programming**
  - Develop volunteer recruitment plan
  - Recruit volunteers for agency or program
  - Volunteer recognition

Letter of Interest

▶ **Should not exceed 2 pages, the requirements for the letter are found in the information packet.**

1. Lead Agency Information
2. Organizational Capacity
3. Need for a VISTA
4. Scope of VISTA project
5. Prior knowledge or experience with VISTA, national service, and/or community volunteers
6. Professional development opportunities
7. Special requirements such as education level, personal transportation, etc

Application Requirements
Applications will include:

- **Narratives**
  - **Project design – these are the project goals, scope, and intended impact**
  - **Need – unmet poverty-related community need(s)**
  - **Organizational Capacity**
  - **Project management – describe ability to provide supervision**
- **Annual VISTA Work Plan**
- **Orientation Plan**
- **Training Plan**

Timeline

- **December 13th** – Letters of interest due to CSBG
  - Send to: csbg@dss.virginia.gov
- **January 15th** - Application live
- **February 28th** – Applications due
- **Late March** – Decisions announced
- **May – August** – Active Recruitment
- **Late Summer** – Aim to start VISTAs

VISTA FAQ

- WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AMERICORPS VISTA AND AMERICORPS STATE?
- WHAT IS CAPACITY BUILDING?
- CAN I APPLY FOR MORE THAN ONE VISTA?
- CAN MY VISTA MEMBER TELEWORK?
- WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF A SITE SUPERVISOR?
- WHAT CAN A VISTA DO AND NOT DO?

Questions