



ConnectHome AmeriCorps VISTA Program
October 8, 2020



Agenda

1. AmeriCorps VISTA Program

Jillian Kubiak

AmeriCorps VISTA Director, The Service Collaborative

2. VISTA Member Sites

Zack Magallanez

ConnectHomeSA Coordinator, San Antonio Housing Authority

Megan Conkle,

Resident Services Administrative Analyst, Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority

Mindy Davis,

Management Assistant II, City of Phoenix Housing Department

3. Q&A

Jillian Kubiak, VISTA Director
The Service Collaborative of WNY



Agenda (Cont'd)

1. AmeriCorps Overview
2. AmeriCorps VISTA Program
3. Member Guidelines & Benefits
4. Application Process

1964 President Lyndon B. Johnson establishes a new domestic program



VISTA

50 years

Volunteers In Service To America



Corporation for National Community Service

Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE** 



Service Collaborative VISTA Program

- Focus on **poverty elimination** and **capacity-building**.
- 30-40 VISTA members serve at non-profit, government and community organizations
- Program focus areas:
 - Economic Opportunity
 - Employment, housing and financial literacy
 - Education
 - Academic achievement
 - Healthy Futures
 - Food security and healthcare access
 - Veterans & Military Families
 - Opioid Intervention Services

Service Activities

Acceptable Service	Capacity Building	Sustainable Activities
Recruit volunteers	Develop forms, volunteer assignments	Develop volunteer handbook
Train direct service providers	Write training curriculum or train the trainer curriculum	Develop training manual
Coordinate projects	Develop procedures and systems	Develop volunteer management system and procedural guide
Public speaking	Develop speakers' bureau	Develop community partnerships
Write press releases	Develop press kits, media database	Secure media partners
Organize fundraising events	Grant writing; develop database	Secure project staffing
Organize task forces/coalitions	Develop leadership structure of task force/ coalition	Create infrastructure
Conduct outreach	Design brochures, posters	Create mechanism for project evaluation

Service Activities (cont'd)

Capacity Building

Tasks & activities to expand the scale, reach, efficiency, or effectiveness of programs or organizations.

Key terms

Strengthen
Develop
Create/build
Analyze
Identify
Recruit
Expand
Design
Increase
Research

Direct Service

The act of providing services to the identified recipients or clients of a program.

Red flag words

Continue
Coordinate
Tutor
Teach
Participate
Administrative tasks
Meet with clients
Assist
Support

Terms of Service

- One-year commitment
- Serve full time (35-40 hours a week)
- Meet knowledge, skills, and ability requirements set by the sponsoring organization
- 18 or older; no upper age limit
- US Citizens or legal permanent residents
- Pass a criminal history review

VISTA Member Benefits



Living allowance - \$13,399.15*
Education Awards (\$6,195) **or**
End of Service Stipend (\$1,800)
Loan Forbearance*
Professional Development
Relocation Assistance*

Childcare benefits
Personal and sick leave
Health Coverage
Non-Competitive Eligibility Status

Zack Magallanez, ConnectHomeSA Coordinator
San Antonio Housing Authority



Past VISTA – Francisco Gallegos

- Created digital literacy content and classes in Spanish
- Conducted outreach to Spanish speaking residents
- Helped mentor and guide digital ambassadors (residents of SAHA who work part-time for the department and ConnectHome program)
- Helped to recruit over 50 youth for two 6-month STEM camps



**Megan Conkle, Resident Services Administrative Analyst
Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority**



Current VISTA – Audra Mahon

- Created instruction manual to ensure AMHA Community Action Network success
- Coordinated and managed virtual volunteering campaign



Mindy Davis, Management Assistant II
City of Phoenix Housing Department



Past VISTAs-Brenda Johnson & Patricia Averette

- Completed Projects
 - Senior Day at Gateway
 - Internet Safety and Anti-Cyber Bullying for youth
 - 5 Grant applications



Current VISTAs – Florence Luna & Nash Allen

- Current & Future Projects
 - CARES Act tablet distribution
 - Digital literacy training resources for seniors
 - WIFI plan for new developments



Application Process

The Service Collaborative

Jillian Kubiak: Serve New York VISTA Director

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State & Local Agencies

<https://www.nationalservice.gov/SponsorVista>



Q & A



Further Questions

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