



For over 50 years, AmeriCorps VISTA members have served in partnership with Native American communities to promote cultural and holistic well being, develop economic opportunities, and strengthen community resources.



“AmeriCorps VISTA service was, in essence, the first step in my career in advocacy for Indian Country and inspired me to learn more about my own traditional role as a Pueblo woman, as a leader, and as a carrier of culture”
—Stephanie Lefthand (Taos Pueblo), serving the Boys & Girls Club of Ignacio, CO

AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) is a national service program that has been working to alleviate poverty in America since 1965. AmeriCorps VISTA engages more than 8,000 Americans annually to support community efforts to overcome poverty.

Working in partnership with tribal communities, AmeriCorps VISTA provides an opportunity for tribal members to serve their community and earn incredible benefits such as: a paid living allowance, top-notch training, special preference for federal job opportunities, healthcare and childcare benefits, and money for college. For one full year of AmeriCorps VISTA service, members earn \$5815.00 in an education award to be put towards qualified education expenses such as trade school fees, college tuition, or student loan payments.

From addressing health and diet concerns through the development of traditional native food systems, to preserving language and cultural heritage through education, AmeriCorps VISTA members are working hand-in-hand with their communities to make a difference in Indian Country.

Some of our partners



35+
Tribal Communities Supported

130+
AmeriCorps VISTA Members Serving



New Partnerships

AmeriCorps VISTA and Tribal Communities

Below is a sample of new AmeriCorps VISTA program offerings looking for members. If you are interested in learning more or applying for a position, visit: nationalservice.gov/joinamericorpsvista

Grassroots Community Development

President Obama's Promise Zone initiative engages underserved urban, rural, and tribal communities in combining local and federal efforts to increase economic activity, improve educational opportunities, enhance public health, and address other community-identified priorities. Each Promise Zone receives up to 5 AmeriCorps VISTA members to coordinate programs among various local and national entities and provide a grassroots approach to investment and community development. Four Tribal Nations are currently designated as Promise Zones and are actively looking for AmeriCorps VISTA members to serve: Choctaw Nation (OK); Pine Ridge Reservation, Oglala Lakota Sioux Tribe (ND); Spokane Tribe of Indians (WA); and the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians (ND).

Economic and Environmental Resilience

The Resilience AmeriCorps VISTA initiative is expanding into Indian Country with up to 75 VISTA members serving at 55 Tribal locations around the country. Following a recommendation of the White House's State, Local and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness, Resilience AmeriCorps VISTA was created to boost community capacity to respond to and prepare for the impacts of climate change, especially among vulnerable communities. Through partnerships with Conservation Legacy, American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) and Enterprise Community Partners, these AmeriCorps VISTA members will support Tribal Colleges and Universities, as well as Tribal Housing Authorities, to assist with economic development, conservation, and education-focused projects.

Indigenous Health and Food Sovereignty

AmeriCorps VISTA is launching a new partnership to promote Native American food sovereignty in response to the economic development and nutritional needs identified by tribal partners. Together with the University of Arkansas Law School's Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative and the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Tribe, 21 AmeriCorps VISTA members will serve with 10 tribal communities to assist in their development of agricultural infrastructure and nutritional priorities. This builds on the Let's Move in Indian Country and Seeds of Native Health initiatives which provide additional capacity for Tribes to meet their own needs around generating economic activity, addressing health concerns through access to healthy food and providing opportunities for their members to serve their own Tribes.