



Operation AmeriCorps

TA Call #3 – Blending Streams of Service



A Side-By-Side Glance of the Three Different AmeriCorps Programs:



<p>Model</p>	<p>The purpose of AmeriCorps State and National is to engage AmeriCorps members in direct service and capacity-building to address critical community needs. The grant applicant designs service activities for a team of members serving full- or part-time for one year or during the summer.</p>	<p>The mission of AmeriCorps NCCC is to strengthen communities and develop leaders through direct, team-based national and community service. In partnership with non-profits, local municipalities, state governments, federal government, national or state parks, Indian Tribes and schools, members complete service projects throughout the region they are assigned.</p>	<p>VISTA provides volunteers to support projects at nonprofit, grassroots organizations, and local government agencies that operate programs to help alleviate poverty in the United States. VISTAs strengthen and support these organizations by improving their infrastructure, expanding community partnerships, securing long-term resources, training program participants, and developing other activities that help build long-term sustainability for overcoming poverty.</p>
<p>Volunteer Eligibility to Serve</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over age 17 • Looking to put idealism into practice • Interested in earning money to pay for college or to pay off student loans • Eager to gain new skills—or to apply those already acquired • Interested in helping others and making a difference in the community • U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or lawful permanent resident alien 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 18 - 24 • Seeking hands-on work • Interested in doing a variety of projects • Looking to relocate and travel during the service term • Willing to live in a dorm • Excited about living and working with a close-knit team • U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or lawful permanent resident alien 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 18 years old • Concerned about poverty in America • Either a college graduate or has a few years of work experience and skills • An organizer, a resource-builder, a self-starter • Patient enough to work on a project that might not show results quickly • Interested in helping a low-income community establish a new program or enhance an existing program to help itself—and knowing it will continue long after the service year ends • Comfortable staying in one community for the entire year • U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or lawful permanent resident alien
<p>Volunteer Benefits of Service</p>	<p>Members may receive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Segal AmeriCorps Education Award • A modest living allowance • Healthcare benefits while in service • Childcare assistance while in service • Access to the network of AmeriCorps alumni (800,000 strong) 	<p>Members receive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Segal AmeriCorps Education Award • A living allowance of approximately \$4,000 for the 10 months of service (about \$200 every two weeks before taxes) • Housing • Meals • Healthcare benefits while in service • Up to \$400 a month for childcare, if necessary 	<p>Members receive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Segal AmeriCorps Education Award or post-service stipend • Relocation assistance • A modest living allowance (about \$950/mo in WY) • Pre-service training from CNCS • Healthcare benefits while in service • Childcare assistance while in service • Student loan forbearance or deferment while in service • One year of noncompetitive status for a federal government



AmeriCorps State and National

Grants and Members



Background and Overview

- AmeriCorps State and National is a grant program established in 1993
- AmeriCorps State and National engages in strategic grantmaking to support organizations that see service as a solution to local and national challenges.
- Grant awards include an allotment of funds and member positions
- Eligible grant recipients include: multi-state nonprofit organizations, state, local and tribal governments as well as colleges and universities.

Grantee Responsibilities



- Must have the ability to manage federal funds and provide supervision, operational support and track performance measures
- Must match at a minimum of 24% for the first three years of operation. Match can be cash or in-kind; the funds from State and National will not be enough to fully support the program.
- Recruit, train and manage AmeriCorps members in direct service and capacity building activities to impact community needs in six focus areas: education, healthy futures, environmental stewardship, veterans and military families, disaster services, and economic opportunity.

AmeriCorps State and National Members

Members must be:

- U.S. Citizens, U.S. Nationals or Lawful Permanent Residents of the United States
- At least 17 years of age – no upper age limit
- High school graduates or GED recipients (or working towards this goal)
- Subject to criminal history checks

AmeriCorps Programs may add program-specific requirements

AmeriCorps State and National Members

- Individuals enrolled for a specific term of service with an AmeriCorps program
- Members are not volunteers or employees
- Some members receive a living allowance, health insurance and child care assistance
- AmeriCorps members receive the Segal Education Award upon completing a term of service

AmeriCorps Service Terms and Education Award Amounts

Term of Service	Minimum # of Hours	FY 2015 Education Award
Full Time	1700	\$5,730.00
One-Year Half Time	900	\$2,865.00
Reduced Half Time	675	\$2,182.78
Quarter Time	450	\$1,515.55
Minimum Time	300	\$1,212.44

Sample Member Activities

- Tutoring students in classroom settings or in afterschool programs to improve academic outcomes
- Building or renovating low-income housing to make them available to economically disadvantaged individuals
- Providing employment services to unemployed individuals to improve their job prospects or find employment
- Assisting veterans and their families with the transition from military to civilian life
- Providing support services to seniors to increase their ability to remain in their homes and improve their quality of life



AmeriCorps VISTA

Projects and Members



Background and Overview

- Founded as Volunteers in Service to America in 1965 and incorporated into the AmeriCorps network of programs in 1993
- VISTA has been on the front lines in the fight against poverty in America for close to 50 years.
- VISTA is a one-time infusion of full-time volunteer resources for 1-3 years.
- Non-profit organizations and local and tribal governments can apply for VISTA resources to create or expand their capacity to help bring individuals and communities out of poverty.

Core Principles



All VISTA projects are guided by the following principles:

- Anti-poverty
- Empowering communities
- Building Capacity
- Creating Sustainable Solutions

VISTA Sponsor Responsibilities



- Develop Project Plan
- Create online Volunteer Assignment Descriptions (VADs).
- Create online Recruitment Opportunity Listing(s).
- Recruit, Interview and Select candidates
- Provide day to day supervision, and a work space
- Manage VISTA Project

CNCS Responsibilities



- Conduct a security check, and approve the candidates.
- Conduct a Pre-Service Orientation
- Cover re-location travel
- Pay Living Allowance
- Health Benefits
- Child Care
- End of service Cash Stipend or Education Award



AmeriCorps VISTA Members



- Are at least 18 years old; no upper age limit
- Are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents
- Pass a criminal history review
- Meet knowledge, skill, and ability requirements set by the sponsoring organization
- Serve full-time
- Make a one year commitment

Sample Member Activities

- Research and apply for new funding sources, including grants
- Recruit and train long-term community volunteers
- Establish and cultivate new partnerships with donors, media, and community stakeholders
- Design and implement databases to track donors and volunteers
- Create templates for outreach and event planning
- Develop capacity of sponsoring organization to effectively use data to measure impact



AmeriCorps NCCC

Projects and Members



Background and Overview

- AmeriCorps NCCC's flexible program structure creates the opportunity to partner with non-profit or government organizations that might lack the capacity to manage longer grant programs, as well as the ability to create strategic collaborations with other national service programs and federal agencies to magnify the impact on communities served.

NCCC Campus Locations

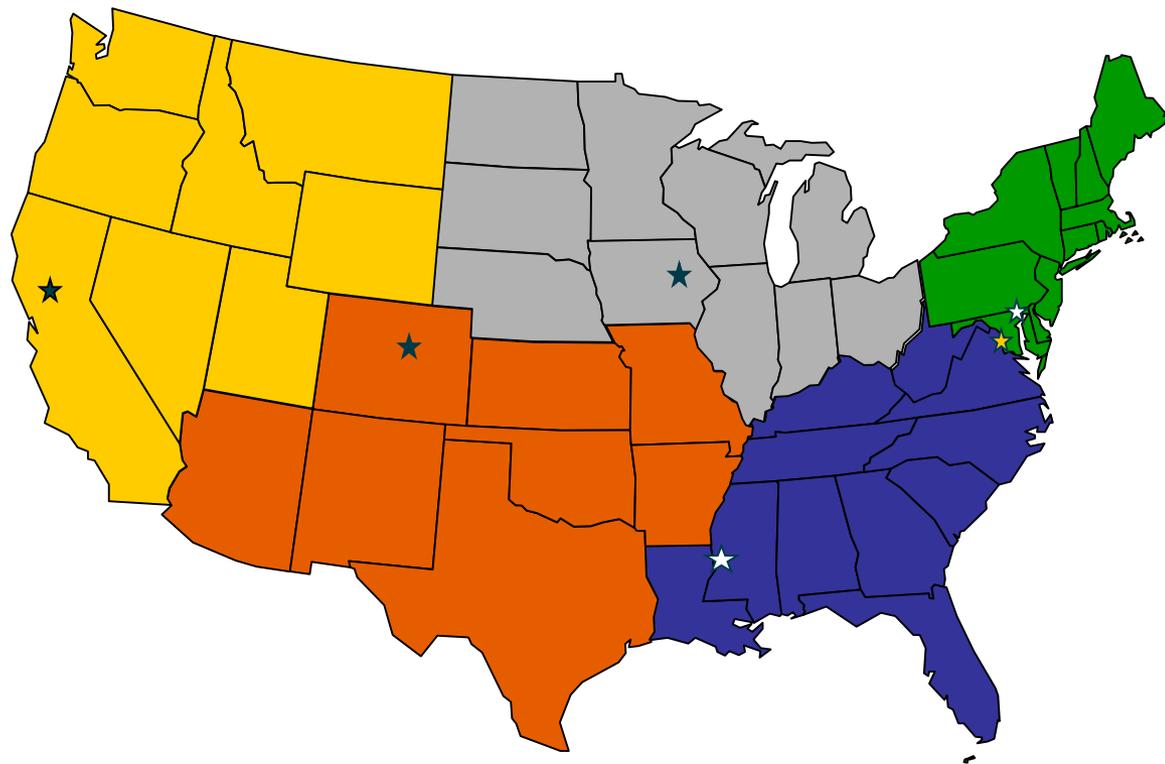
NCCC Atlantic Régions Campus, Baltimore, MD:
CT; DC; DE; MA; MD; ME; NH; NJ; NY;
PA; PR; RI; USVI; VT

NCCC Southern Region, Vicksburg, MS:
AL; FL; GA; KY; LA; MS; NC; SC;
TN; VA; WV

NCCC North Central Region, Vinton, IA:
IA; IL; IN; MI; MN; NE; ND; OH; SD; WI

NCCC Southwest Region, Denver, CO:
AR; AZ; CO; KS; MO; NM; OK; TX

NCCC Pacific Region, Sacramento, CA:
AK; CA; HI; ID; MT; NV; OR; UT; WA; WY



★ ★ ★
Regional Campuses
National Headquarters
(Washington, DC)

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

AmeriCorps NCCC Members

Members

- All Corps Members must be 18 to 24 years old
- Hail from across the U.S., representing diverse backgrounds and ethnicities
- 1/4 recent high school graduates
- 1/4 have some college experience
- 1/2 recent college graduates
- Well-disciplined with a great interest in service, but only beginner-level skills
- A Background Check is completed for every member

AmeriCorps NCCC Projects

- The recruitment and placement of AmeriCorps NCCC teams are conducted by program staff, not the sponsoring organization.
- You can request a one-time surge of people power or schedule several teams a key times throughout the two year grant.
- The teams are approximately 8-12 members, and complete 2-3 month projects. The actual timing of team arrival will be coordinated with the AmeriCorps NCCC Regional Campus to best match your needs with the campus deployment calendar.

AmeriCorps NCCC Projects

- NCCC projects span across five issue areas including: Natural and Other Disasters, Infrastructure Improvement, Environmental Stewardship, Energy Conservation, and Urban and Rural Development.
- The project sponsor must provide, and pay for if necessary, lodging for the team. Providing food and/or meals is encouraged, but not required in order to receive a team.
- Transportation and some basic tools are provided by the NCCC; however, project sponsors are required to provide materials, specialized tools, orientation, training, and technical supervision.

Sample NCCC Projects

- **Infrastructure Improvement:** Building wheelchair ramps, renovating community centers, assembling playground, repairing and painting public facilities
- **Energy Conservation:** Conducting energy efficiency assessments, installing energy efficient light bulbs, toilets, appliances for low income families or seniors, developing educational materials or programming on sustainability and conservation practices
- **Environmental Stewardship and Conservation:** Trail development and maintenance, planting trees, removing invasive plant species, clean up rivers, streams, beaches, performing water quality assessments.
- **Urban and Rural Development:** Support homeless shelters, food banks, historic preservation, renovating and constricting homes, tutoring, afterschool programming
- **Natural Disasters:** Conducting disaster preparedness assessments and presentations, coordinating volunteers in a disaster, mucking and debris removal after a disaster, preparing and distributing meals to disaster survivors.

Incorporating other national service programs



Foster Grandparents

Share Today. Shape Tomorrow.

Foster Grandparents are role models, mentors, and friends to children with exceptional needs.

- Help children learn to read and provide one-on-one tutoring
- Mentor troubled teenagers and young mothers
- Care for premature infants or children with disabilities
- Help children who have been abused or neglected

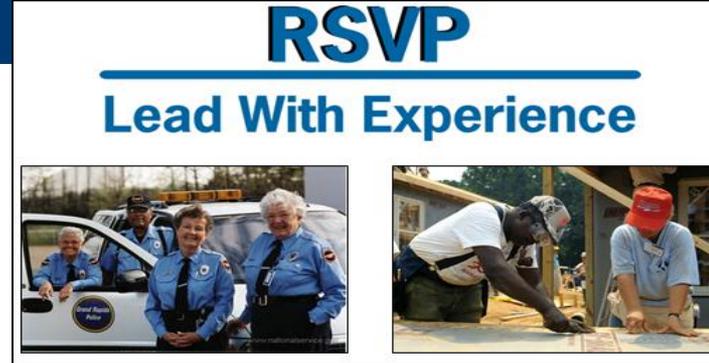


Senior Companions

Make Independence a Reality

- Provide assistance and friendship to adults who have difficulty with daily living tasks, such as shopping or paying bills.
- Help these adults remain independent in their homes instead of having to move to more costly institutional care.
- Give families or professional caregivers a much needed time off from their duties, run errands, and often provide friendship for their clients.

Incorporating other national service programs



RSVP is one of the largest volunteer networks in the nation where individuals can use the skills and talents they've learned over the years, or develop new ones. Opportunities are as diverse as the communities in which volunteers serve and may include:

- Organizing neighborhood watch programs
- Tutoring and mentoring disadvantaged or disabled youth
- Renovating homes
- Teaching English to immigrants
- Assisting victims of natural disasters

For more information about Senior Corps: <http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/senior-corps>. To connect with a Senior Corps Program in your state, contact your CNCS State Program Office: <http://www.nationalservice.gov/stateoffices>

Incorporating other national service programs



The **Social Innovation Fund (SIF)**, a key White House initiative and program of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), combines public and private resources to grow the impact of innovative, community-based solutions that have compelling evidence of improving the lives of people in low-income communities throughout the United States. The SIF invests in three priority areas: economic opportunity, healthy futures, and youth development.

For more information about the Social Innovation Fund:

<http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/social-innovation-fund/about-sif>

VOLUNTEER GENERATION FUND

The **Volunteer Generation Fund** focuses investments on volunteer management practices that increase both volunteer recruitment and retention. Retention is key to ensuring that volunteers are productively engaged and to bringing stability to nonprofit operations. And we will support efforts that build the career skills of volunteers, expanding opportunity for the unemployed, veterans, and disadvantaged youth.

For more information about the Volunteer Generation Fund:

<http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/volunteer-generation-fund>

Valuable Resources Within Your State:

State Service Commission

To contact your **State Service Commission**:

<http://www.nationalservice.gov/about/contact-us/state-service-commissions/>

In addition to overseeing the annual grant competition that awards funding to **AmeriCorps State** and other community service programs, State Service Commissions determine social needs in their states, set policy and program priorities, provide training and assistance, support national days of service, and promote service and volunteering.

State Service Commissions provide the connection in a state-federal partnership that maximizes the power of citizens to solve problems and strengthen communities

CNCS State Program Office

To contact your **CNCS State Program Office**:

<http://www.nationalservice.gov/stateoffices>

CNCS State Program Office Staff administers **AmeriCorps VISTA & Senior Corps** resources and supports all other CNCS National Service programs as a solution to communities' most critical needs.

State Office staff develop, manage and monitor the VISTA & Senior Corps programs in their state and often in other states for large & national projects. They provide training and technical assistance, enforce CNCS administrative policies and regulations, and assist organizations and agencies in determining the most appropriate resources to most effectively address their needs.