

Open Government – Transparency Posting Framing Language

AmeriCorps VISTA Training Support – Logistics FY 2013

The AmeriCorps Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) program uses support grants to provide logistical support for its onboarding and training efforts.

VISTA members commit to serve full-time for a year at nonprofit organizations, state and local government agencies, and Tribal communities, working to eradicate poverty and to address poverty-related problems. Areas of focus for VISTA members include: broadening economic equity; strengthening educational systems; securing healthy futures for families; and facilitating access to support programs particularly for veterans and military families. VISTA members strengthen and expand programs designed to bring individuals and communities out of poverty.

The VISTA program requires its members to attend a three-and-a-half day Pre-Service Orientation (PSO) prior to the start of their service. PSO provides members with the skills necessary to succeed in their assignments assisting organizations that serve low income communities to increase the organization's scale, reach, effectiveness and/or efficiency. Also at PSO, criminal background checks are conducted on all incoming members to ensure their suitability to serve in the VISTA program. About 35 to 40 PSOs occur each year.

The VISTA program also trains VISTA Leaders three times a year and VISTA supervisors 10 to 15 times a year. Additionally, the VISTA program maintains an outline learning center, Link to VISTA Campus website, VISTACampus.gov, for continual professional development of all audiences. The VISTA program also conducts monthly webinars, and offers accredited courses that blend face-to-face sessions with online self-directed webinars and action learning projects.