



Applying for AmeriCorps VISTA Resources

2017 Request for Concept Papers - Nevada



Agenda



- Overview of the AmeriCorps VISTA Program
- What is Capacity Building?
- Requirements of VISTA Sponsors
- AmeriCorps VISTA Member Benefits
- Eligibility to Apply
- Priority Areas
- Available Resources
- Timeline and Key Dates for RFCP
- Concept Paper Overview

The AmeriCorps Volunteers in Service to America Program (VISTA)



- The only CNCS Program focused on **fighting poverty**.
- Started in 1965 as a “domestic Peace Corps.”
- VISTA's are **capacity builders**...not staff members, community volunteers, or direct service providers.
- VISTA Projects seek to **create or expand programs** designed to bring individuals and communities out of poverty.
- Programs must **focus on sustainability** as VISTA resources are always temporary.

What is Capacity Building?

Building the organizational, administrative, and financial capacity of organizations

Developing Systems

Developing
Volunteer Programs

Fundraising

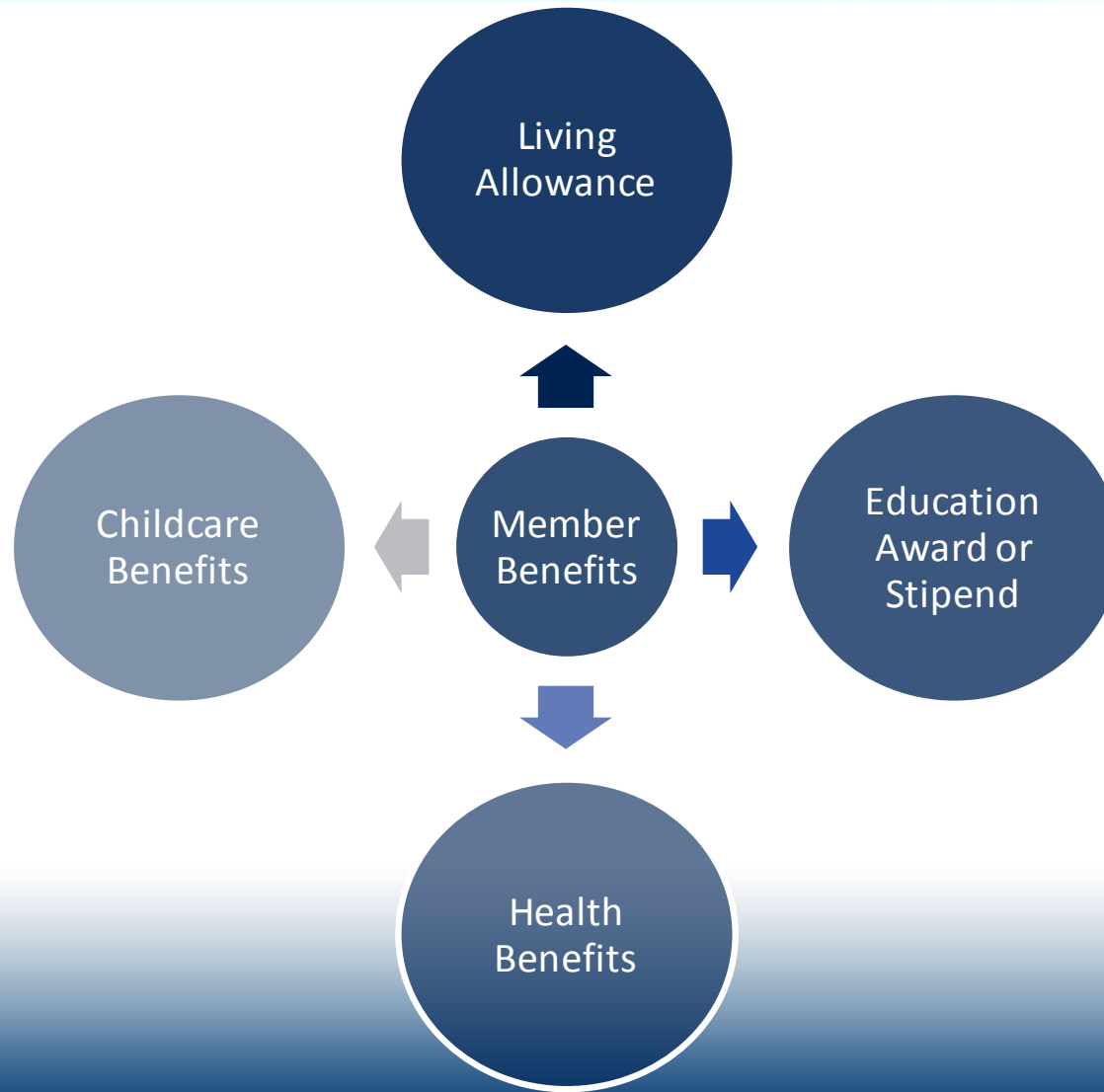
Developing
Partnerships

Developing/Piloting
Programming

Requirements of VISTA Sponsors

- Cover costs of **project operations** including:
 - Office space, computers, local travel, on-going training
- **Recruit** quality applicants;
- Develop **orientation** and training plans;
- Provide well-defined **position descriptions**;
- Track and **report progress** towards well-defined goals;
- Provide **supervision** and support to members;
- Ensure members **do not displace** staff or volunteers;
- Plan for **sustainability** beyond VISTA resources

AmeriCorps VISTA Member Benefits



Eligibility to Sponsor a VISTA Program

- **State/Local Government Agencies**
- **Indian tribes**
- **Non-profit organizations**

Priority Areas for Nevada

- Education
- Veterans and Military Families
- Health Futures
- Economic Opportunity

See [FY 2017 Program Guidance](#) for more details

Available Resources



- **12 Standard** AmeriCorps VISTA positions
 - **5 Cost-share** AmeriCorps VISTA positions
- Subject to FY17 appropriations**

- One-year award
- Programs will ideally support **3 or more members**
- Programs that can **cost-share** are given preference

Timeline



Date	Item
April 24, 2017	Request for VISTA Concept Papers released
June 2, 2017	Completed Concept Papers due to Nevada State Office via eGrants
June 9, 2017	Applicants whose Concept Papers are successful are notified and invited to submit a full application
July 7, 2017	Completed full applications due in eGrants
July 17, 2017	State Office announces new project sponsors;

Concept Paper Overview

- “Mini-grant” application
- Preliminary screening-tool
- Narrative sections include:
 - Need
 - Strengthening Communities
 - Organizational Capacity
- Your opportunity to demonstrate alignment with priority areas and ability to support VISTA members.
- **Must be submitted in eGrants**

[Concept Paper Instructions](#)

Additional Resources



- [VISTA 101](#)
- [VISTA Performance Measures](#)
- [eGrants Login](#)
- [Is AmeriCorps VISTA Right for Your Organization](#)



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