



Host Site- Frequently Asked Questions

What costs does the grant cover?

MCC and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) will provide training, the VISTA's monthly living stipend, the end of service education award of \$5,350 (or \$1,200 cash stipend, an option given to each *VISTA), health benefit, travel costs to MCC or CNCS required events, child-care costs, up to \$500 of emergency money with approval from MCC and CNCS, and moving allowances for relocation.

What costs does the host site need to cover?

The host campus must provide MCC the \$7,500 cost-share for each VISTA/year. The host campus must reimburse the VISTA for any travel expenses incurred due to requirements from the host site. MCC does not require, nor do we provide, the host campus to provide the VISTA with an additional housing stipend, although it is strongly recommended. Offering a housing stipend or making arrangements for free room and board makes it much easier to recruit your VISTA. The host site must also provide the VISTA with any items that the rest of the staff would receive such as a computer, phone line, desk, name tags, business cards, parking passes, campus t-shirts...

Can a school be awarded more than one VISTA member per year?

Yes. There is no limit to the number of VISTAs a campus can receive at one time. There must be one supervisor per VISTA. MCC does encourage you to collaborate with other departments who may be applying for a VISTA.

Can I use a VISTA to replace a staff member?

AmeriCorps VISTA positions may not supplant, replace or eliminate staff positions. They are not to be used as an administrative stopgap.

What happens if my VISTA doesn't finish the entire year?

The host site will not be penalized in any way; however, you will not be eligible to apply for another VISTA until the next MCC recruitment cycle. The host site may receive a prorated refund of their cost share; exact amounts will be reflected in the MOU, which is signed between the host site supervisor and MCC.

What am I expected to do as the VISTA supervisor?

As VISTA supervisor, you will be expected to give regular feedback to the Grant Program Manager through submitting quarterly progress reports, participating in quarterly one on one phone calls and attending at least two supervisor meetings. You are expected to give regular supervision, guidance and feedback to the VISTA member. You will be expected to look for opportunities to encourage professional development and personal growth for your VISTA member. You are required to assist MCC with the recruitment process.

Will I get guidance throughout the year about the VISTA program?

Yes, the Grant Program Manager will be available throughout the VISTA year to answer questions, provide resources and guidance.

Does the VISTA need to be placed in a specific department?

MCC will accept VISTA applications from any department in a member institution.

How many hours per week does a MCC AmeriCorps* VISTA work?

A MCC AmeriCorps*VISTA position is a full-time, twelve-month commitment without regard for regular business hours. AmeriCorps*VISTA service is unique in that it involves a full immersion in the project and community. It is not a 9 to 5 job. Each host site may require different working hours, which may include evening and weekend responsibilities. VISTA members are expected to be available for the needs of the community and project at all times.

How can I best utilize my VISTA?

A VISTA member should be used to fill a need of a campus and community that would otherwise not be accomplished due to lack of time, resources, energy or structural conduciveness. Once the need has been identified the host site can structure the VISTA's work plan to best build the capacity of a program or initiative that will continue to address the need after the VISTA program has ended.