

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CORNERSTONE AMERICORPS*VISTA POSITIONS

What is AmeriCorps*VISTA? -----

AmeriCorps*VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) is a national service program for individuals interested in developing lasting solutions to the problems of poverty in America. AmeriCorps*VISTA members serve in community and faith-based nonprofit organizations and with other agencies and local governments to develop and expand services and programs that help bring low-income people out of poverty. For further clarification, please visit the AmeriCorps website at www.americorps.org.

What is the relationship between Cornerstone, AmeriCorps and other non-profits?-----

Cornerstone Assistance Network serves as an intermediary agency for a group of community-based agencies that request the assistance of an AmeriCorps*VISTA member. VISTA members are supervised locally through a partner agency.

What do VISTA members do?

VISTA members are placed at nonprofit organizations or churches to expand the ability of those organizations to fight poverty. AmeriCorps*VISTA members do not provide direct services to low-income individuals, but rather increase the capacity of organizations to fight poverty. Members mobilize local resources to achieve lasting solutions. Members primarily perform organizational development, outreach and community organizing, fundraising, and other capacity building activities. For more information about available service opportunities through Cornerstone, please visit our website at <http://www.canetwork.org/initiative/americorpstvista.htm>

What is a living allowance? -----

This is a regular stipend that service members receive; it is similar to a salary. The living allowance is about \$900-950 monthly for AmeriCorps*VISTA service in Tarrant County.

How often do I get paid the living allowance and when do I receive the education or cash award? -

The AmeriCorps*VISTA living allowance is paid 2 times per month (around \$900-950/monthly, depending on the area). The education award (\$5,000-5,500) or cash award (\$1,500) is given to the Member after his or her term of service.

Is there assistance with housing?-----

Some organizations do offer free or low-cost housing, most do not. Other options include living with relatives, renting a room in someone's home in exchange for doing chores, or finding another VISTA as a roommate.

Is there health coverage and child care? -----

Yes, health coverage is offered at no cost to the Members. Child care is based on family income. Most VISTA members also qualify for food stamps.

Can I have an additional (part-time) job or attend school? -----

The rules and regulations of AmeriCorps*VISTA state that a VISTA member may not hold another job during their term of service but a VISTA member may attend school. You must be available for a year of full-time service (work schedule depends on the assignment). However, you can receive monetary gifts from friends or family. The organization you volunteer for may also be able to pay part of your rent or offer you in-kind donations (i.e.: gift cards, groceries).

Qualifications-----

Minimum age requirement is 21 years old by July 1, 2012 and must have at least 2 years of college. AmeriCorps also requires that members be US Citizens or permanent residents.

