

NATIONAL SERVICE WITH HOUSING ACTION ILLINOIS

10 YEARS OF AMERICORPS VISTA ALUMNI OUTCOMES



From **2010 to 2020**, more than **150 volunteers** served as AmeriCorps VISTA members through the Housing Action Illinois network. These individuals committed a year of their lives to programs designed to meet community needs and fight poverty in Illinois. These are key findings from a study analyzing survey responses from 90 of these service members (53% of the total 169 alumni) to learn about the impact of Housing Action Illinois' AmeriCorps VISTA service on these individuals and better understand their experiences and perspectives.

The data in this study was collected between July 2020 - April 2021, then analyzed in 2021 by Jasper Baur.

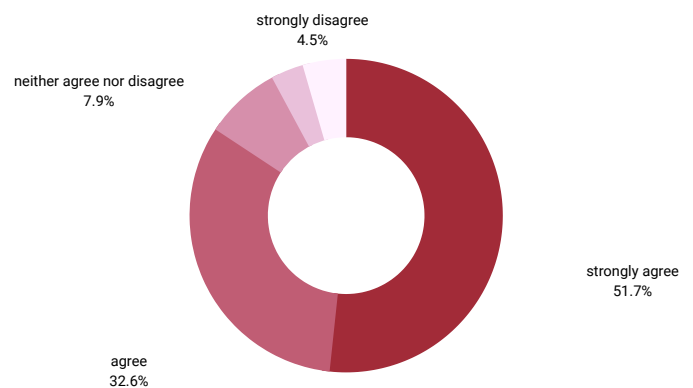
KEY FINDINGS

Housing Action Illinois AmeriCorps VISTA members are seeking specific opportunities, such as a career in nonprofit management or experience fighting housing injustice, when they join our network. **Housing Action Illinois manages a nationally competitive program that provides effective professional and leadership development opportunities.**

Paving the Way for Careers

- **Nearly 94% of Housing Action respondents have secured employment 6 months after they finished their term of service, compared to the national average of 67%.**
- 82% of respondents said their term of service was a worthwhile professional endeavor.
Note: Of those who disagreed, 65% served more than five years ago--prior to the implementation of changes that improved the program.
- Nearly 60% of respondents reported that their host sites or Housing Action assisted them in securing a professional endeavor after their terms of service.

My term was a worthwhile experience for furthering my professional career goals



169

full-year AmeriCorps Members served in the Housing Action network from 2010 to 2020

94%

of survey respondents secured employment within 6 months of finishing service (national average is 67%.)

28%

of respondents were offered positions by their host sites (national average is 20%)

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Providing Meaningful Experiences

- 84% of respondents believe or strongly believe their experience as a VISTA was worthwhile.

Note: Of those who disagreed, 71% served more than five years ago--prior to the implementation of changes that improved the program.

Building a Talent Pipeline

- 28% of respondents offered positions by their host sites for staff positions--greater than the national average of 20%.



Recommendations for the Housing Action Illinois Network

Respondents identified mentorship and guidance with supervisors as an area for improvement.

Housing Action Illinois should modify training and preparation for site staff and VISTA Leaders to improve their mentorship and coaching of incoming AmeriCorps VISTAs.

Recommendations for the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)

CNCS should allocate significant grant funding for marketing and recruiting efforts to support travel and attendance for important recruitment events and to enable robust digital recruitment campaigns.

"[My term of service] opened my eyes to things happening in the community I lived in and my fellow citizens. This then got me involved in and motivated to engage in my community."

- Survey Respondent