AGENDA

• AmeriCorps VISTA Overview
• Housing Action VISTA Network’s Overview
• Example Positions – Full Year & Summer
• How to Apply
• What Makes a Good & Poor Application
AmeriCorps VISTA Overview

Domestic Peace Corps
Core Principles:
• Anti – Poverty Focus
• Community Empowerment
• Capacity Building
• Sustainable Solutions
AmeriCorps VISTA Overview

In – Direct vs. Direct Service

One Year & Summer Long Terms

What if…
Strategic Priorities:

• Capacity Building of Member Organizations
• Identifying New and Diverse Talent
• Statewide Geographic Distribution

Focus Areas:

• Housing & Homelessness
• Community Development
• Financial Literacy & Workforce
• Hunger & Education
Program Year 2018-2019 Overview

Distribution of Positions:
- 29 VISTA Members
- 25 VISTA Summer Associates
- 35 Hosting Organizations

Geographic Distribution:
- 50% Chicago
- 30% Suburban Chicago
- 20% Rest of Illinois

Overview of Impact:
- Recruited & Managed 734 Volunteers
- $413,000 Cash & In-Kind Resources
Case Study: VISTA Member Project

**Host Site:** U.S. Veterans’ Initiative – Prescott

**Goal of the Position:**
Design and Implement a Culinary & Gardening Program

**Outcomes:**
- Three Rounds of Culinary Program: 15 Graduates
- Four Raised Beds & Large Green House Constructed
- Culinary & Gardening Program Still Operating

**Where is the VISTA Now:**
VISTA Leader to Current Role at Housing Action IL
Host Site: Peoria Housing Authority

Goal of the Positions:
Enhance the pilot round of summer meal and youth engagement program

Outcomes:
• Dramatic increase in youth served.
• New partnerships for volunteers and in-kind donations.
• Sustainability resources: manuals, marketing materials, and those partners.

Where are the VISTAs now?
In the Peoria community volunteering and back at school.
How To Apply:
Annual Programmatic Timeline

November:
RFP Released

December:
Applications Due

January:
Awardees Announced

February:
CNCS’s Approval

February – July:
Marketing & Interviewing

June – September:
VISTAs Start
Participation Fee and Cost Share Use

Participation Fee:
- Sliding Scale Membership Dues
  - $5000 for Member
  - $850 for Summer Associate

Cost Share Use:
- Living Allowances
- Admin Costs
- Trainings and Travel
What Makes a *Good* Application & Position

1. Clear Logic Model
2. Appealing Responsibilities
3. Committed Recruitment Strategy
4. Communicative with Housing Action
What Makes a Bad Application & Position

1. Poor In-Direct vs Direct Service
2. Intern & Clerical Responsibilities
3. No Recruitment Strategy
4. Housing Action is “Just the Funder”