

Housing Action VISTA Network

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...



Housing Action VISTA Network Overview



2016 – 2017 VISTAs at 9/11 Day of Service

Strategic Priorities:

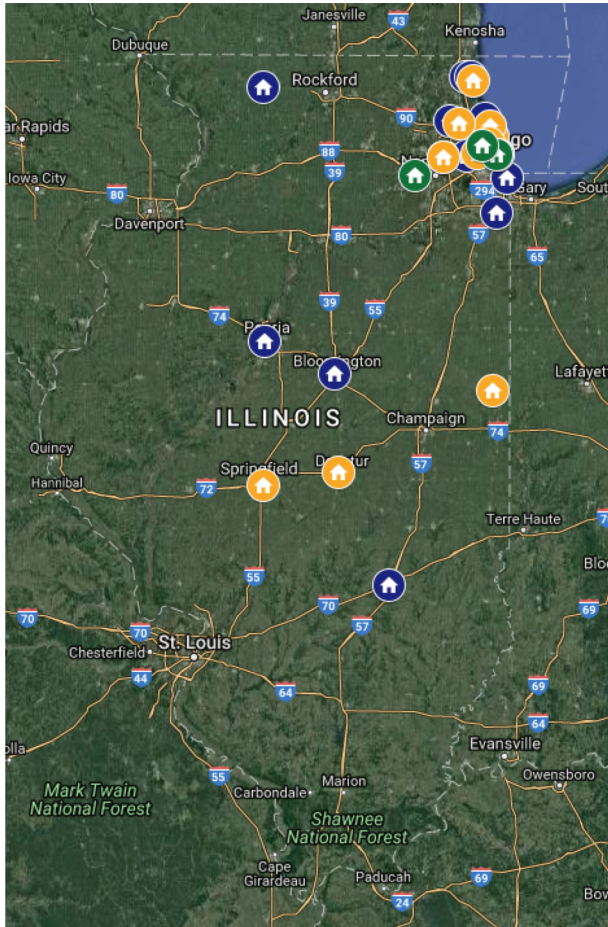
- Capacity Building of Member Organizations
- Identifying New and Diverse Talent
- Statewide Geographic Distribution

Focus Areas:

- Housing & Homelessness
- Community Development
- Financial Literacy & Workforce
- Hunger & Education



Program Year 2018-2019 Overview



^2017 -2018 Map

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



Second Round Graduation



Volunteers building the garden's fence



A stronger Illinois begins at home

Case Study: VISTA Summer Associate Project

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.



FREE! SUMMER MEALS
For children 18 years and younger
Available For ALL families!

Locations and Times

Southside Community Center 1618 Laramie St. Peoria IL 61605	Breakfast 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Lunch 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
First Free Methodist Church 2121 Sheridan Rd. Peoria IL 61604	Lunch 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Taft Homes 245 Green St. Peoria IL 61605	Lunch 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM

Flyer made by Summer Associate



A stronger Illinois begins at home

How To Apply: Annual Programmatic Timeline

**November:
RFP Released**

**January:
Awardees Announced**

**February – July:
Marketing & Interviewing**

**December:
Applications Due**

**February:
CNCS's Approval**

**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*”

