

Ohio CDC Association AmeriCorps VISTA Project

Is the AmeriCorps VISTA program right for your organization?



AmeriCorps



OHIO CDC
— *association* —

Agenda

- Overview of Ohio CDC Association
- Overview of AmeriCorps Programs
- Ohio CDC Association AmeriCorps VISTA Program
- AmeriCorps VISTA Program Goals
- Ohio CDC Association Program Goals
- Ohio CDC Association Program Requirements
- Requirements of the AmeriCorps VISTA
- How to apply for an AmeriCorps VISTA

What is the Ohio CDC Association?

The Ohio CDC Association is a statewide membership organization of Community Development Corporations that engages in capacity-building, advocacy and public policy development that fosters socially and economically healthy communities.

What we do....

- Training and professional development
- Affordable Housing and Economic Development TA
- Individual Development Accounts (IDA)
- Microenterprise Business Development Program
- Social Enterprise Incubation Program
- Public Policy and Advocacy
- AmeriCorps VISTA

National Service

- AmeriCorps is the federal agency that oversees national service programs.
- The mission of AmeriCorps is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering.

AmeriCorps Focus Areas

- Disaster Services
- Education
- Economic Opportunity
- Environmental Stewardship
- Healthy Futures
- Veterans and Military Families

TYPES OF AMERICORPS PROGRAMS

Look beyond AmeriCorps VISTA to ensure you are choosing the right national service for your organization's project.



AmeriCorps NCCC

- AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) is a full-time national service program. Its members support climate change mitigation, affordable housing development, and disaster response.
- AmeriCorps NCCC is a full-time, team-based residential program for people age 18-26.
- NCCC members NCCC Members serve at non-profits, local municipalities, state governments, federal government, national and state parks, Indian tribes, and schools, members complete service projects throughout the region they are assigned.
- This program is physically active, and its members often work on several projects over the course of 10 months in different states and cities.



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Forest Corps

- Forest Corps is a program partnership between AmeriCorps NCCC and United States Forest Service.
- Members perform direct, hands-on service in the areas of wildfire risk mitigation, reforestation, environmental conservation, and resource management.
- Forest Corps work is field based and moderately rigorous and includes labor-intensive outdoors projects. Applicants are asked to consider this when applying.



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FEMA Corps

- AmeriCorps NCCC and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) partnered to create FEMA Corps.
- Projects vary, but all FEMA Corps members are trained in one or more of FEMA's mission-critical functions: disaster survivor assistance, individual assistance, logistics, planning/geographic information system, and public assistance.
- Members are deployed based on need and often travel throughout the country



AmeriCorps State and National

- AmeriCorps State and National supports a wide range of local service programs that engage thousands of Americans in intensive community service each year. AmeriCorps members serve in every state, U.S. territory, and on tribal reservations.
- AmeriCorps State and National Programs focus on areas such as environmental conservation, disaster response, education programs, economic and community resources, and veteran support.
- Recently, Public Health AmeriCorps was created in partnership with the CDC to support public health needs in underserved communities.



Earth Corps members removing creosote logs on Samish lands.



AmeriCorps Seniors

- Goals falls under at least of six focus areas: Disaster Services, Economic Opportunity, Environmental Stewardship, Education, Healthy Futures, and Veterans & Military Members.
- Members serve with organizations dedicated to helping others.
- Program includes: Foster Grandparent Program, RSVP, and Senior Companion
- Engages volunteers 55 years or older



What is AmeriCorps VISTA?

- AmeriCorps VISTA members serve annually to alleviate poverty by helping local organizations expand capacity to make change.
- Members serve full-time for one year at an organization and only make the cost of living.
- AmeriCorps VISTA projects vary greatly, but all have the goal of alleviating poverty through capacity building.
- Through activities such as fundraising, grant writing, research, and volunteer recruitment, you will gain professional experience and leadership skills.

AmeriCorps VISTA History

- Stands for Volunteers In Service to AmeriCorps
- In 1963, President John F. Kennedy envisioned a national service corps.
- Founded in 1965 by President Johnson.
- VISTA was later incorporated into the AmeriCorps network of programs in 1993.



President Lyndon B. Johnson and VISTA volunteers.

AmeriCorps VISTA Impact

- The first projects had 20 VISTA members working with rural low-income individuals in the Appalachian Region, migrant workers in California, and low-income neighborhoods in Hartford, Connecticut.
- Past projects included block watch clubs, credit unions, agricultural cooperatives, community groups, and support for small businesses.
- Many of the first Head Start Programs and Job Corps programs were started by a VISTA project.

Ohio CDC Association's AmeriCorps VISTA Program Overview

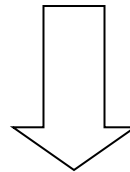
- The Ohio CDC Association VISTA Project, created in 1995 as a partnership between the Ohio CDC Association and the Corporation for National and Community Service, now called AmeriCorps. Our program places VISTA members every summer at OCDCA member organizations throughout the state.
- 9 VISTA sub-site spots are reserved to focus on housing only initiatives. Funding for these VISTA members comes from the Ohio Housing Trust Fund (OHTF).
- Currently OCDCA has 20 full-time VISTAs serving throughout Ohio.
- OCDCA also has a Summer Associate VISTA program, which takes place for 10 weeks in the summer. Due to budget cuts, the summer associate program will not be offered in 2024.

AmeriCorps VISTA Priorities

- Deepen program impact
 - Expand assets and resources
 - Prioritize projects that advance racial equity
- Serve those in greatest need
 - Prioritize geographic areas that have not received AmeriCorps resources
- Enhance quality of member experience
 - Increase training for members, supervisors, and sponsors
- Expand access to participation
 - Raise living allowance
 - Expand outreach and recruitment efforts

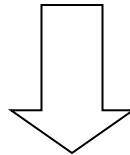
AmeriCorps VISTA

AmeriCorps directs the AmeriCorps VISTA program and grants members to OCDCA; Emily Pratt manages our program at AmeriCorps Midwest Regional Office



Ohio CDC Association

Responsible for OCDCA VISTA program and Summer Associate VISTA program.



Sub-sites (that's you!)

Provide member with daily support and a base to complete tasks outlined in VISTA Assignment Description (VAD)

AmeriCorps Focus Areas

- Disaster services
- **Economic Opportunity**
- Education
- **Environmental Stewardship**
- **Healthy Futures**
- Veterans & Military Families

OCDCA VISTA Project Goals

- To build the capacity of CDCs to provide **affordable housing** to low-income individuals and communities through strong housing projects, housing initiatives, and more.
- To build the capacity of CDCs to increase **employment opportunities** to low-income individuals and communities through education, increased employment projects, and more.
- To build the capacity of CDCs to provide **housing counseling** to low-income individuals and communities through education, housing counseling programs, and more.
- To build the capacity of CDCs to increase and maintain **assets** for low-income individuals and communities through education and asset development programs.
- To build the capacity of CDCs to increase access to **fresh and healthy foods** to low-income individuals and communities through SNAP benefit education and food access programs.
- To build the capacity of CDCs to increase **energy and water efficiency** in housing to low-income individuals and communities through environment-focused education programs and initiatives.
- To build the capacity of CDCs to achieve **diversity, equity, inclusion and justice** for low-income individuals and communities
- To build the capacity of CDCs to design, implement, and execute **effective marketing, volunteer engagement, and program improvement tools.**

Ohio CDC Association Program Requirements

- The program fee is yearly rate of \$2,000 per VISTA and will be paid in quarterly installments.
- VISTA member must have at least one full-time staff person as a supervisor.
- Sub-site must provide assigned VISTA member with reasonable resources to serve at organization.
- Selected Sites are required to attend a supervisor training in February of 2024.
- Sub-sites are required to send at least one staff member to the Ohio CDC Association's Annual Conference, which is held in the fall.

Ohio CDC Association Program Requirements

- AmeriCorps VISTA members may not displace staff or supervise employees.
- AmeriCorps VISTA members are expected to start in summer 2024.
- If for any reason or point in time a VISTA member must discontinue service a sub-site cannot receive a replacement VISTA member and must wait until the next VISTA RFP to apply for a new VISTA member.*
- Sub-sites are required to assist VISTA member with monthly report and give quarterly updates to the Ohio CDC Association.

Ohio CDC Association Program Requirements

- AmeriCorps VISTA members serve full-time for one service-year and **are not to provide direct service**, which is defined as the act of providing services to the identified recipients or clients of a program.
- AmeriCorps VISTA members are required to work a minimum of 37.5 hours per week.
- AmeriCorps VISTA members are required to attend the OCDCA Annual Conference and one OCDCA Training offered to all OCDCA member organizations.
- AmeriCorps VISTA members are required to attend an orientation training one month into their service to cover OCDCA-specific requirements.

Do you have a capacity building project?

- Do you want to increase your ability to end poverty in your community?
- Could you use help tracking donors, recruiting volunteers, or developing other systems that build your capacity to meet the needs of the low-income community?
- Are you trying to keep the lights on or are you building capacity?

How to Apply:

- The 2024 Request for Proposals will open November 1, 2023
- Proposal must be submitted by January 10, 2024.
- Organizations must be a good-standing member to be awarded an AmeriCorps VISTA.
- Organization must be a 501c3 nonprofit or a government agency.
- Proposals must include a VISTA Assignment Description and have a project that aligns with the Ohio CDC Association's Program Goals.
- Attend the OCDCA VISTA Program Application TA webinar in December (date TBD)

Questions?

Contact Information and Resources

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For Information about AmeriCorps*VISTA:

www.ohiocdc.org

www.americorps.gov

