



What is the status of an AmeriCorps VISTA?

An AmeriCorps VISTA is a public servant. They SERVE.

- Not an employee OR a volunteer.
- Not a replacement for employees OR volunteers.

What are the AmeriCorps VISTA core principles and objectives?

Anti-Poverty Focus

The statutory purpose of AmeriCorps VISTA is to strengthen and support efforts to eliminate poverty.

Community Empowerment

Each project must be responsive and relevant to the lives of community residents, and tap into inherent community assets, strengths, and resources.

Sustainable Solutions

Projects should be developed with the goal to phase out the need for VISTAs within three years and have the project continue without them.

Capacity Building

VISTAs create systems that strengthen sponsors by building infrastructure, expanding community partnerships, secure long-term resources, coordinating training for participants, and more, as determined by local needs.

What activities are prohibited for an AmeriCorps VISTA?

- No compensation or acceptance of compensation for service
- No displacement of employed workers or activities or duties that would supplant the hiring of, result in the displacement of, or impair existing contracts of employed workers.
- No religious instruction, activities, proselytization, or placement
- No election influence, activities, solicitation, running, or representation
- No lobbying services or engagement related to influencing the passage or defeat of legislation or of legislative proposals or initiatives
- No social media for the following purposes
- Attempting to lobby
- Influence the outcome or an election to a public office
- Participation or endorsement of activities likely to include advocacy for or against political parties (platforms, candidates, legislation, elected officials)
- Assisting, promoting, or deterring union organization or union activities (protests, petitions, boycotts, strikes)
- Voter registration or discussing options regarding transportation to the polls