



Welcome to

# Launching Your VISTA Service

To join the audio portion by phone, please dial: **888.483.1644**  
Passcode: **7131508**

*We'll begin soon. While you're waiting, please share your answer in the chat box:  
**Why did you join VISTA?***

Corporation for  
**NATIONAL &  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICE** 



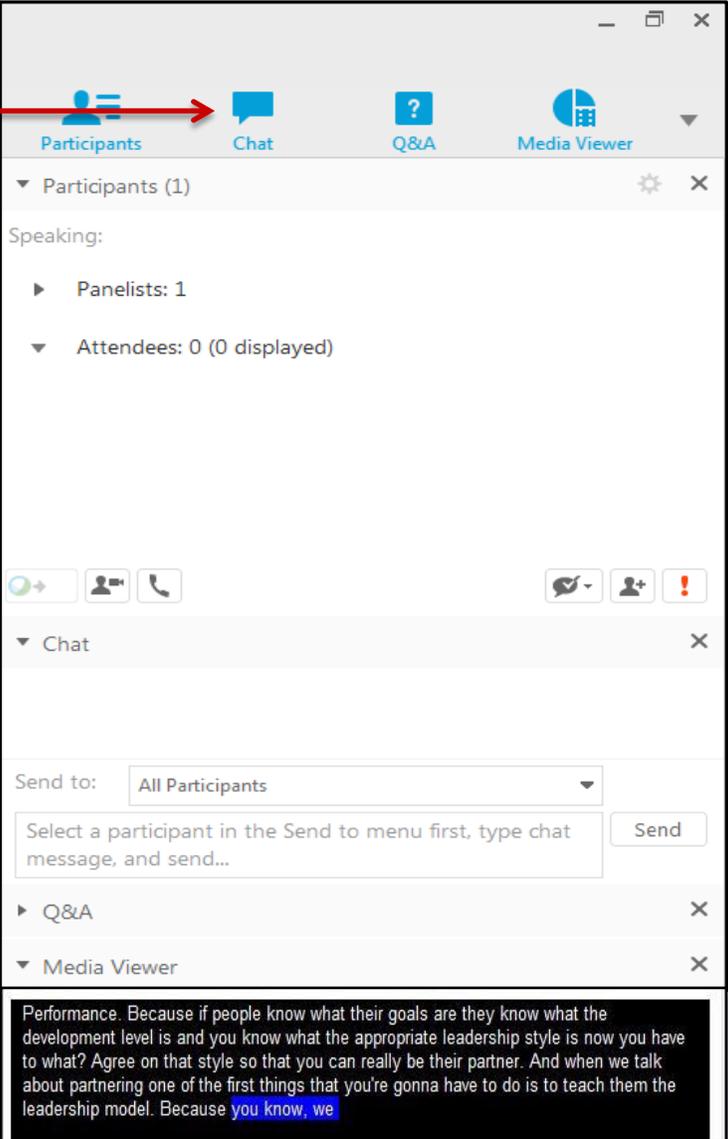
Dial: **888.483.1644**

Passcode: **7131508**

# Tips for Participating

- Audio broadcast by phone and online
- View Closed Captions in the Media Viewer panel
- Share comments and ideas in the Chat panel. (send to “All Participants”)
- Ask questions in the Q&A panel. (send to “All Panelists”)
- Links and recording will be available after the session

*Click this button if you don't see the chat panel.*



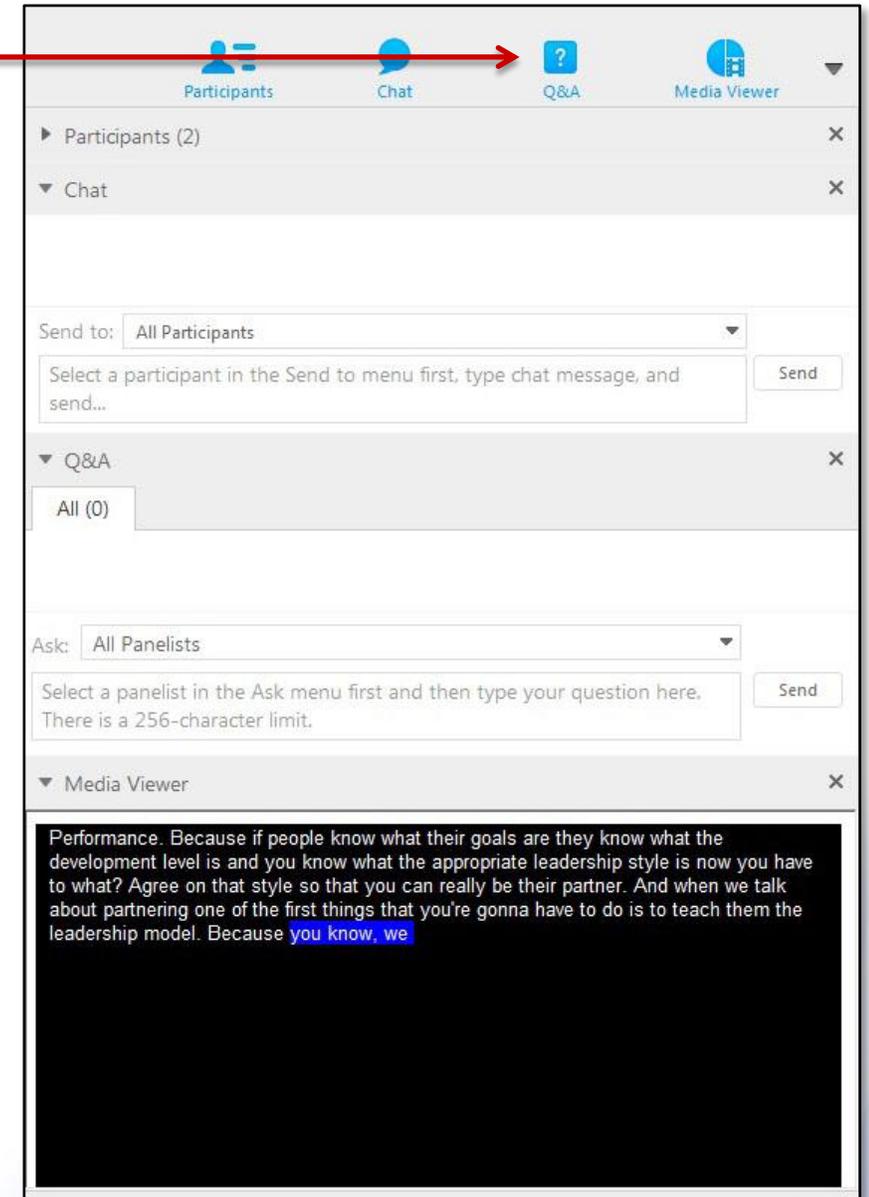
The screenshot shows a meeting interface with a top navigation bar containing icons for Participants, Chat, Q&A, and Media Viewer. A red arrow points to the Chat icon. Below the navigation bar, the Chat panel is expanded, showing a 'Send to' dropdown menu set to 'All Participants' and a 'Send' button. Below the chat panel, the Media Viewer panel is expanded, displaying a video transcript.

Performance. Because if people know what their goals are they know what the development level is and you know what the appropriate leadership style is now you have to what? Agree on that style so that you can really be their partner. And when we talk about partnering one of the first things that you're gonna have to do is to teach them the leadership model. Because you know, we

# Attendance

- If you are viewing this session with other VISTAs using one log-in, submit the names of all the VISTAs who are watching
- Enter them in the Chat panel and send to “All Panelists”

*Click this button if you don't see the Q&A panel.*



The screenshot shows the Zoom meeting interface with the Q&A panel open. The top navigation bar includes icons for Participants, Chat, Q&A, and Media Viewer. The Q&A panel is currently active, showing a dropdown menu for 'Send to' set to 'All Participants' and a text input field for sending a message. Below this, there is a section for 'Q&A' with a dropdown menu for 'Ask' set to 'All Panelists' and a text input field for asking a question. The bottom of the screen shows a video feed of a speaker.



*Welcome to*

# Launching Your VISTA Service

Corporation for  
NATIONAL &  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICE 



Dial:

Passcode:

# Today's Presenters



Calvin Landrum  
Training Coordinator  
AmeriCorps VISTA



Jessica Burch  
Training Coordinator  
AmeriCorps VISTA

# Welcome to VISTA!



# VISTA

Volunteers In Service To America

# Session Goals

By the end of the webinar, you will be able to:

- Describe and participate in the PSO Blend
- Describe VISTA's mission and its programming principles
- Show how VISTA assignments relate to the VISTA mission
- Enter VISTA service well-informed

# What is PSO Blend?

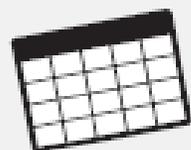
- Four-week curriculum concurrent with VISTA service
- Combines online tutorials, webinars, in-person training and virtual meet-ups
- Foundational knowledge of VISTA service

# Why a PSO Blend?

- Action Learning
- Allows service to begin at the start of training
- Flexible
- Removes barriers related to travel

# PSO Blend At-a-Glance

**Pre-Service  
Period**



**Onboarding Forms**



**VISTA Campus Coursework**

# PSO Blend At-a-Glance

**Day 1**



**Launching Your VISTA Service Live Webinar (Mon)**



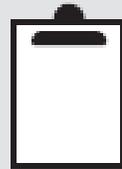
**Receive fingerprinting kit**

# PSO Blend At-a-Glance

## Week 1



Accomplishing Your VISTA Assignment Live Webinar (Wed)



Fieldwork



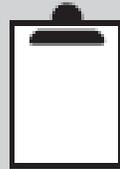
Minute Intro  
VISTA Assignment Description  
How Poverty is Measured in the US

# PSO Blend At-a-Glance

**Week 2**



**Virtual Meet-Up (Wed)**



**Fieldwork** ■ - - - - - | **On-Site Orientation & Training**

# PSO Blend At-a-Glance

**Week 3**



**Fieldwork**

13 Lessons About Poverty  
Creating a Community Profile

**Week 4**



**Virtual Meet-Up (Wed) & Course Completion**

# Online Components

- Self-directed tutorials & resources on VISTA Campus  
[www.vistacampus.gov](http://www.vistacampus.gov)
- Webinars or real-time training sessions  
[WebEx](#)
- Online classrooms with small group & facilitator  
<http://vistablend.educationnorthwest.org>

# The Online Classroom

- Facilitated online breakout group
- Weekly assignments
- Connect with your fellow VISTAs through:
  - Virtual meet-ups
  - Online forums



The screenshot shows the VISTA Campus Blend online classroom interface. At the top, there is a dark blue header with the AmeriCorps logo and the text "VISTA Campus Blend". Below the header, there are navigation tabs for "Home", "My Courses", and "This course". The main content area is titled "Pre-Service Orientation Blend" with the course ID "PSO.Blend.032116D". A progress indicator shows "Your progress 0%". The main content includes a welcome message: "Welcome to AmeriCorps VISTA!" followed by a paragraph about the program's legacy and a community of over 7,000 members. Below this is another paragraph describing the unique aspects of the AmeriCorps VISTA program. To the right of the text is a graphic with the AmeriCorps logo and the text "PSO BLEND" above a row of raised hands. At the bottom, there is a "Course Resources" section with two bullet points: "The Guide to Entering VISTA Service provides an overview of the PSO Blend and the tasks you must complete before you begin service. The Guide also includes a calendar with key dates." and "The Online Classroom User Guide provides instructions for using the VISTA Campus Blend site."

# Logging in to Your Online Classroom

- Email with login instructions
  - Check your inbox right after this webinar!
- Online Classroom ≠ VISTA Campus
  - Separate websites with separate logins
- Login trouble? Email [vistacourses@educationnorthwest.org](mailto:vistacourses@educationnorthwest.org)

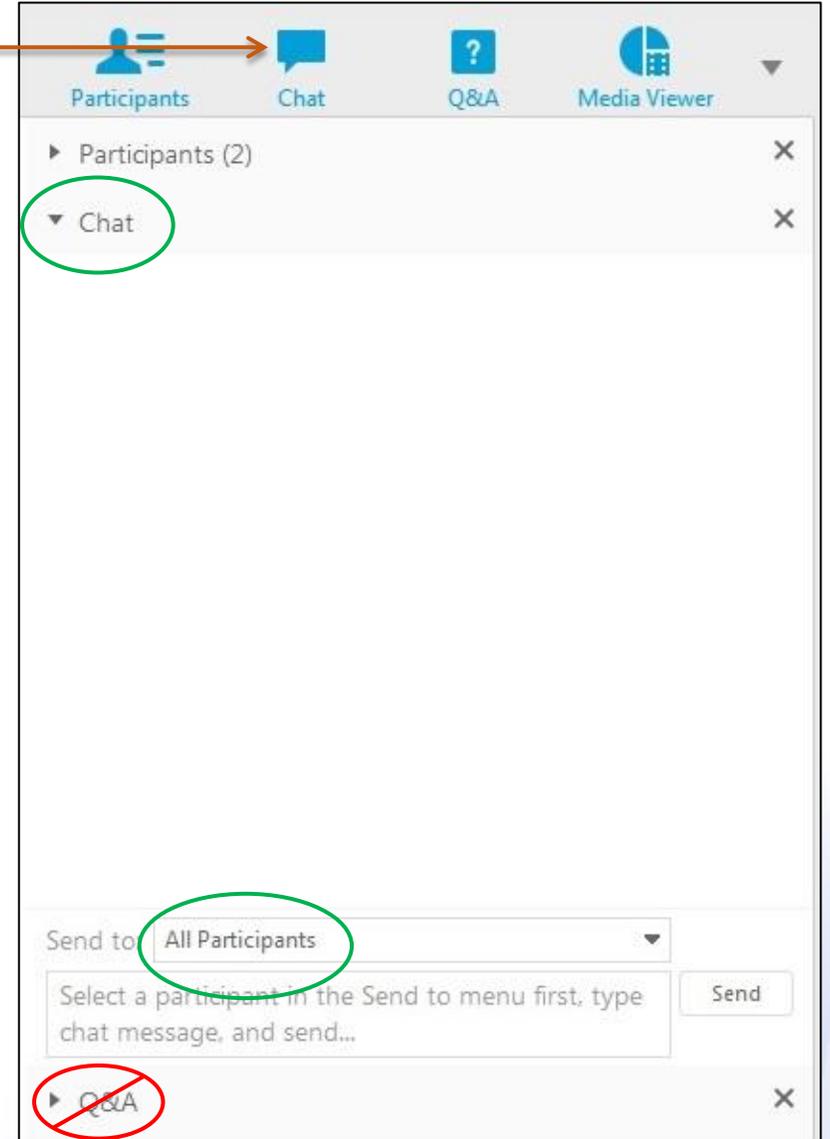
# Your Role in Pre-Service Orientation

- Participate fully
- Take the time to reflect & learn
- Adhere to deadlines
  
- Onboarding forms and coursework should be complete

# Chat Question

What excites you most about your assignment? What tasks or projects are you looking forward to doing?

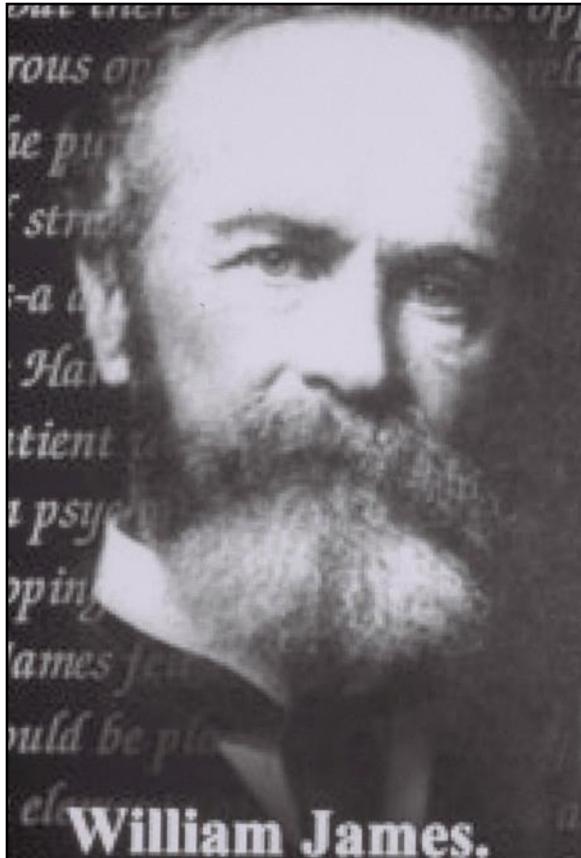
Click this button if you don't see the chat panel.



# A Legacy of Expanding Economic Opportunity



# The Moral Equivalent of War



"...instead of  
military  
conscription..."

# The Spirit of National Service



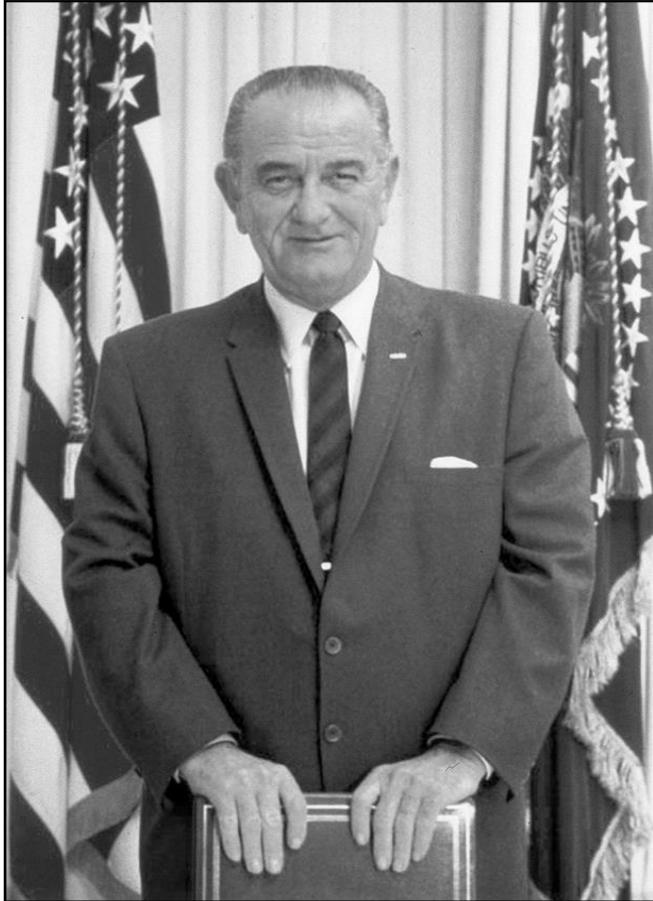
Serving the  
Needs of the  
Nation

# Engaging Americans

“The wisdom of this idea is that someday we'll bring it home...”



# Continuing the Legacy



## The War on Poverty

# Volunteers in Service to America



“...you will be opening up new vistas of hope for the poor...”

# AmeriCorps VISTA & CNCS



A family of  
national service  
programs

# VISTA's Mission

Strengthen organizations that alleviate poverty through the mobilization of volunteers and resources.

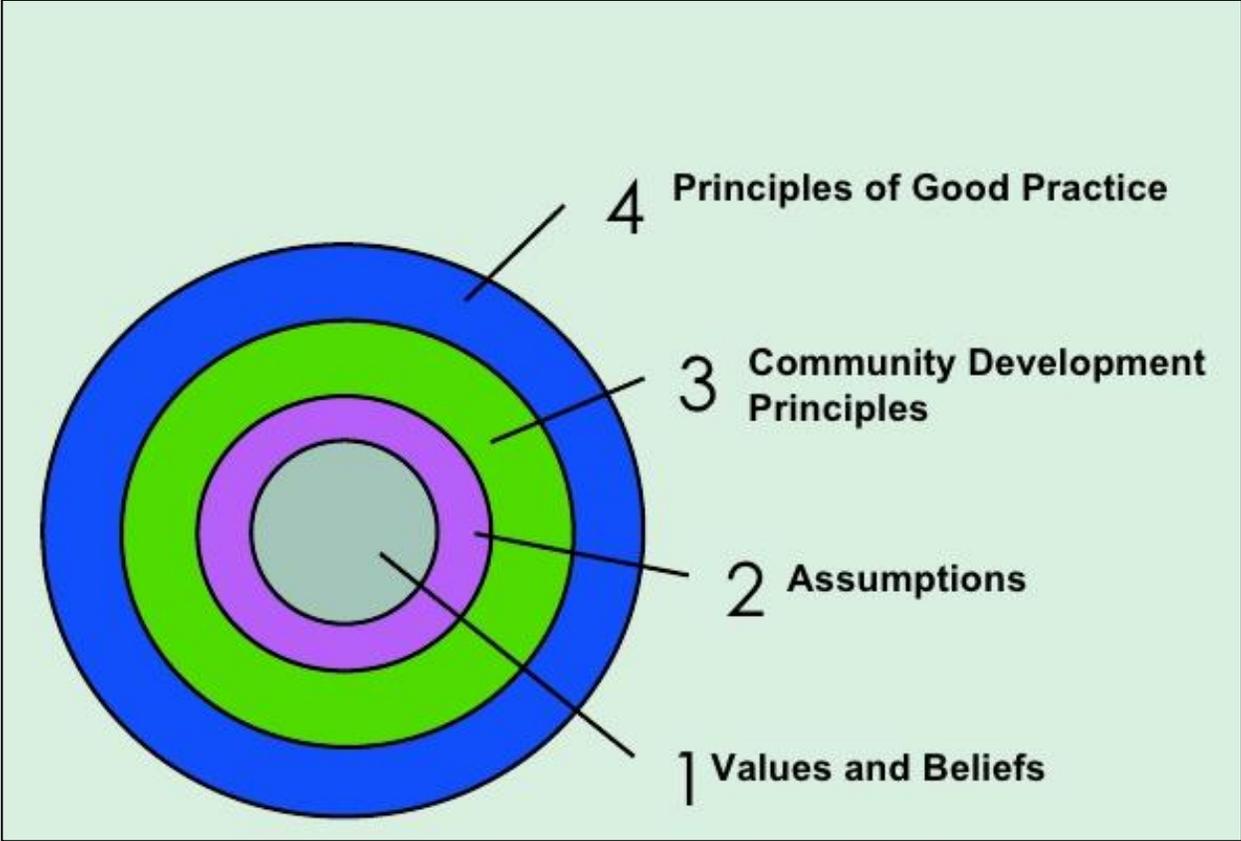
Key principles:

- Ending poverty
- Empowering communities
- Building capacity
- Creating sustainable solutions

# VISTA's Mission: End Poverty in the US

- 14.5%, 45.3 million in the US, live on less than \$11,892 /individuals and \$23,836 /family of four.
- 97.3 million (33%) are low-income, \$47,700 /family of four.
- 48% of the US is poor or low income, 1 in every 2 people.
- 1 in 5 children (21.8%) live in poverty.
- 4 out of 5 (79%) of people in the US live in danger of poverty

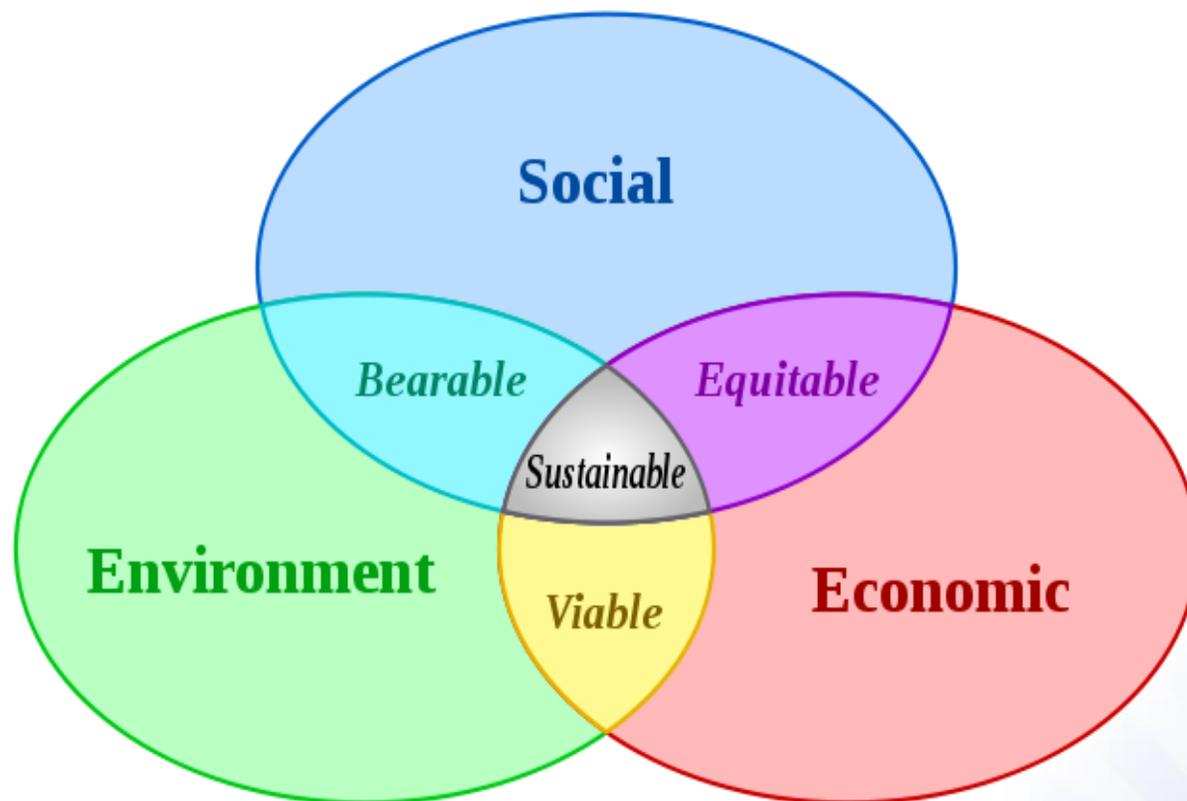
# VISTA's Mission: Empower Community



# VISTA's Mission: Build Capacity



# VISTA's Mission: Sustainability



# VISTA's Mission



# Your VISTA Assignment

VISTA Mission &  
Theory of Change



VISTA Sponsor  
Project Goal



VISTA Assignment  
Description

Community  
Needs & Hopes

# VISTA Assignment Description

Each VAD includes:

- project goal
- objectives
- member activities

# Poll Question

What do you think is the most important to know well at the beginning of service?

- a. VISTA
- b. The community
- c. The organization
- d. The specific skills for your VAD
- e. Yourself

# VISTAs Get Things Done!



**\$222 million**  
Cash & in-kind resources raised



**2.4 million**  
Disadvantaged children served



**3,000**  
Sites across the country



**1.2 million**  
Community volunteers mobilized



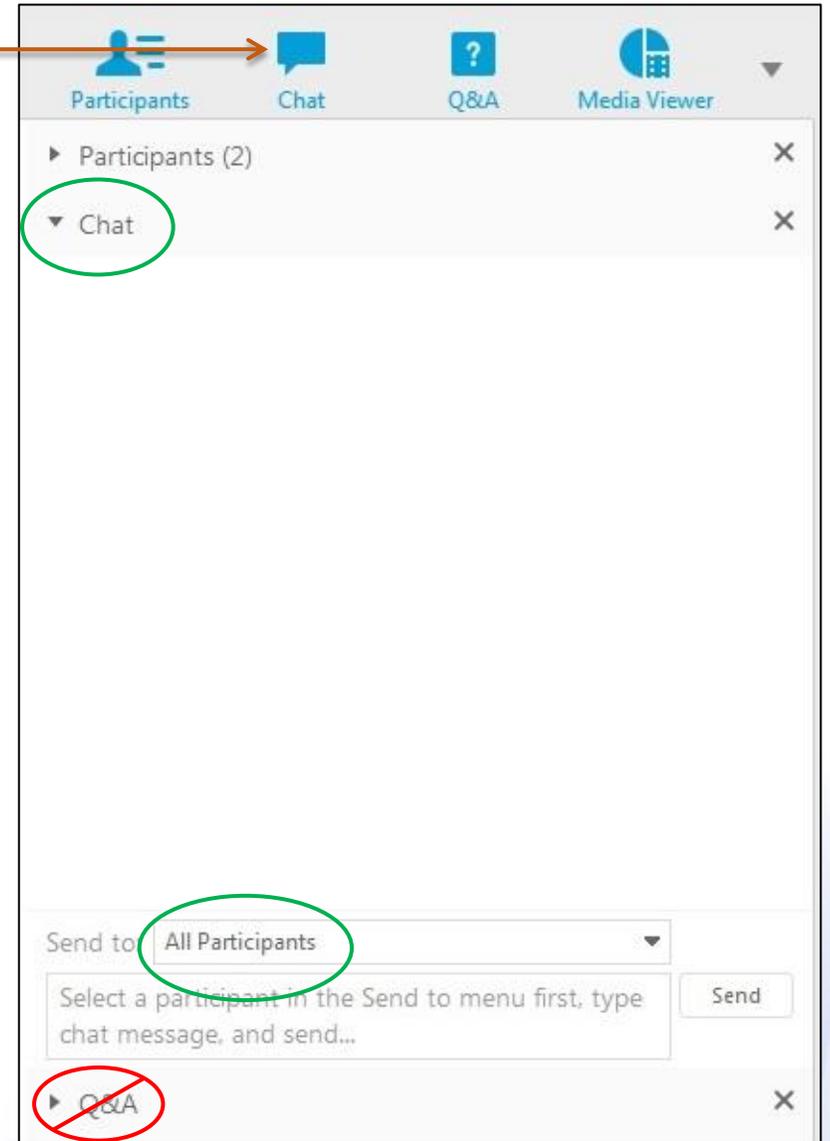
**222,000**  
Veterans & Family Members served

**...in 2015**

# Chat Question

If you succeed in your service, what will happen in your community?

Click this button if you don't see the chat panel.



# Quick Review



# Immediate Actions by COB

- Complete any missing onboarding forms
- Certify Terms & Conditions acceptance (if not done)
- Change from Stipend to Ed Award (if unsure which to choose)
- Complete, sign and send the Oath Form
- Log in to your online classroom
- Review the fingerprint instructions

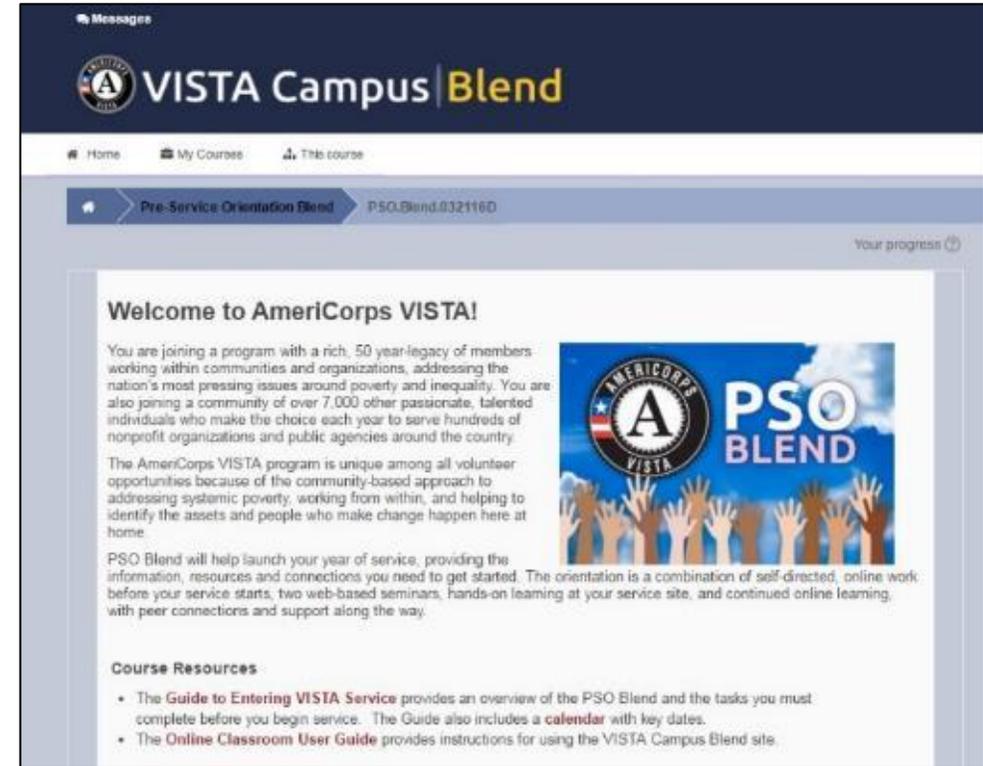
**Complete these TODAY**

# VISTAs and Criminal History

- Two automatic disqualifying factors:
  - Violence against a minor
  - Sexual offense
- Checks are conducted to protect the community members
- Criminal History Questionnaire: If you failed to disclose any conviction, send it in as instructed.

# Next Steps

- Online classroom
- Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 3pm ET – “Accomplishing Your VISTA Assignment”
- Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> – Fieldwork assignments due
- Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 3pm ET – Virtual Meet-Up 1



# Getting Support

- Email [vistacourses@educationnorthwest.org](mailto:vistacourses@educationnorthwest.org) or post to Technical Questions forum
- Online Classroom facilitator
- VISTA supervisor or VISTA leader
- National Service Hotline
- CNCS State Office

# The Oath of Service

1. Print your full name
2. Sponsor is where you're serving
3. City and state is where you're serving
4. Duty date is today's date
5. Sign only in the white section
6. Supervisor doesn't sign, but does send

	<b>AmeriCorps VISTA Oath Form</b>
1. LEGAL NAME:	
2. PROJECT SPONSOR:	
3. SERVICE LOCATION CITY & STATE:	
4. DATE ENTERED ON DUTY:	
5. OATH OF SERVICE *	
<i>The following oath or affirmation of service is required by the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973, as amended, and must be administered by an authorized staff member of the Corporation for National and Community Service:</i>	
I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.	
AmeriCorps VISTA Member's signature _____	____/____/____ Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
<i>*NOTE: The words "So help me God" in the oath, and the word "swear" wherever it appears above, may be stricken when the Member elects to affirm rather than swear to the Oath of Service; only these words may be stricken and only when the Members elects to affirm the Oath of Service.</i>	
6. FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY	
Subscribed and sworn to (affirmed) on this day, ____/____/____	
Signature _____	Title _____
Revised January 2016	

# The Oath of Service

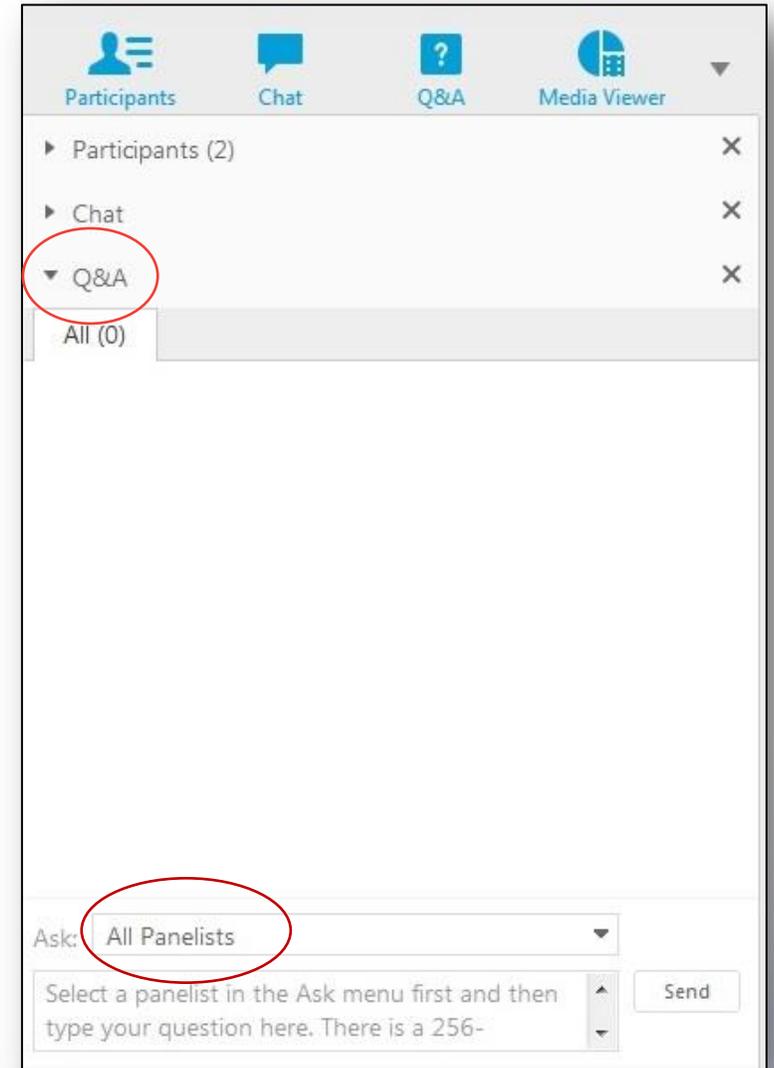
I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.

# Evaluation

- Please take a few moments to share your feedback through the quick poll on the right side of the screen.
- How can we improve these sessions? What topics should we include in future webinars?
- Thank you very much for your time and participation!

# Questions ?

- To ask a question verbally, call in using the number on this slide and press \*1
- To ask a question electronically, use the Q&A feature located in the bottom right corner of the screen. Please ask “All Panelists”



“On your idealism and on your success rests much of our hope for the final elimination of poverty in our American life.”

*-Lyndon Johnson, December 12, 1964*

