



Welcome to Launching Your VISTA Service

2/22/16 - West Clusters

To join the audio portion by phone, please dial: **888.968.4311**
Passcode: **2714469**

The webinar will begin soon. While you wait, please share in the chat box: Why did you choose to become a VISTA member?

Corporation for
NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE 



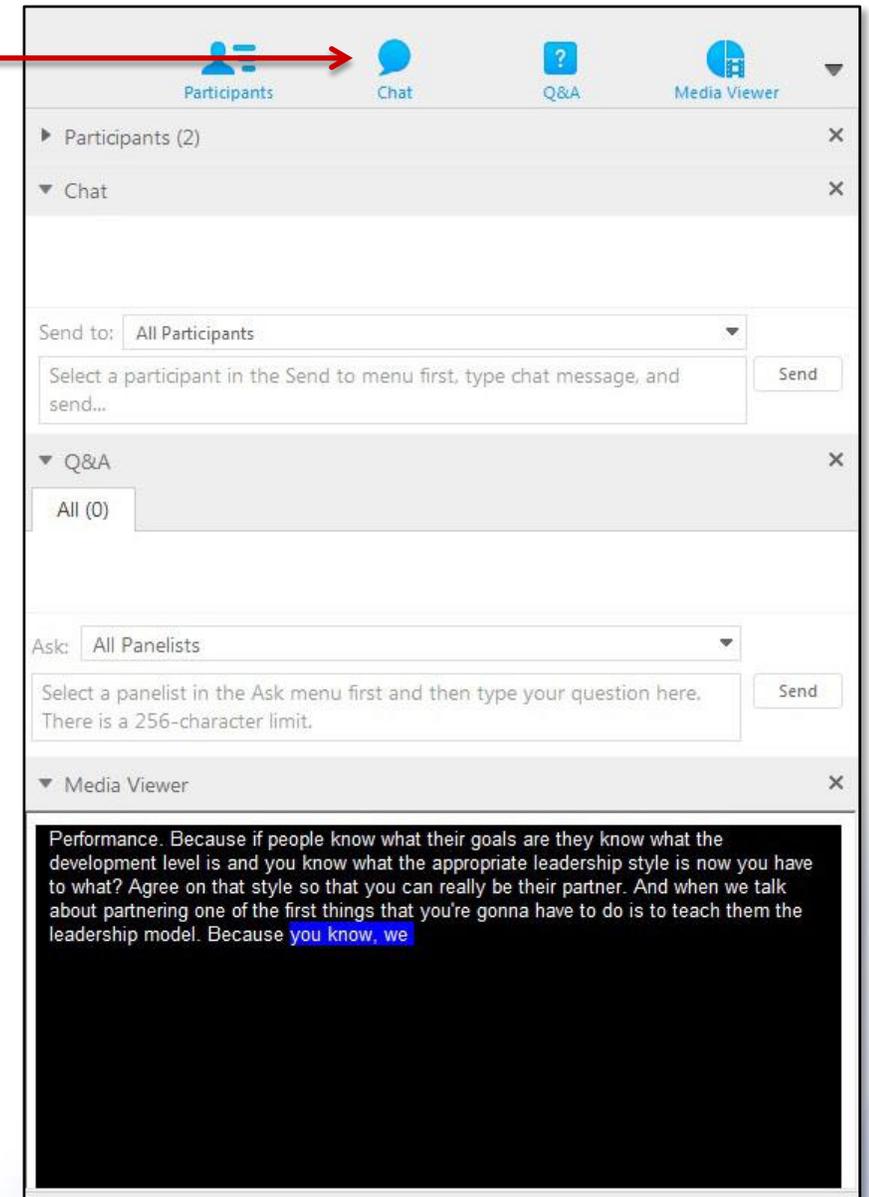
Dial: **888.968.4311**

Passcode: **2714469**

Tips for Participating

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

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



The screenshot displays a meeting control interface. At the top, there are four main navigation buttons: 'Participants' (with a red arrow pointing to it), 'Chat', 'Q&A', and 'Media Viewer'. Below these are expandable panels: 'Participants (2)', 'Chat', 'Q&A', and 'Media Viewer'. The 'Chat' panel is active, showing a 'Send to:' dropdown set to 'All Participants' and a text input field with a 'Send' button. The 'Q&A' panel is also active, showing an 'Ask:' dropdown set to 'All Panelists' and a text input field with a 'Send' button. The 'Media Viewer' panel is active, displaying a video feed with closed captions. A red arrow points from the text above to the 'Participants' button.

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 chat panel.

Participants Chat Q&A Media Viewer

Participants (2) x

Chat x

Send to: All Participants

Select a participant in the Send to menu first, type chat message, and send... Send

Q&A x

All (0)

Ask: All Panelists

Select a panelist in the Ask menu first and then type your question here. There is a 256-character limit. Send

Media Viewer x

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



Welcome to

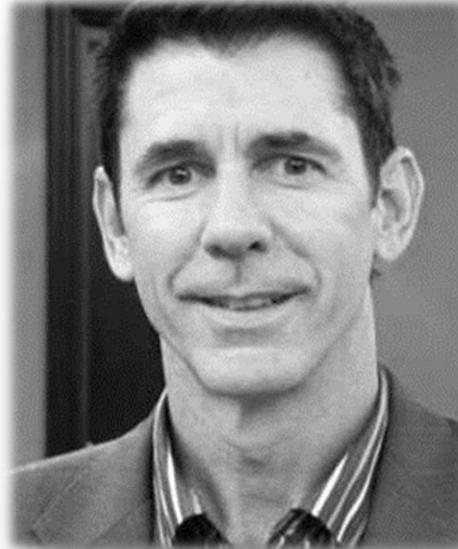
Launching Your VISTA Service



Lead Presenters



Patrick Triano
Director of Training
AmeriCorps VISTA



Andy King
Training Specialist
AmeriCorps VISTA

In This Session

- Connect with your peers and the mission of VISTA
- Review the key terms and conditions of VISTA service
- Identify people and resources that will help you during your VISTA year and beyond

In the breakout calls following this session:

- Review key tasks and activities of your VISTA online orientation
- Affirm your commitment to VISTA and take the Oath of Service

Getting to Know You

- Where will you be serving as a VISTA?

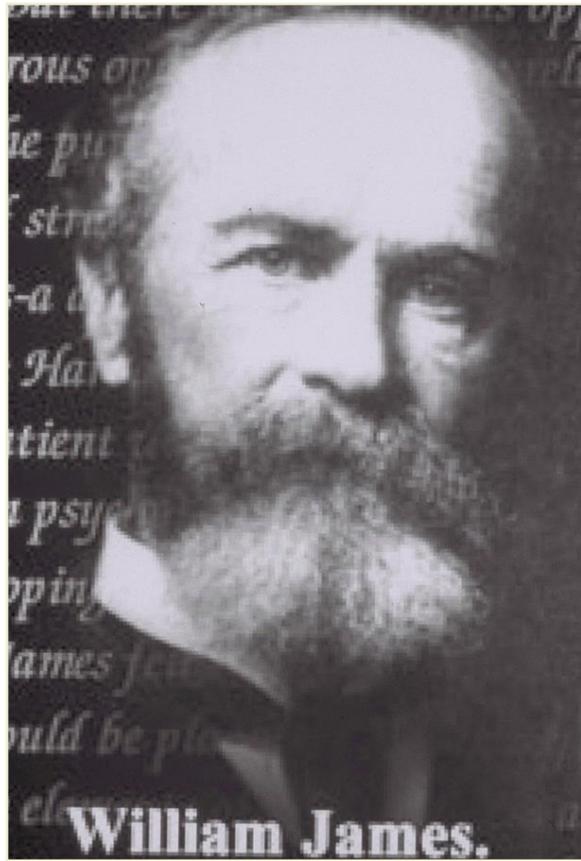
*Click this button
if you don't see
the chat panel.*



A Legacy of Expanding Economic Opportunity



The Seeds of National Service



The Moral Equivalent of War

The Spirit of National Service



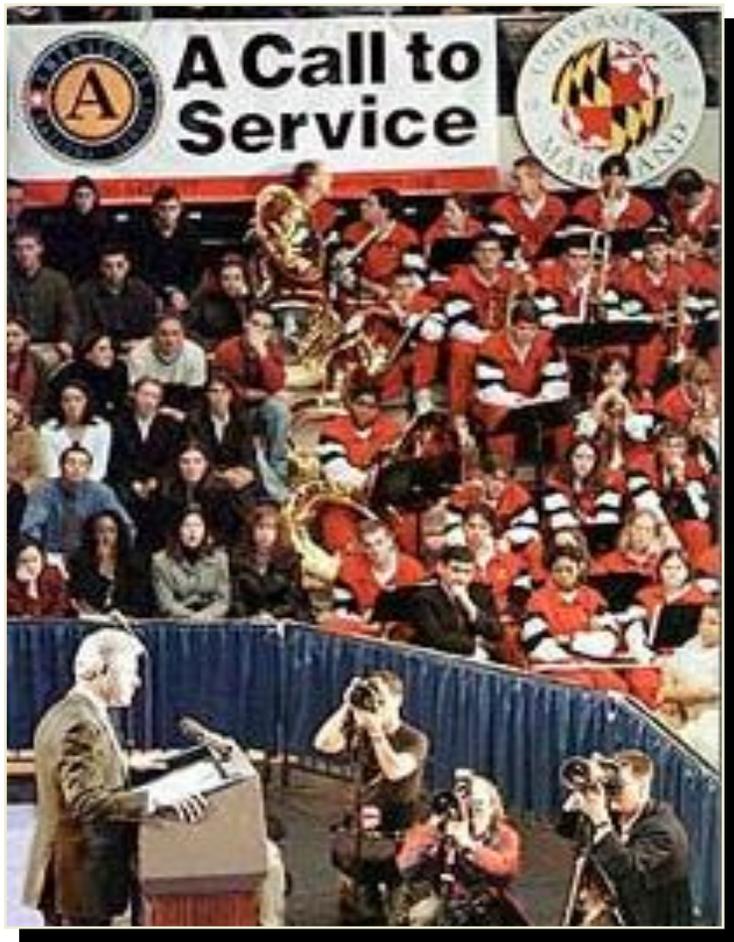
Serving the
Needs of the
Nation

A Corps of Volunteers



Civilian
Conservation
Corps (CCC)

The Call to Serve



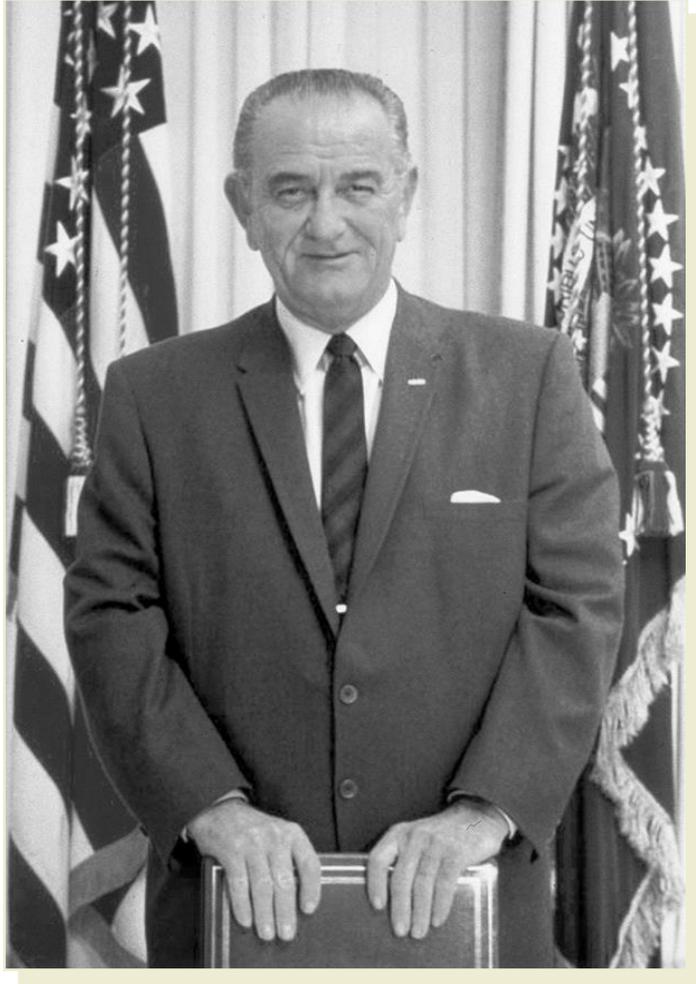
AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National Service

Engaging Americans

Ask not what your
country can do for
you...



Continuing the Legacy



The War on Poverty

The Legacy of Expanding Opportunity



Volunteers
in Service to
America

The Legacy of Expanding Opportunity



Volunteers
in Service to
America

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

What Impact Will YOU Make as a VISTA?



Create a sustainable volunteer program

Establish partnerships so community groups work together more effectively

Generate funding to sustain the organization

Engage community residents in creating services

Develop innovative programming

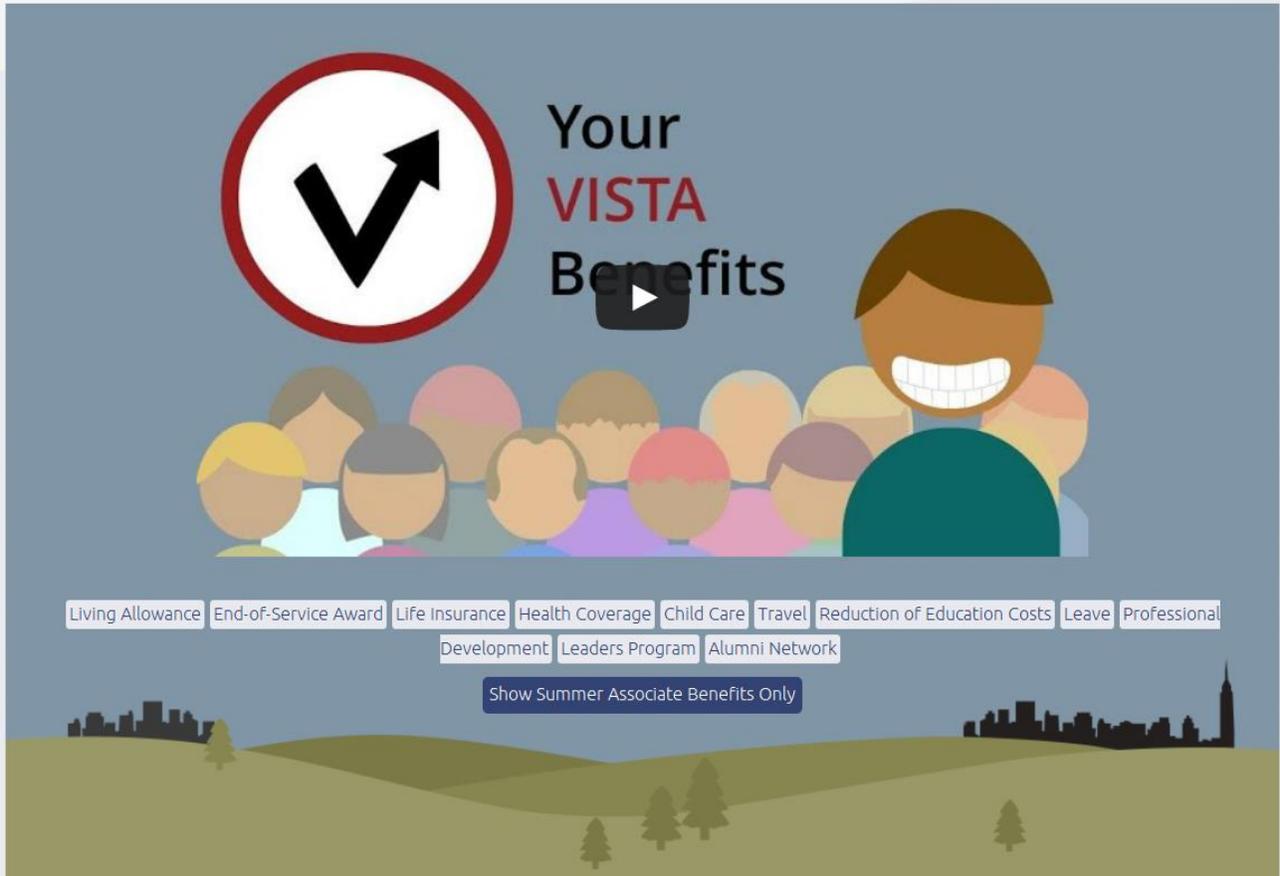
POLL: What Support Will You Need?

What are the top two [2] kinds of support you think you'll need this year?

- Keeping up on my student loans
- Caring for my children
- Keeping my public assistance (SNAP, SSDI, etc.)
- Health care coverage
- Paying my utility bills
- Gaining skills to carry out my VISTA assignment
- Finding other VISTAs where I serve
- Making ends meet on the VISTA allowance

VISTA Benefits

Benefits of Service



The video player interface features a large play button in the center. To the left is a circular icon with a checkmark and an upward-pointing arrow. To the right is a smiling cartoon person. Below the play button is a row of benefit categories: Living Allowance, End-of-Service Award, Life Insurance, Health Coverage, Child Care, Travel, Reduction of Education Costs, Leave, Professional Development, Leaders Program, and Alumni Network. A button labeled 'Show Summer Associate Benefits Only' is positioned below the categories. The background of the video player shows a stylized landscape with rolling hills and city silhouettes.

Your VISTA Benefits

Living Allowance End-of-Service Award Life Insurance Health Coverage Child Care Travel Reduction of Education Costs Leave Professional Development Leaders Program Alumni Network

Show Summer Associate Benefits Only

Living Allowance

- You are paid every two weeks (bi-weekly)
- Go to My AmeriCorps portal to:
 - Provide your bank account information for direct deposit
 - Check your living allowance statements
- Federal—but not state—income taxes are withheld
- Allowance does not qualify you for unemployment
- More information and tips on the VISTA Campus

Health Care

- Under ACA, you must have health insurance unless you are exempt
 - You may need to buy insurance if you are not exempt
- Depending on your coverage status:
 - If you **have insurance**, VISTA provides a **healthcare allowance** up to \$6,850 to cover out-of-pocket expenses
 - If you are **exempt**, VISTA provides a **health plan benefit** that covers basic health care needs
 - Both administered by International Medical Group

Public Assistance Protection

- For public assistance in place **prior** to VISTA enrollment, benefits remain the same
- For **new** benefits, VISTA living allowance is not factored in for most public assistance (but **is** factored in for SNAP benefits)
- When applying for assistance, print service letters from My AmeriCorps

End-of-Service Benefit

- Upon completing your service term, you can earn:
 - Segal AmeriCorps **Education Award** (\$5,775), **OR**
 - **Cash stipend** (\$1,500)
- If you chose the Education Award, you can switch to the stipend up until the end of your 10th month of service
- Both are taxable

Loan Forbearance and Deferment

- If you select the **Education Award**:
 - request **National Service Forbearance** through My AmeriCorps
 - no payments during service year; interest paid by Trust
- If you select the **cash stipend**:
 - request **deferment** from your lenders
- You may also be eligible for Income-Based Repayment or Public Service Loan Forgiveness

nationalservice.gov/resources/edaward

On the VISTA Campus



VISTA Webinars

Upcoming VISTA Webinars

When you register for a webinar, you will receive a confirmation email. Please keep this information to sign in at the time of the webinar.

Questions? Email us at vistawebinars@cns.gov

On-Demand VISTA Webinars

Click on the title of each webinar listed below to view a recorded video of that webinar, and to access a PDF version of the webinar or other supporting material.

Jump to: [Life as a VISTA Webinars](#) | [The Work Webinars](#) | [Social Media Webinars](#)

Webinars

VISTA Blend

Learn more, serve better

The VISTA Blend is a series of accredited online courses designed specifically for VISTAs in service. Offerings include **Volunteer Mobilization and Resource Development**, **Fundraising and Grant Writing** and are open to currently serving VISTAs.

In these courses, you'll complete weekly readings and practical assignments that will inform the work you do and can be applied at your site. You'll have a chance to connect with other VISTAs in the course and a facilitator who can help answer questions, give feedback, and offer help.



Online Courses

Chapter 1: Background & Purpose

VISTA Member Handbook

- Introduction
- Chapter 1: Background & Purpose
- Chapter 2: Overview of Roles
- Chapter 3: Working at Your Project
- Chapter 4: Training & Technical Assistance

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Authorized originally in 1964 by the Economic Opportunity Act, the Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) program provides full-time volunteers to support the efforts of nonprofit organizations and public agencies working to fight poverty in low-income communities. Through the years, more than 180,000 individuals have served in VISTA on thousands of local projects, committing at least one year of full-time service to poor communities in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

In July 1971, the VISTA program was transferred from the Office of Economic Opportunity to ACTION, a newly created federal volunteer agency. Other volunteer programs administered by ACTION included the Foster Grandparent Program, RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program), and the Senior Companion Program. With the enactment of the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993, the



Member Handbook

Review of VISTA Terms & Conditions

VISTA Terms and Conditions

Welcome to VISTA Terms and Conditions

As a VISTA member, you'll gain experience, a wide range of benefits, such as a living allowance, health care, financial help with school or student loans, and a lot more. You'll also have to adhere to a few terms and conditions while you serve.

This course will help you make sense of the requirements. Once you've completed it, you can print a copy of *the Terms and Conditions Acceptance Form* to bring to Pre-Service Orientation (PSO).

Please note that you must be logged in to the Campus for your completion of this required course to be recorded.



Q: VISTAs and Political Activities

- True or False:
 - I can voice my political opinion using social media where I am identified as an AmeriCorps VISTA member.
 - I can demonstrate in a political rally.
 - I can ask people to donate money to a partisan political candidate, as long as it's on my own time and I'm not identified as a VISTA.

A: VISTAs and Political Activities

- You CAN:
 - **Voice your opinion on social media**, but not while serving at your site or using any equipment at your site. You cannot represent yourself as a spokesperson for AmeriCorps, VISTA, CNCS, or your Sponsor.
 - **Demonstrate at a political rally**, as long as you are not identified as a VISTA or perceived to be a VISTA.
 - **Raise funds in support of an issue** on your own time, and when not identified as a VISTA.
- You CAN NOT:
 - **Raise money for a partisan political candidate** at any time during your VISTA service.

Q: VISTAs and Outside Employment

- True or False:
 - I can have outside employment and/or earn additional income while serving as a VISTA member.

A: VISTAs and Outside Employment

You CAN have outside employment or earn additional income so long as:

- **It does not conflict** with your VISTA service;
- You are **not employed by your Sponsor**; and
- Your **supervisor approves**.

VISTAs and Criminal History

- Criminal history may or may not affect VISTA eligibility
- Two automatic disqualifying factors:
 - Violence against a minor
 - Sexual offense
- Checks are conducted to protect the community members with whom we work as well as VISTA members and the VISTA program

Where to Get Support While Serving

- Supervisor (or VISTA leader, if you have one)
- State Office
 - List of contacts at cns.gov
- VISTA Member Support Unit
 - 1-800-942-2677 or questions.nationalservice.gov
- Online Support
 - vistacampus.gov
 - my.americorps.gov

The PSO Blend

Pre-Service Period	 My AmeriCorps Forms
	 VISTA Campus Coursework
Day 1	 Launching Your VISTA Service Live Webinar (Mon)
	 Fingerprinting
Week 1-2	 On-Site Orientation & Training
	 Fieldwork ■----- VISTA Assignment Description On-Site Orientation & Training Creating a Community Profile

Week 3	 Accomplishing Your VISTA Assignment Live Webinar (Tue)
	 Fieldwork ■----- Minute Intro
Week 4	 Fieldwork ■----- 13 Lessons About Poverty How Poverty is Measured in the US
Week 5	 Course Completion

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?

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”

The screenshot shows a user interface with a sidebar on the left containing three items: 'Participants (2)', 'Chat', and 'Q&A'. The 'Q&A' item is highlighted with a red circle. Below the sidebar, the main content area shows a dropdown menu with 'All (0)' selected. At the bottom of the screen, there is a text input field with a dropdown menu set to 'All Panelists', which is also circled in red. To the right of the input field is a 'Send' button.

Breakout Sessions

Group	State(s)	National Project(s)	Breakout room conference call number
Breakout G	WA		888-606-9804 Participant code: 3155211
Breakout H	CO	Conservation Legacy	888-970-4132 Participant code: 8197178
Breakout I	AK, NM, OR, WA		877-918-2512 Participant code: 1082241
Breakout J	AZ, ID, MT, NV, UT, WY		888-456-0357 Participant code: 2081125
Breakout K	CA, HI, NJ, NY	CCUSA New Americans, Cities of Service	888-942-9078 Participant code: 8463567
Breakout L	KS, LA, MO, OK, TN, TX	Education AmeriCorps	877-601-4484 Participant code: 8735943

The Oath of Service

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.