

Beyond VISTA: Project Sustainability Approaches & Strategies

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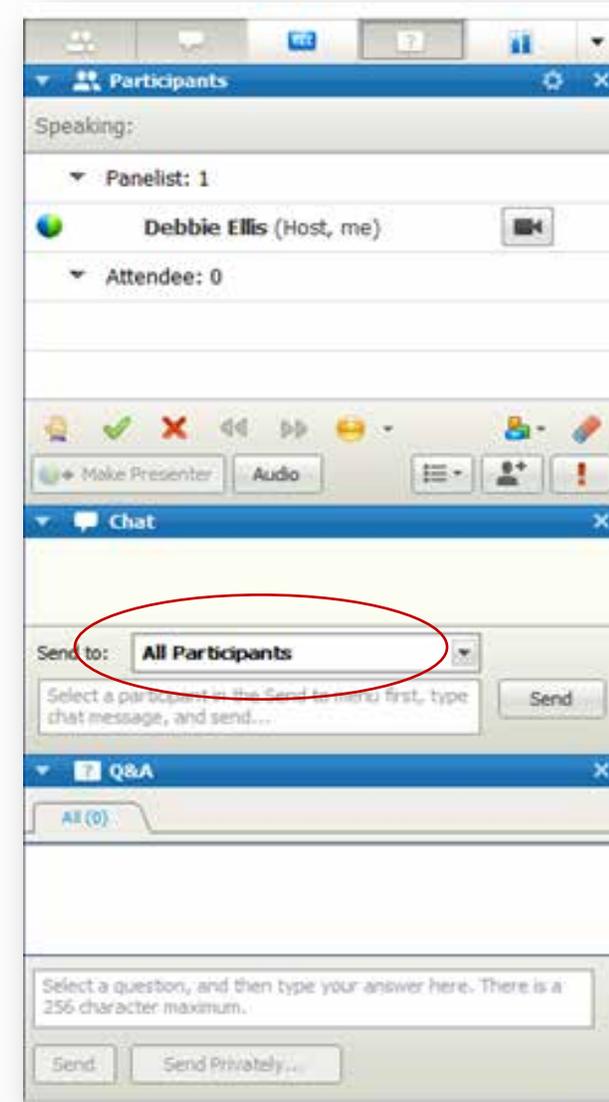
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This session will begin shortly.

Tips for Participating

Webinars for Supervisors

- Phones are muted
 - Phones will be open for Q&A later
- Audio available through your computer
- To ask questions, use the Q&A panel
- To share comments and ideas, use chat
- Recording will be available afterwards on the VISTA Campus
- Closed Captions can be viewed in the Media Viewer panel



Webinars for Supervisors

Welcome to

Beyond VISTA: Project Sustainability Approaches & Strategies

Corporation for
NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE 



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Today's Team



Jessica Burch

Corporation for National &
Community Service



Sarah Gleason

Side by Side Associates,
Partners in Community
Building



Cortney Stehlik-
Freeman

Community Frameworks

Today's Objectives

- Define project sustainability within the VISTA context
- Define member and supervisor roles
- Identify specific practices that can lead to VISTA project sustainability
- Plan for sustainability
- Identify existing resources

Today's Agenda

- Building Capacity for Sustainability
- Planning for Sustainability
- Voices from the Field
- Activities to Support Sustainability
- Your Questions

What Is Sustainability?

Sustainability is the ability of a program or organization to continue engaging community stakeholders to meet the needs of the community efficiently and effectively after the last VISTA is gone.

Program Sustainability



Building Capacity for Sustainability

VISTA projects build capacity to support program sustainability. VISTA members:

- Create, expand or strengthen organizational systems or processes
- Engage and empower community members and organizational partners



VISTA Project Sustainability



Chat:

What factors do you think lead to sustainable VISTA projects?

Sustainable VISTA Project variables

- Trained and dedicated VISTAs
- Support from the community
- Established and experienced organizations
- Alignment of project goals with the mission



Why were they not sustained?

- Poor organization/project management
- Lacked resources - funds and/or volunteers
- Lacked community support
- Lacked organization support



Planning for Sustainability

- Who is responsible for sustainability?
- Is there a plan for sustainability?



Pass It On!

Capacity building includes the transfer of:



Knowledge



Products



Relationships

Sustaining the VISTA's Work

- Who will carry on the VISTA's work?
- How will you ensure that they are ready?
- How will you build community & organizational support?



A Sustainability Plan should include:

- Objectives
- Milestones
- Timeline
- Activities
- Persons responsible
- Plan for checking in/
assessing progress



Assessment Tools & Resources

VISTA Specific

- Project Sustainability Assessment Checklist To Promote Sustainable VISTA Projects
- Capacity Building in Action for Supervisors
- Gaining Community Buy In
- Weekly Supervisor Meeting Template
- VISTA Sustainability Report

From the Field

Center for Public Health Systems Science

- [Program Sustainability Assessment Tool](#)
 - [Assessment Questions](#)
 - [Sample Report](#)

Community Foundation of Jackson Hole

- [Building Sustainability for Nonprofit Organizations](#)

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Example from the field

Cortney Stehlik-Freeman, Former VISTA,
Current VISTA Supervisor



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Community Frameworks

Tips

- Incorporate your project into organization's strategic plan
- Create a work plan and VADs that include activities to increase project funding
- Plan for end of year "hand off"

SUSTAINABLE



Proud new homeowner in 2014 –
long-term result of a 2009-2010 VISTA
project

Chat:

How are you working with your VISTA(s) to ensure the sustainability of your program?

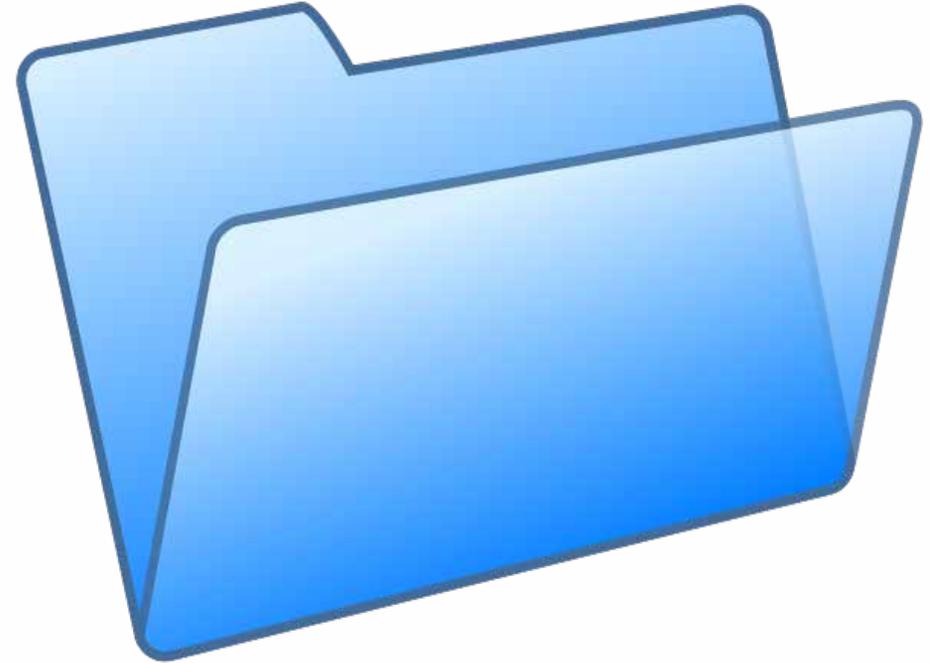
Transferring Knowledge



- Mapping existing assets
- Story collection and impact evaluation
- Presentations to organizational leaders and staff
- Community events and presentations

Transferring Products

- Training and coaching users
- Planning guides, user guides, templates
- Electronic 'binders' on shared drive, Google drive, Dropbox



Transferring Relationships



- Stakeholder analysis
- Contact database
- Developing community champions
- Community advisory boards
- Partnership agreements, memoranda

Capacity Building Transfer - CHP

Example from the field

Community Housing
Partners



- Real estate marketing reports with data source citations to ensure data is up-to-date
- Program policies & procedures
- Using data to show impact of program

Capacity Building Transfer

Example from the field

Family Services Inc.



- Established volunteer base of 97 volunteers for annual event
- Created marketing and branding standards
- Increased Facebook following to more than 1,600 contacts

Chat:

List one action you will take to ensure the program will continue after your last VISTA departs.

Next Steps

- Ask your VISTAs to attend the member version of this webinar **tomorrow** or watch the recording in a week at:
 - <http://www.vistacampus.gov/vista-webinars>
- Make a list of knowledge, products, and relationships to be transferred
- Review project application 'Strengthening Communities' section
- Review sustainability resource list and use them to start or enhance your sustainability plan

Evaluation

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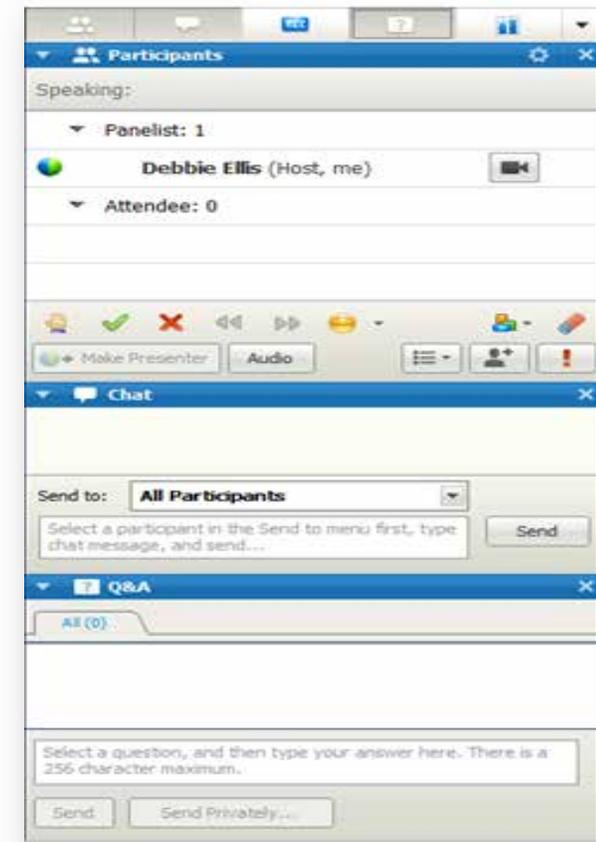
Please take a few moments to share your feedback. How can we improve these sessions? What topics should we include in future webinars?

Thank you very much for your time and participation!

How to Ask Questions

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- 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



Thank You for Your Participation!

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Next Webinar:

Preparing Your Members for Life After VISTA

May 19, 2015

2:00 PM ET

Questions? VISTAwebinars@cns.gov



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