



Now more than ever: 2 ways to keep your community's income



Who's On Deck: The Corporation awaits its next CEO as spirit of service grows



Lifetime of Service: AmeriCorps is hiring, apply today!

VISTA Viewfinder Issue 20: February 11, 2009

**VISTA: Volunteers In Service To America**  
Since 1964, 175,000 Strong



# VISTA viewfinder

1 VISTA since 1964

2 Volunteers in Service

3 175,000 Strong

**VISTA**  
www.americorps.gov  
www.nationalservice.org

Made in USA ©2008

*E-Newsletter*



*Send to a friend*  
*Subscribe*  
*Archive*

## SNAPSHOTS

## ISSUE 20: February 11, 2009

AmeriCorps Week 2009 is coming... get ready!  
[learn more](#)

[Keeping Money in Your Community's Pocket](#)  
[The Process for Becoming the Next CEO](#)  
[Open positions at the Corporation](#)  
[And the winner of this issue's free VISTA hoodie is...](#)

Helping Iowans recover from the floods  
[learn more](#)

## Keeping Money in Your Community's Pocket

## THE LANDSCAPE



VISTA Campus now launched!

"V is for \_\_\_\_"



Providing  
nourishment in  
Jacksonville  
[learn more](#)

Building up  
community spirit  
in Alabama  
[view here](#)



We are now into tax season and there are two programs that can help individuals in your community pocket more of their hard earned cash. Unfortunately, these two programs are not being taken advantage of by many eligible and low-to-moderate income individuals: the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

Let's get the word out about these programs that can make a difference during the country's tough economic times!

The EITC is a refundable income tax credit for low-income working individuals and families. It reduces the amount of taxable income and can result in a refund or fewer federal taxes taken each paycheck. Those that are eligible need to file a federal tax return and claim the credit. Detailed information about the EITC can be found [here](#) -- including eligibility requirements and threshold amounts.

For those that can't prepare a tax return or need help filing, there is also free assistance!

Individuals and families with low-to-moderate incomes do not have to pay the high fees for tax preparation services. Free tax preparation services are available through the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

At VITA sites, which can be found in nearly every community nationwide, trained community volunteers prepare tax returns for those with a low-to-moderate income. Tax returns are prepared to take advantage of special credits, such as Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, and Credit for the Elderly.

In addition to free tax return preparation assistance, most sites also offer free electronic filing. Taking advantage of the e-file program will mean receiving a refund in half the time of a paper return. A faster return means less temptation to lose money on a high interest loan that many tax preparation businesses offer.

To learn more about  
"V is for," visit  
[www.vistacampus.org](http://www.vistacampus.org)

To request a V pin  
(limit one per VISTA),  
e-mail your name  
and address to  
[VISTAOutreach@cns.gov](mailto:VISTAOutreach@cns.gov)

Win a VISTA hoodie.  
[Click here](#) to find out  
how

Join AmeriCorps  
Alums—for current  
VISTAs too!  
[Join now](#)

My AmeriCorps  
Portal:  
Is your information  
up-to-date?  
[visit My AmeriCorps](#)

V Cafe Question  
of the Month:  
Have you seen new  
economic difficulties in  
your community  
resulting from the  
current financial crisis?  
[answer now](#)

VISTA on MySpace:  
[visit Myspace](#)

VISTA on Flickr:  
[visit Flickr](#)

VISTA on YouTube:  
[visit Youtube](#)

VISTA on Facebook:  
[visit Facebook](#)

#### FAQ

[Click for Frequently  
Asked Questions](#)

To locate the nearest VITA site, call 1-800-829-1040.

[back to top](#)

## The Process for Becoming the Next CEO



As you know, VISTA is part of the Corporation for National and Community Service, an independent federal agency whose mission is to improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering.

As an independent federal agency, the Corporation has a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and a [Board of Directors](#). Since David Eisner stepped down from the position of CEO this past November (it is customary for all agency heads to resign when a new administration is coming into office), Nicola Goren has taken on the role of Acting CEO during this period of transition with the new administration.

But who will be the new CEO as the momentum for national service continues to grow?

At this point, we do not know when the next CEO will be appointed. We do know the sequence of events. The Corporation's CEO is a Presidential appointee, subject to confirmation by the Senate. The White House first must clear the nominee through a thorough financial disclosure and FBI background check. After a nomination is announced and conveyed to the Senate, the Senate Committee on Health Education Labor and Pensions will conduct its own review.

Following clearance by the committee and vote by the full Senate (customarily by voice vote, not roll call), the Senate notifies the White House that it has advised and consented to the nomination. The final step is the President's signature, and the Secretary of State's counter-signature, on the appointment document. An appointed CEO must then be sworn in and sign the oath of office.

A CEO nominee may start working at the Corporation as an advisor or as a consultant even before Senate confirmation. But a nominee may not assume the duties of the future position on an acting basis, and any work done during this period is subject to scrutiny by the Senate

committee considering the nomination. [The Council for Excellence in Government](#) advises him or her to: "...read carefully, watch what you say and do, and do not try to exercise power before the Senate confirms you to your position."

[back to top](#)

## Open positions at the Corporation for National and Community Service

Our friends over at [AmeriCorps NCCC](#) are looking to hire some outstanding individuals as staff members for their new campus in Vicksburg, MS. The position openings can be found [here](#). Be sure to include your non-competitive eligibility status if you have it! [Non-competitive eligibility FAQs](#) can be found on the Campus for reference.



[back to top](#)

## And the winner of this issue's free VISTA hoodie is...



**Cheryl Montgomery**  
Lake County, CA

**Cheryl**, e-mail [VISTAOutreach@cns.gov](mailto:VISTAOutreach@cns.gov) with your address and shirt size, and we'll send you a VISTA hoodie!

**VISTAs and alumni**, keep posting “V is for” photos and stories to enter the contest. Remember, winners are chosen at random so upload a photo today! You only have to post once to be eligible for every issue. For more information, visit the [VISTA Campus](#).

[back to top](#)

---

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### **Q: What is the Viewfinder?**

*A: VISTA means view-looking out on a broad expanse. The viewfinder, a toy that all generations of VISTAs recognize, was a kind of binocular that focused on points of interest, highlights, and snapshots in living color. The VISTA Viewfinder surveys in the landscape and zeroes in on service.*

### **Q. Why the Viewfinder?**

*A. Here's your direct link to connecting with other VISTAs, learning what they are doing, and helping to spread the message of VISTA and national service!*

### **Q. How can I contribute?**

*A. Have a story to tell? Submission ideas? Contact [vistaoutreach@cns.gov](mailto:vistaoutreach@cns.gov). Use the Viewfinder to highlight your VISTA service and share your experiences with others across the country!*

[back to top](#)