



Criminal History Background Check

VISTA requires a criminal history check on all VISTA members and leaders to support the safety of our service participants, sponsors and local communities—particularly the vulnerable populations of children, individuals with disabilities, and adults over 60 years old. We are investigating past sexual offenses and offenses that have direct negative implications on your service assignment. Minor offenses with no relation to your assignment will generally not bar you from service.

Fingerprinting at Orientation

This background check entails our search of the National Sex Offenders Public Registry and an FBI criminal history check. This check requires your submitting fingerprints to AmeriCorps*VISTA at your Pre-Service Orientation. We will use a computer-based fingerprint process which does not require ink and paper, and which facilitates a faster return of research results.

You will be provisionally sworn in as a VISTA until the research is complete, which should only be a matter of weeks. Your assignment is contingent upon successful completion of the FBI criminal history check.

Unless you hear from a VISTA representative, you may assume you have been cleared for service.

Valid Photo ID Needed

Applicants must present valid government-issued photo identification when being fingerprinted. Expired identification information will not be accepted.

The Fingerprinting Process

When you arrive at the training site, please follow the signs to the registration area. There you will check in for the orientation, complete any necessary paperwork and then be directed to submit your fingerprints. It's a simple process that takes just a few minutes. To protect your privacy, the fingerprinting will be conducted in a separate area.