

VISTA Interview Checklist

Please discuss the following with potential VISTA candidates during interviews.

- ___ What is VISTA? (See below)
- ___ Yearlong, full-time service commitment
- ___ No other job during year of VISTA service
- ___ Stipend of <<\$ amount>> every two weeks. Federal taxes are taken out; state taxes are not <<\$ amount>> Education Award, which can be used for future tuition or to repay student loans (seven years to use it) OR <<\$ amount>> cash stipend at the end of service
- ___ <<\$ amount>> relocation allowance can be used for moving expenses and security deposit on an apartment
- ___ Healthcare plan (basic coverage; enrollment begins at PSO)
- ___ Transportation reimbursement of <<\$ amount>> per mile by <<program name>>
- ___ Federal student loan deferment and interest on loans paid while serving
- ___ Childcare reimbursement (if eligible)
- ___ All members must go through federal background check (includes fingerprinting)
- ___ PSO must be attended before they can begin service (4 days in <<location>>; CNCS pays)
- ___ Five in-service trainings and a retreat with other <<program name>> VISTAs (dates TBA)
- ___ Focus on program development and capacity building (not direct service)
- ___ Copy of VISTA Assignment Description (VAD)
- ___ Public assistance benefits are not affected by VISTA living allowance

VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America), the domestic equivalent to the Peace Corps, is a national service program sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service. VISTA offers members a modest living allowance in exchange for their commitment of a year of service. VISTA volunteers build permanent infrastructure in nonprofit organizations to help them more effectively bring individuals and communities out of poverty.