



AmeriCorps VISTA

<http://www.americorps.gov/about/programs/vista.asp>

“AmeriCorps VISTA is the national service program designed specifically to fight poverty.”

AmeriCorps VISTA members focus on building sustainable programs. They strengthen and support organizations by building infrastructure, expanding community partnerships, and securing long-term resources rather than through the provision of direct services.

Benefits:

In exchange for 12 months of service, AmeriCorps VISTA members will be eligible to receive--

1. A living stipend of \$12,828 (pre-tax) dispersed over the 12 month service term*
2. Loan forbearance or deferment during the 12 month service term for qualified student loans*
3. Upon completion of service, VISTAs may choose to receive EITHER: 1) an education award of \$5,550 to be used to pay back qualified student loans or pay future tuition; OR 2) a \$1,500 (pre-tax) end-of-year cash stipend*
4. Free healthcare coverage (vision and pre-existing conditions not included; dental coverage is limited to emergencies)
5. A childcare subsidy
6. Vacation time: 10 personal days, 10 sick days, and any holidays off that your service site honors
7. Skills development for non-profit or public sector career
8. Some subsidized transportation for service-related travel
9. A relocation allowance and reimbursement of some shipping costs for VISTAs moving over 50 miles to serve in Seattle
10. 1 year of non-competitive eligibility for federal jobs
11. So much more!

*Please note that the living stipend, education award, and interest repayment (of interest accrued during loan forbearance) are all considered taxable income.

**Also note that VISTA members CANNOT hold secondary jobs or make additional income during a VISTA service term.

Please refer to the below information from VISTA Campus regarding this policy—

"During a term of service, members live at the economic level of the people they serve. The member living allowance is at the poverty level. A member may not receive any additional monetary compensation beyond the standard allowances for services rendered as an AmeriCorps*VISTA member. Members are expected to serve the community, not themselves. **Members remain available for service, without regard to regular working hours, at all times during the member's service, except for periods of approved leave.**"

