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Webinar ID: 160-129-8667

Welcome to
Getting to Know Your Non-Competitive Eligibility Benefit
February 24, 2021

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Today's Speakers



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Today's Agenda

Non-Competitive Eligibility (NCE)

- Define and clarify the NCE benefit
- Explore how to take advantage of your NCE status
- Consider ways to highlight your NCE status when applying for federal jobs

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What is Non-Competitive Eligibility (NCE)?



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A hiring status that:

 Permits federal agencies to hire former AmeriCorps VISTA and Peace Corps members who meet minimum qualifications...

 *without going through all the formalities of the federal competitive process.*

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What does NCE Offer? Phone: 833-568-8864
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NCE status does not guarantee a federal position

It means you have access to:

- Some positions that are not open to the general public
- A faster hiring process



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NCE Considerations

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1. It only applies to positions within the federal government, not state or local government
2. It has a limited term
 - Starts after completion of service
 - NCE status is valid for one year
3. You have a role to play in advocating for your NCE status



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NCE Management

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- There is no NCE office or agency
- No database of NCE recipients
- Your responsibility to advocate NCE status to a hiring manager



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Quick Review!

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1. When does your NCE status start?

2. Does NCE status guarantee a federal job?

3. How long do you have NCE status?

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Common Questions

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If you serve as a VISTA for two consecutive years, does that mean you get two years of eligibility?

No matter how long you serve as a VISTA member you only get one year of eligibility.

You've served several part-time VISTA terms that add up to a full year. Can you get NCE?

No, you need to serve a full-time yearlong VISTA assignment to receive NCE status.

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Can I Get an Extension?

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NCE status lasts 1 year, but can be extended for an additional two years

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Can I Get an Extension?

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Extensions are allowed for three reasons:

- You entered the military after VISTA
- You became a full-time student at a recognized institution of higher learning
- You engaged in an activity which, in the hiring agency's view, warrants extension

Note: It is the hiring agency—not the VISTA alum or AmeriCorps—that enables extensions.

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When to Search for Jobs? Phone: 833-568-8864
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- It's never too soon to start researching and networking
- Recommend applying ~3 months before your service year ends
- Inform potential employers of the date your NCE will start

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How do I Find Federal Jobs? Phone: 833-568-8864
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USAJOBS

Keywords

Job title, Skills, Agency

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Marketing NCE Status Phone: 833-568-8864
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How can I market my NCE status?

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Resume Phone: 833-568-8864
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AmeriCorps VISTA/RSVP + North Dakota
Dept. 2020 PO Box 6050
Fargo, ND 58108 United States

11/2019 - 11/2020
Hours per week: 40
AmeriCorps VISTA Leader

Duties, Accomplishments and Related Skills:

Non-Competitive Eligibility Status gained as a result of 2019-2020 VISTA service expires 11/07/21

- Lead or helped with 17 grant applications; received funding totaling over \$130,000
- Researched new grants, foundations, and other funding opportunities for expansion of resource development efforts; created a master grants tracking list for the organization
- Established transparency plan and application process to standardize VISTA site recruitment procedures

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Cover Letter Phone: 833-568-8864
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Dear Selecting Official/Panel:

I am very interested in the above mentioned Grant Analyst position. **I recently completed my year of service with AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America). Based on the unique hiring paths as explained on the homepage of USAJobs.gov, I am eligible for Non-Competitive hire as of November 07, 2020.**

[In 1-2 short paragraphs, demonstrate why you are qualified for the position and why you would be a good fit for the agency. This letter should include your interest in the position, what you bring to the employing agency, and your contact information.]

Enclosed is my official VISTA Verification of Service letter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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Advocating for NCE Status Phone: 833-568-8864
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What if a hiring manager is not familiar with NCE status?

- Share a link to the "Peace Corps and AmeriCorps VISTA" hiring path info page on USAJobs
- Refer back to your verification of service letter

What if you think you're eligible for an extension?

- Make your case to the hiring manager

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Next Steps and Resources Phone: 833-568-8864
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Research the NCE benefit and the federal hiring process	USAJobs Help Center HRU.gov
Search for federal positions	USAJobs.gov VISTA Campus Job Board
Create a federal resume , and highlight NCE status on your resume and in your cover letters	Life After AmeriCorps Guide • Sample cover letter language • Federal resume building tips

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- How can we improve this presentation?
- Please take a few moments to complete a brief evaluation survey once we log off today.
- Find the survey link in the Chat on your screen.
- Thank you for your feedback!

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What questions do you have?



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Upcoming Webinar

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Writing Winning Grant Proposals
Wednesday, March 24, 2021
3-4:00 p.m. ET / 12-1:00 p.m. PT

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Thank you for your service!



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