

VCM VISTA Host Site- Frequently Asked Questions

What Costs does the Grant Cover?

VCM and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) will provide training, the VISTA's monthly living stipend, the end of service education award of \$4,725 (or \$1,200 cash stipend, an option given to each *VISTA), health benefit, travel costs to VCM or CNCS required events, child-care costs, up to \$500 of emergency money with approval from MCC and CNCS, and moving allowances for relocation.

What Costs does the host site need to cover?

The Volunteer Center must provide VCM a cost share:

\$2,500 –year one, \$3,000-year two, \$3,500-year three

The Volunteer Center must reimburse the VISTA for any travel expenses incurred due to requirements from the host site. VCM does not require, nor do we provide, the host site to provide the VISTA with an additional housing stipend, although it is encouraged. Offering a housing stipend or making arrangements for discounted room and board makes it much easier to recruit your VISTA. The host site must also provide the VISTA with any items that the rest of the staff would receive such as a computer, phone line, desk, name tags, parking passes.

Can I use a VISTA to replace a staff member?

AmeriCorps VISTA positions may not supplant, replace or eliminate staff positions. They are not to be used as an administrative stopgap.

What happens if my VISTA doesn't finish the entire year?

The host site will not be penalized in any way; however, you will not be eligible to apply for another VISTA until the next Pre-Service Orientation

What am I expected to do as the VISTA supervisor?

As VISTA supervisor, you will be expected to give regular feedback to the grant Program Manager through submitting quarterly progress reports, participate in quarterly Supervisor phone calls and schedule at least one site visit with the Program Manager. You are expected to give regular supervision, guidance and feedback to the VISTA member. You will be expected to look for opportunities to encourage professional development and personal growth for your VISTA member. You are required to assist VCM with the recruitment process.

Will I get guidance throughout the year about the VISTA program?

Yes, the Grant Program Manager will be available throughout the VISTA year to answer questions, provide resources and guidance.

How can I best utilize my VISTA?

A VISTA member should be used to fill a need of the volunteer center and community that would otherwise not be accomplished due to lack of time, resources, energy or structural conduciveness. Once the need has been identified the host site can structure the VISTA's work plan to best build the capacity of a program or initiative that will continue to address the need after the VISTA program has ended.