

Becoming a HandsOn AmeriCorps VISTA Host Site



What is AmeriCorps VISTA?

AmeriCorps VISTA is a federal National Service program where members serve in full time roles for 1 year. There are many types of AmeriCorps programs but all VISTA projects engage in indirect service and focus on sustainable capacity building. For example, a VISTA member would NOT tutor kids in a Title I school - an AmeriCorps State or National member could. What a VISTA member would work on is creating that tutoring program, or designing the volunteer recruitment and training for the program.

What can VISTAs do?

VISTA projects must have a focus on poverty alleviation, but there are many ways that might manifest inside a program. Talk to HandsOn about your ideas because we may be able to help you fit it into VISTA. Currently the VISTA focus areas are:

- Economic Opportunity
- Education
- Healthy Futures
- Veterans and Military Families
- Disaster Services
- Environmental Stewardship

The HandsOn difference

Having personally served in Peace Corps and worked for 8+ years in AmeriCorps, our Director of Programing has both personal and professional insight into what potential applicants and serving members are looking for in a year of National Service. AmeriCorps is not an internship, and it's not a job; HandsOn knows how to help craft positions and build the bridge between host sites who need AmeriCorps resources, but are unfamiliar with National Service, and individuals who are looking to serve their communities and country in a meaningful way.

Who are VISTA members?

Many of our VISTA members are coming straight out of college, some are using their AmeriCorps experience to transition into a new field, and a few are even retirees, but one thing unites all members and that is service! They are the people who ask 'What can I do for the country and community?'



“HandsOn provides a great support system of other VISTAs, and provided great professional development resources. The VISTA program in general is a great way to help underserved communities and transition into the workforce after college.”

Dakota Leonard

2020 HANDSON GREATER PHOENIX
AMERICORPS VISTA ALUMNI



Your commitment

AmeriCorps VISTA roles can run up to 3 consecutive years. There is a cost to partners, both financial and in staff hours. As a HandsOn partner you will be involved in the selection process for your member, the host site manager will need to attend some trainings and be a part of ongoing discussions with HandsOn about the member’s performance, and there are brief monthly reports to complete. Financially there is a cost share fee of \$14,000 for the first year.

What’s Next?

If you are interested in becoming a HandsOn AmeriCorps VISTA host site, reach out to us!

- We will send you a 1 hour recorded call that goes in depth about what it takes to be a partner
- We have application deadlines throughout the year
- We have start dates throughout the year but summer is our biggest recruitment period - a 4 month lead time before a new position is posted is typical



AmeriCorps

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“Yes, I would recommend VISTA to a friend or relative because you can make your VISTA year full of growth and opportunity with the right mindset and interest.”

Dionne Brown

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