

AmeriCorps VISTA

# Becoming an AmeriCorps VISTA Project Sponsor

October 5, 2021

# Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Nonpartisan research and policy institute

We pursue federal and state policies designed both to reduce poverty and inequality in equitable and effective ways.

[www.cbpp.org](http://www.cbpp.org)

# Get It Back Campaign

National effort to connect eligible people to tax benefits

Promote the Earned Income Tax Credit, the Child Tax Credit, free tax preparation, and other tax benefits

Work with a network of diverse partners

[www.taxoutreach.org](http://www.taxoutreach.org)

# Check-in Question

Please share your location and organization in the chat!

# Today's Presenters



Meg Ansara

Director  
AmeriCorps VISTA





## Agenda

- Defining AmeriCorps VISTA
- Learning the dos and don'ts for your organization
- Tasking responsibilities
- Connecting to AmeriCorps regional staff and to additional resources
- Q&A



Fighting Poverty



Empowering Low-income  
Communities

Building Capacity for Communities  
and Organizations

Creating Sustainable Solutions

What is  
AmeriCorps  
VISTA?



# AmeriCorps VISTA Project Sponsors



# AmeriCorps VISTA Program Models



## Single Site Model

- Supervisor
- VISTA Member(s)

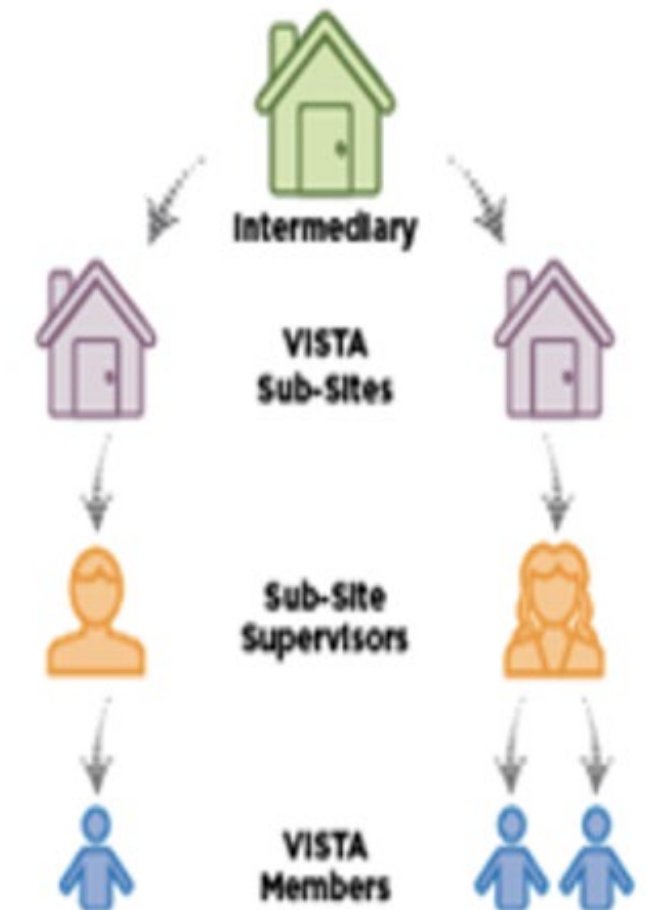
## Intermediary Model

- VISTA sub-sites are in the state; may include sites in another state or cluster
- Sub-site supervisors
- VISTA members(s)

### Sponsoring Organization



### Sponsoring Organization





# Responsibilities: Project Management



Obtain Community input - work **with** , not just for the target population(s)



Performance measures – the results through outputs and outcomes



## Reporting

- Project Progress Reports (PPRs) - two a year
- VISTA Progress Report Supplement (VPRS) - annual, due mid November



## Cost Sharing

- Affordable ways to increase the number of AmeriCorps VISTA members
- Demonstrates that sponsors are invested in the VISTA project's success
- Help expand VISTA Resources across the country





# AmeriCorps VISTA & EITC, CTC



## ETIC & VITA: AmeriCorps VISTA

VISTA has a long history of supporting VITA sites, connecting people to the EITC, and more.



Community Action House (CAH)



United Way of King County



VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Program



# VISTA & Child Tax Credit



## AmeriCorps VISTA + HUD

- 200+ VISTA members will be mobilized to enroll HUD-assisted families for Child Tax Credit (Promise Zones, Envisions Centers and more).



## AmeriCorps Senior + Head Start

- AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers will be able to serve onsite at designated Head Start centers in 16 targeted cities to help non-fliers sign up.



# AmeriCorps VISTA: Program Flexibility



## AmeriCorps VISTA has permitted program flexibility to include CTC activities

- In effect: September 13 - November 15
- Impacts 4,000+ full-time VISTA members
- Activities may include outreach, education, and direct enrollment of eligible individuals for this tax credit



# AmeriCorps VISTA Members

# The Basics

- 18+ years of age
- U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents
- Must pass a criminal history review
- May have specific knowledge skills, or abilities as required by the sponsoring organization
- Local or national recruits



Create Powerful Partnerships with businesses, community leaders, and other stakeholders



Expand current programs in demographic, geographic, and/or programmatic scope

Build volunteer management, leadership and training systems

Leverage both cash and in-kind resources by building development systems

# What Do AmeriCorps VISTA Members Actually Do?





# The Application Process

# VISTA Application Process

A screenshot of the AmeriCorps eGrants login page. The header shows the AmeriCorps logo and 'eGrants' text. The main content area has an orange 'LOGIN' box with fields for 'User Name' and 'Password', a 'Remember me' checkbox, and links for 'Forgot your password? Get help', 'Don't have an eGrants account? Create an account', and 'View system rules of behavior'. Below the login box is a detailed disclaimer about system security and monitoring. At the bottom of the login box are 'Login to eGrants' and 'Click here to disable the pictures' links. The footer contains version and control number information.

**AmeriCorps**

**eGrants**

**LOGIN**

User Name

Password

☐ Remember me

[Forgot your password? Get help](#)

[Don't have an eGrants account? Create an account](#)

[View system rules of behavior](#)

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508 Approved | Contact Help Desk | Privacy  
Release version: 7.5.1

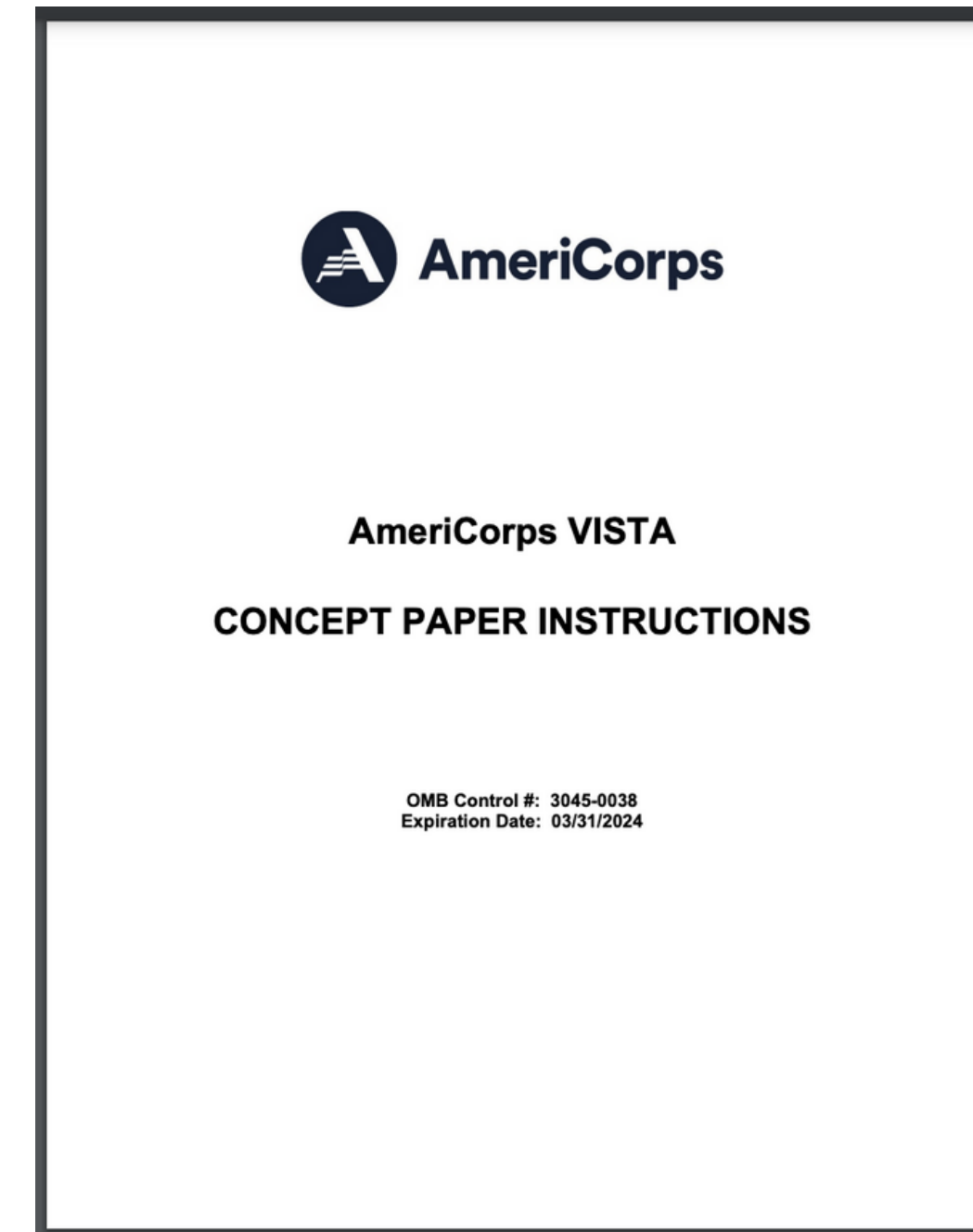
OMB Control Number 3045-0187, expires 12/31/2021

- 1** AmeriCorps VISTA Concept Paper  
Organizations submit an AmeriCorps VISTA Concept Paper. The Concept Paper is a preliminary screening tool used to evaluate whether the organization would be an appropriate sponsor.
- 2** AmeriCorps VISTA Project Application  
If approved, the organization submits an AmeriCorps VISTA Project Application based on the approved Concept Paper.



# Characteristics of a Strong Concept Paper

- Aligns with AmeriCorps focus areas/VISTA programming priorities
- Addresses the needs of a low -income community
- Involves the community in project development and implementation
- Leads to organizational capacity and sustainability
- Generates public or private sector resources
- Promotes local volunteer service
- Be specific about intention tactics



# What Types of Programming Does VISTA Support?

Title: VISTA Annual Guidance  
Date issued: 09/03/2021  
Date posted: 09/03/2021  
Unique identifier: VISTA.001  
Topic: VISTA Annual Program Guidance  
Summary: This guidance for potential and existing project sponsors directs the development of new projects and outlines national programming priorities for FY 2022. The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.



**AmeriCorps**

## **AMERICORPS VISTA ANNUAL PROGRAM GUIDANCE FOR CURRENT AND POTENTIAL PROJECT SPONSORS**

Fiscal Year 2022  
October 1, 2021–September 30, 2022



## AmeriCorps VISTA Request for Concept Papers Timeline

Task	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Concept Papers due by 11:59 pm	November 3, 2021	January 26, 2022	March 23, 2022	June 1, 2022
Concept Paper decisions	December 2021	February 2022	April 2022	July 2022
Application decisions	January 2022	April 2022	May 2022	August 2022



# Completing the Application Process



- ✓ Submit a Full VISTA Application: If your organization's concept paper is accepted, your AmeriCorps Regional Office will notify you and request that you submit a full application.
- ✓ Supervisor Orientation: AmeriCorps will provide a virtual orientation.
- ✓ Member Recruitment: The sponsoring organization will develop a Service Opportunity Listing on eGrants to recruit VISTA candidates.

There are resources available to assist with this process.



# Contacts and Resources

Contact Your Region Office:	<a href="https://americorps.gov/contact/region-offices">https://americorps.gov/contact/region-offices</a>
Request for Concept Papers webpage	<a href="https://americorps.gov/vistarfcg">https://americorps.gov/vistarfcg</a>
FY 22 Notice	<a href="#">FY22 AmeriCorps VISTA Request for Concept Paper Notice</a>
Concept Paper Instructions	<a href="#">AmeriCorps VISTA Concept Paper Instructions</a>
Sponsor a VISTA member	<a href="https://americorps.gov/partner/how-it-works/americorps-vista">https://americorps.gov/partner/how-it-works/americorps-vista</a>
FY22 Annual Program Guidance	<a href="#">FY 22 AmeriCorps VISTA Annual Program Guidance</a>
eGrants	<a href="https://egrants.cns.gov/espan/main/login.jsp">https://egrants.cns.gov/espan/main/login.jsp</a>
National Service Hotline	1-800-942-2677; eGrants technical issues, option 3



# A Project Sponsor's Experience





# Thank You for Attending!

