

NCACDC AMERICORPS/VISTA 2010 WEBINAR

January 15, 2010



OBJECTIVES & PURPOSE FOR WEBINAR

- Encourage members to participate in and promote the 2010 census
- Describe the AmeriCorps and VISTA programs
- Gauge member interest in pursuing a joint application
- Discuss the potential financial and human resource contributions of NCACDC and placement sites



AGENDA

- Webinar Protocol
- Census 2010 Presentation
- Why AmeriCorps or VISTA
- Overview of Programs
- Results of Brief Survey
- Questions/Comments
- Feedback on the Webinar
- Next Steps



PROTOCOL

- We have a lot of information to cover to keep to our timeframe of 1 ½ hours
- During the presentation, we will mute participants
- If you have a question, please raise your hand or email us the question
- We will answer questions during the presentation or during the question and answer portion, as appropriate
- During the question & answer period, we will un-mute participants and you can speak then



CENSUS 2010

- Background
- Action Items
- Contact Information




WHY CONSIDER AMERICORPS

- Succession Planning
- Human resources are needed in the field
- Potentially valuable member benefit




AMERICORPS STATE

Program Overview

 NCA
CDC
NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE
TRUST ACT OF 1993
CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

HISTORY

- 1990: President Bush signs the National and Community Service Act, which authorizes grants to support service-learning and demonstration grants for national service programs to youth corps, nonprofits, and colleges and universities.
- 1993: President Clinton signs the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993, creating AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National Service to expand opportunities for Americans to serve their communities.
- 1994: The first class of AmeriCorps members (20,000) begins serving in more than 1,000 communities.
- 1997: The Presidents' Summit for America's Future, chaired by General Colin Powell, recognizes and expands the role of AmeriCorps and other service programs in meeting the needs of America's youth.
- 1999: AmeriCorps celebrates five years and 150,000 members. The first All*AmeriCorps awards is held at the White House.
- 2009: The Edward M. Kennedy Service America Act, signed by President Obama, reauthorized AmeriCorps and increased its funding.

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FOCUS

- Generate and enable more citizens to perform direct service and capacity building activities to address unmet needs in communities
- Increase volunteerism for placement organizations
- Priority Areas (2010):
 - Education
 - Healthy Futures
 - Mentoring (NC State Priority)
 - Veterans
 - Environment/Clean Energy
 - Opportunity



PARTICIPANT PROFILE

- Main Applicant's project must have no fewer than 20 participants
- At least 17 years old
- Potentially college students, recent college graduates, community residents who are 17-30 years old
- May serve half-time (at least 900 hours) to full-time (at least 1700 hours) over a period not to exceed 12 months



PARTICIPANT COMPENSATION

- Full-time: \$11,800-\$23,600
 - ▣ **Plus benefits, including medical coverage**
- Half-time: \$0-\$12,500
- Education Award up to \$5,350



POTENTIAL WORK AT SITES

“Opportunity” Category

- Community Assessment
- Housing Counseling
- Increase and manage volunteers



MATCH REQUIREMENT

- ❑ Applicant must contribute 24% of project's total combined operating, member, and administrative costs
- ❑ Can be cash or in-kind



FUNDING GAP

- ❑ AmeriCorps will pay up to \$ 13,000 per participant, per year.
- ❑ Full time participants must be covered by a health insurance plan with features dictated by the Corporation, which could cost \$6,000 per person annually.
- ❑ Depending on participant compensation, funding gap could be \$ 10,000 or more per participant.
- ❑ Would require NCACDC fundraising, member fundraising, and/or member cash contribution.



WHAT NCACDC'S ROLE WOULD BE

- Serve as fiscal & reporting agent for the statewide AmeriCorps program
- Collect and retain records for each AmeriCorps participant
- Hire a full-time AmeriCorps Program Director to manage the AmeriCorps grant & a part-time fiscal manager
- Attend required AmeriCorps training/technical assistance sessions
- Work collaboratively with affiliates to recruit interested candidates to the program
- Formulate and create a group project for all AmeriCorps participants



PLACEMENT SITES' ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Design and implement a job description, work plan, outcomes and designate a supervisor for their AmeriCorps participant
- Sponsor a portion of the cost of their individual AmeriCorps members
- Fundraise or assist in NCACDC fundraising, if necessary
- Recruit and hire one or more AmeriCorps participants, with NCACDC assistance
- Release participant for disaster response work, if necessary



TIMEFRAME

- January 15, 2010: NCACDC hosts informational webinar for members
- January 25, 2010: NCACDC's members' letter of interest due
- February 17, 2010: Members apply to participate
- **February 26, 2010: AmeriCorps State application due**
- March 2010: NCACDC members create work plans and job descriptions
- April 2010-July 2010: Recruit AmeriCorps participants
- Mid-September 2010: AmeriCorps participants begin working in their placement sites' offices
- August 2011: AmeriCorps participants end year long service



AMERICORPS VISTA

Program Overview



HISTORY

- 1964: President Johnson authorizes the Economic Opportunity Act, the Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) program to provide full-time volunteers to support the efforts of nonprofit organizations and public agencies working to fight the “War on Poverty” in low-income communities.
- July 1971: The VISTA program transfers from the Office of Economic Opportunity to ACTION, a newly created federal volunteer agency.
- 1993: President Clinton enacted the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993, establishing the Corporation for National and Community Service, and all ACTION programs transfer to the Corporation for National and Community Service. The Corporation oversees a wide range of national service initiatives, including Senior Corps, Learn and Serve, and AmeriCorps.
- 1994: VISTA joined the AmeriCorps network and became AmeriCorps VISTA.



FOCUS

- Anti-poverty program working to bring individuals and communities out of poverty
- Build capacity within organizations to strengthen or expand existing programs, or develop new programs that are sustainable
- Volunteers earn living allowance at poverty level
- *Not* direct service



PARTICIPANT PROFILE

- New applicants must have no fewer than 3 participants
- At least 18 years old
- Potentially recent college graduates, retired persons, community residents, those with at least one stable household income
- **Must** be able to serve full-time for one year
- May **not** hold outside employment or be enrolled in school during term of service



PARTICIPANT COMPENSATION

- Receive a monthly allowance based on the determination of the Corporation, currently \$833 to \$891 per month for NC
- Benefits, including medical coverage from the AmeriCorps VISTA Health Benefits Program
- Segal AmeriCorps Education Award up to \$5,350 or post-service stipend up to \$1,500 cash
- Compensation should not prevent continued receipt of most income based government aid



POTENTIAL WORK AT SITES

- Expand or strengthen existing programs
- Create and manage new programs
- Increase and manage volunteers
- Capacity building for the member, such as fundraising, technology upgrading, etc.
- Benefits Bank



MATCH REQUIREMENTS

- No match is required, but applicants are strongly encouraged to cost-share
- Right now, the expense to cost-share is \$10,500 per VISTA participant
 - Payable monthly**
- If NCACDC elects to cost share, this cost would be spread across the cost of the entire project



FUNDING GAP

- Funding gap could be \$ 4,000 or more per participant.
- Would require NCACDC fundraising, member fundraising, and/or member cash contribution.



WHAT NCACDC'S ROLE WOULD BE

- Serve as fiscal and reporting agent for the VISTA program
- Work collaboratively with affiliates to recruit interested candidates to the program
- Appoint a Project Supervisor to attend the CNCS VISTA Supervisor Training
- Create a group project for all VISTA participants



PLACEMENT SITES' ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Design and implement a job description, work plan, outcomes, and designate a supervisor for their VISTA member
- Recruit VISTA participants for their organization with the assistance of NCACDC
- Release VISTA for disaster response work, if necessary
- Fundraise or assist in NCACDC fundraising, if necessary



APPLICATION DEADLINE

- There are no established deadlines or due dates
- Concept Papers are reviewed within 10 days of the Corporation receiving them
- If the Concept Paper is accepted, a full application is submitted and reviewed within 10 days of the Corporation receiving it
- Submit via eGrants



STEPS TO PROJECT START-UP

- Submit Concept Paper to Corporation
- If approved, submit a full application to Corporation
- If approved, Memorandum of Agreement is issued
- Project Supervisor attends CNCS VISTA Supervisor training
- Project begins recruitment of VISTA member candidates
- Upon approval, candidates are enrolled for the Corporation's Pre-Service Orientation (PSO)
- Candidates who complete PSO successfully are sworn in and begin service immediately for the term of one year



BRIEF SURVEY RESULTS

- Four respondents to the survey
- 75% are familiar with either AmeriCorps State or AmeriCorps VISTA
- 25% have participated in an AmeriCorps program
- 75% are interested in being a part of the AmeriCorps program if organizational financial support is required
- Descriptions of ideal candidates:
 - ▣ **Creative, flexible, good listener, hard worker, follows directions**
- Potential participant work assignments:
 - ▣ **Financial literacy, housing related work, community economic development tasks**



BRIEF SURVEY RESULTS

- 100% of respondents are willing to allow their participants to devote some time to a group project designed by NCACDC
- Benefits to Placement Organizations:
 - **More office support: 100%**
 - **Someone will be there to work directly with the community: 100%**
 - **Opportunity to train young people in Community Economic Development: 100%**
 - **Strengthen or expand existing programs: 75%**
 - **Opportunity to expand pool of potential hires: 50%**
 - **Create a new program: 25%**
- 75% believe the AmeriCorps State program is the best program for NCACDC's sponsorship



QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

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ASSESSMENT OF WEBINAR

- Was the information clearly conveyed?
- Did you learn something new?
- Are you more or less interested in participating now that you have more information?
- Was this the right amount of time to discuss the topic?
- Is the webinar format effective for information sharing?



NEXT STEPS

- January 25th: Deadline for letter of interest
- January 29th: NCACDC notifies potential sites of chosen program, if any, for 2010
- February 3: NCADC disseminates work plan and application template
- February 17: AmeriCorps application due from members



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Governor's Commission
 - ▣ <http://www.volunteernc.org/>
- Corporation for National and Community Service
 - ▣ <http://www.cns.gov>
- AmeriCorps VISTA
 - ▣ <http://www.americorps.gov/about/programs/vista.asp>
- Benefits Bank
 - ▣ <http://www.mdcinc.org/programs/wsi.aspx>
- Census 2010
 - ▣ <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/>



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT



NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS

Lea Henry or Shoneca Evans
3109 Poplarwood Ct, Ste 209
Raleigh, NC 27604
ph: 919-831-9710