

<b>AmeriCorps State Versus AmeriCorps VISTA</b>	
AmeriCorps State and AmeriCorps VISTA present two different types of service opportunities. The bulk of an AmeriCorps State member's hours would be involved in direct service (usually face to face service of direct benefit to the recipient). AmeriCorps VISTA members primarily provide indirect service, building the capacity of the organization to be able to provide direct service.	
<b>AmeriCorps State – Direct Service</b>	<b>AmeriCorps VISTA – Indirect Service</b>
Examples of Activities:	Examples of Activities:
Running an after school program	Setting up an after school program
Tutoring	Not tutor but create tutor program
Engaging in a community clean up program	Planning a community clean up program
Providing health information to a vulnerable population	Creating/obtaining health information; planning logistics on information delivery; research
<b>Description – AmeriCorps State</b>	<b>Description – AmeriCorps VISTA</b>
<p>Focuses on areas such as education, public safety, health, and the environment.</p> <p>AmeriCorps State programs engage AmeriCorps members in providing direct service to address unmet community needs. Sample activities include tutoring and mentoring youth, assisting crime victims, building homes, and restoring parks. Members also help to recruit community volunteers to expand the reach and effectiveness of the organization where they serve.</p> <p>.Source:  <a href="http://www.americorps.gov/for_organizations/apply/state.asp">http://www.americorps.gov/for_organizations/apply/state.asp</a></p>	<p>Designed specifically to fight poverty. Founded as Volunteers in Service to America in 1965 and incorporated into the AmeriCorps network of programs in 1993, VISTA has been on the front lines in the fight against poverty in America for 40 years.</p> <p>VISTAs perform indirect service, which means they help build the capacity of organizations to deliver valuable direct services to people living in poverty. VISTAs typically create new programs, write grants, and recruit volunteers. For example, a VISTA could establish a tutoring program, recruit and train volunteers, and raise money for the program—but would not tutor the children.</p> <p>Source:  <a href="http://www.americorps.gov/for_individuals/choose/vista_faq.asp">http://www.americorps.gov/for_individuals/choose/vista_faq.asp</a></p>
<b>Federal Regulations – Direct Service and Capacity Building</b>	
<p><b><i>Direct Service</i></b>  <b>2520.25 What direct service activities may AmeriCorps members perform?</b></p> <p>(a) The AmeriCorps members you support under your grant may perform direct service activities that will advance the goals of your program, that will result in a specific identifiable service or improvement that otherwise would not be provided, and that are included in, or consistent with, your Corporation-approved grant application.</p> <p>(b) Your members' direct service activities must address local environmental, educational, public safety (including disaster preparedness and response), or other human needs.</p> <p>(c) Direct service activities generally refer to activities</p>	<p><b><i>Capacity Building</i></b>  <b>§ 2520.30 What capacity-building activities may AmeriCorps members perform?</b></p> <p>Capacity-building activities that AmeriCorps members perform should enhance the mission, strategy, skills, and culture, as well as systems, infrastructure, and human resources of an organization that is meeting unmet community needs. Capacity-building activities help an organization gain greater independence and sustainability.</p> <p>(a) The AmeriCorps members you support under your grant may perform capacity-building activities that advance your program's goals and that are included in, or consistent with, your Corporation-approved grant application.</p> <p>(b) Examples of capacity-building activities your</p>

<p>that provide a direct, measurable benefit to an individual, a group, or a community.</p> <p>(d) Examples of the types of direct service activities AmeriCorps members may perform include, but are not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Tutoring children in reading;</li> <li>(2) Helping to run an after-school program;</li> <li>(3) Engaging in community clean-up projects;</li> <li>(4) Providing health information to a vulnerable population;</li> <li>(5) Teaching as part of a professional corps;</li> <li>(6) Providing relief services to a community affected by a disaster; and</li> <li>(7) Conducting a neighborhood watch program as part of a public safety effort.</li> </ul>	<p>members may perform include, but are not limited to, the following:</p> <p>(1) Strengthening volunteer management and recruitment, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Enlisting, training, or coordinating volunteers;</li> <li>(ii) Helping an organization develop an effective volunteer management system;</li> <li>(iii) Organizing service days and other events in the community to increase citizen engagement;</li> <li>(iv) Promoting retention of volunteers by planning recognition events or providing ongoing support and follow-up to ensure that volunteers have a high-quality experience; and</li> <li>(v) Assisting an organization in reaching out to individuals and communities of different backgrounds when encouraging volunteering to ensure that a breadth of experiences and expertise is represented in service activities.</li> </ul> <p>(2) Conducting outreach and securing resources in support of service activities that meet specific needs in the community;</p> <p>(3) Helping build the infrastructure of the sponsoring organization, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Conducting research, mapping community assets, or gathering other information that will strengthen the sponsoring organization's ability to meet community needs;</li> <li>(ii) Developing new programs or services in a sponsoring organization seeking to expand;</li> <li>(iii) Developing organizational systems to improve efficiency and effectiveness;</li> <li>(iv) Automating organizational operations to improve efficiency and effectiveness;</li> <li>(v) Initiating or expanding revenue-generating operations directly in support of service activities; and</li> <li>(vi) Supporting staff and board education.</li> </ul> <p>(4) Developing collaborative relationships with other organizations working to achieve similar goals in the community, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Community organizations, including faith-based organizations;</li> <li>(ii) Foundations;</li> <li>(iii) Local government agencies;</li> <li>(iv) Institutions of higher education; and</li> <li>(v) Local education agencies or organizations.</li> </ul>
<p>Following is a chart of key differences provided by CNCS and available for download at <a href="http://www.nationalserviceresources.org/links/chart-key-differences-among-ameri-corps-programs">http://www.nationalserviceresources.org/links/chart-key-differences-among-ameri-corps-programs</a>. Note that any citation of education award or stipend amounts will be an outdated amount.</p>	

## Key Differences among the AmeriCorps Programs

Category	AmeriCorps VISTA Projects	AmeriCorps State Programs	AmeriCorps National Programs
<b>Member term of service</b>	Full-time only: 365 days	Full-time, Half-time, Reduced Half-time, Quarter-Time, Minimum-Time	Full-time, Half-time, Reduced Half-time, Quarter-Time, Minimum-Time
<b>Member stipend/living allowance payments</b>	Administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service (unless VISTA project has a Program Grant)	Administered by the Grantee	Administered by the Grantee
<b>Member support costs (stipend and benefits)</b>	Covered by the Corporation (unless the VISTA project is a Cost-share)	Required for full-time members and optional for others. Programs can use Corporation grant funds or match funding to cover member support costs.	Required for full-time members and optional for others. Programs can use Corporation grant funds or match funding to cover member support costs.
<b>Member Training</b>	Corporation provides a Pre-service Orientation to all new VISTA members	Grantee is responsible for training members	Grantee is responsible for training members
<b>Member Service</b>	Capacity Building activities, incidental direct service only	Direct service and capacity building activities	Direct service and capacity building activities
<b>Member Fundraising</b>	No limit on % of time spent raising funds for the organization	cannot allot more than 10% of their time to fundraising for the AmeriCorps program	cannot allot more than 10% of their time to fundraising for the AmeriCorps program
<b>Segal AmeriCorps Education award and end of term options</b>	Members choose a Segal AmeriCorps education award of \$4725 OR a \$1200 cash stipend, paid upon successful completion of service.	Members receive a Segal AmeriCorps Education award appropriate for the term of service completed. There is NO choice of a cash option.	Members receive a Segal AmeriCorps Education award appropriate for the term of service completed. There is NO choice of a cash option.
<b>Operational support costs</b>	Projects contribute 100% of the operating costs in cash or in-kind; some training and support money may be available	New programs must contribute a minimum of 24% of the total program costs in cash or in-kind.  Overall grantee share of total budget increases gradually to 50% overall share by the tenth year of funding and any year thereafter.	New programs must contribute a minimum of 24% of the total program costs in cash or in-kind.  Overall grantee share of total budget increases gradually to 50% overall share by the tenth year of funding and any year thereafter.
<b>Reporting Requirements</b>	Program reports required quarterly in first year, often reduced to semi-annual thereafter; financial reports required only for programs receiving grants	Set by the State Commission, programs	Programs submit annual progress reports due the first Monday in December and semi-annual Financial Status reports directly to the Corporation
<b>Application Submission process</b>	Begins with a Concept Paper submitted to the Corporation State Office.	Begins with Commission issuing a Request for Proposals and applicants applying directly to the State Commission	Begins with submission of an application directly to the Corporation
<b>Results</b>	Member service must lift	Determined by State and	Determined by CNCS

<b>Requirements</b>	people out of poverty and be sustainable; program must address one or more CNCS strategic initiatives	CNCS priorities as well as program identified performance measures	priorities as well as program identified performance measures
<b>Application Deadline</b>	No set deadline; contact your CNCS State Office	One annual deadline for each grant competition. Check with State Commissions for specific deadlines.	Specific annual deadline for Planning Grant applicants and a separate annual deadline for all other grant competitions.