WASHINGTON SERVICE CORPS
VISTA Program
Frequently Asked Questions
for Request for Application (RFA)
Program Year August 30, 2013 – August 29, 2014

Questions posted on February 22, 2013

Q We will be applying for 4 positions total in 2 separate departments doing completely different tasks. Should we combine them into one RFA or separate them out into 2?

A If the members would have different tasks on the same project you could do one application with two VADs and Position Descriptions. If they are in different departments or different projects, please submit one application per project.

Q What is the difference between AmeriCorps and VISTA members?

A VISTA is one of the AmeriCorps branches, but the main difference between AmeriCorps State members and VISTA members is that VISTAs perform indirect, capacity building services focused on poverty alleviation while AmeriCorps State members serve the organization’s client directly. For example; in an education or school based project, an AmeriCorps member may directly tutor students while VISTA members may create the tracking tools for the program or leverage resources or develop partnerships to support the program.

Q My organization is outside of the new VISTA region. Can I host a WSC AmeriCorps Individual Placement member?

A While the WSC VISTA program will be changing to support a specific region, our Individual Placement (IP) program will remain a state-wide program. If your project includes a direct service element you can absolutely apply to host an IP member regardless of what county in Washington your organization is in. Please contact the IP program at wscip@esd.wa.gov or visit their page on the WSC website.

Q My organization would like to develop a new project that is specifically focused on the low-income population but does not have that established yet. Do we need to already be serving people in poverty to apply?

A VISTA projects must not simply help low-income individuals, but be working toward moving people out of poverty. If you have a project that does this, then it does not matter what stage of development the project is in, you are welcome to apply to host a VISTA to build the capacity of that project.
Q My organization connects low-income individuals to participate in a sport. Do we qualify for a VISTA member?

A As noted in the last question, VISTA projects must actively move people out of poverty. If you have a compelling application that includes research regarding how participation in your program can move people out of poverty you are welcome to apply to host a VISTA.