The WSC AmeriCorps*VISTA program will release the Request for Applications (RFA) on 2/14/13.

The RFA is due on 3/22/13 for a program start date of 9/2013.

**“Fighting Poverty with Passion”**

The Washington Service Corps (WSC), a unit of the Employment Security Department (ESD), is seeking applicants to sponsor AmeriCorps*VISTA members who will serve in high-quality projects that strengthen communities by addressing critical unmet needs that fulfill the AmeriCorps*VISTA mission of “Fighting Poverty with Passion.” As an intermediary organization, the WSC operates a multi-site AmeriCorps*VISTA program by developing partnerships with sponsor organizations across an 11 county region in Southwest Washington.

**Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA)**

VISTA members provide indirect service through capacity building and sustainability. VISTA members strengthen and support organizations by building infrastructure, expanding community partnerships, securing long-term resources, coordinating training for participants, and more, as determined by local needs. VISTA members create systems that remain long after their service ends.

VISTA members are men and women ages 18 and older who commit to full-time service (averaging 40 hours per week) for a 12 month program year. A member placement cost is required for all sponsors. Project sponsors must have the capacity and commitment to direct the AmeriCorps*VISTA project, supervise the VISTA member, and provide necessary administrative support to complete the goals and objectives of the project. The goals and objectives must be clearly defined and directed toward alleviating problems of low-income communities, and meet the regulations of AmeriCorps*VISTA.

**Who Can Apply to Host a AmeriCorps*VISTA member:**

- State, local, and tribal government organizations;
- Nonprofit, private organizations; not limited to those with IRS 501(c)(3) status, but rather all organizations with IRS 501(c) status (organizations that focus solely on advocacy and lobbying ARE NOT eligible).
- Organizations that have projects with a specific focus on anti-poverty and community development while supporting one of the project focus areas (listed on the left).
- Schools: school districts, educational service districts, colleges, universities, alternative schools and others.
- Provide programming within the region including the following counties; Clallam, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, Thurston, and Wahkiakum.

AmeriCorps*VISTA has been addressing the needs of low-income communities since 1964. More than 40 years later, more than 170,000 committed individuals have joined forces with 15,000 local organizations to strengthen low-income communities and help people escape poverty across the nation. Connect your organization with this legacy of national service.
**What can an AmeriCorps*VISTA do for you?**

- Recruit volunteers
- Develop press kits, media database, develop presence on social media
- Grant writing
- Develop a donor database
- Develop a volunteer management system and procedural guide
- Develop community partnerships
- Create mechanisms for project evaluation

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**AmeriCorps*VISTA Core Principles**

All AmeriCorps*VISTA projects must address the following core principles.

**Anti-Poverty Focus:** AmeriCorps*VISTA projects must be focused on moving people out of poverty in the community not just making it more tolerable.

**Community Empowerment:** AmeriCorps*VISTA requires project sponsors to involve residents of the community in planning, developing, and implementing the AmeriCorps*VISTA project.

**Capacity Building:** AmeriCorps*VISTA expands the ability of sponsor organizations to fight poverty. Rather than providing services to low-income individuals and communities, AmeriCorps*VISTA projects strengthen and support organizations by building infrastructure, expanding community partnerships, securing long-term resources, coordinating training for participants and much more.

**Sustainable Solutions:** AmeriCorps*VISTA projects should lead to building organizational or community capacity that will continue the efforts of the projects even after AmeriCorps*VISTA resources are withdrawn.

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**Facts about the Washington Service Corps AmeriCorps*VISTA program in the 2011-2012 service year:**

- Developed **more than $620,000 in cash resources.**
- Promoted the service of Veterans, reporting more than **2,600 hours of service.**
- Supported projects that served over **22,000 disadvantaged youth.**
- Leveraged **in-kind donations totaling more than $121,000.**
- Facilitated the service of **1,158 disadvantaged youth.**
- Reported more than **14,000 community volunteer hours** as a result of AmeriCorps*VISTA projects.

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Visit WSC online at www.esd.wa.gov/washingtonservicecorps/

For further notification of the official RFA release and New Partner Information Session, or if you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Burns, AmeriCorps*VISTA Program Coordinator at wscvista@esd.wa.gov or by phone at (360) 725-9523