

PROJECT OVERVIEW

ELIGIBILITY

VISTAs must be at least 18 years old. There is no upper age limit and many AmeriCorps VISTA members bring significant work and life experiences to their assignment. Texas Campus Compact VISTAs should have an associate's degree or better and a history of community service. Self-initiative, flexibility and organizational skills are a must.

Given that VISTA is a full-time position, VISTA members are not permitted to take classes during their year of service or have outside jobs.

TERMS AND BENEFITS OF SERVICE

In return for a year of full-time service, TXCC VISTAs also receive other benefits as well:

- \$4,725 Segal AmeriCorps Education Award or \$1,200 post-service stipend
- Modest living allowance (varies by county)
- Healthcare benefits while in service
- Childcare assistance while in service (if eligible)
- Student loan forbearance or deferment while in service (if eligible)
- One year of noncompetitive status for a federal government job
- Access to the network of VISTA & VISTA alumni (170,000 strong)

ELIGIBILITY FOR VISTA EXTENSION AND RENEWAL

AmeriCorps VISTA members are allowed to serve for three years with AmeriCorps; however, VISTA members are only allowed to receive two Education Awards. VISTA members are strongly encouraged to serve a second term. VISTA members may also extend their service for up to 11 months if he/she is unable to commit to a full term. In the event that the VISTA member wishes to extend or renew his/her service at the current host site, the following must be submitted to TXCC one month prior to the VISTA member's end of service term:

- Written notice from VISTA member that he/she intends to extend
- A letter from the VISTA supervisor supporting the VISTA member's extension
- The supervisor and VISTA member must provide a detailed outline of what the VISTA member's activities, project goals and project outcomes will be throughout the duration of the extension
- VISTA member will need to complete and submit all required CNCS paperwork

RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES

The following are restrictions on the use of AmeriCorps VISTA positions:

- TXCC AmeriCorps VISTA members are not permitted to engage in any political or lobbying activities including voter registration drives.
- TXCC AmeriCorps VISTA members are not permitted to hold another job or receive additional compensation for work performed as well as serving as a full-time student.
- TXCC AmeriCorps VISTA members are not permitted to proselytize or engage in related religious activities.

TXCC AmeriCorps VISTA positions may not supplant, replace or eliminate staff positions. They are not to be used as an administrative stopgap.