Community Action and VISTA: A Beautiful Match!

August 14, 2019



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Hello There!
Glad that you made it!
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LEARNING COMMUNITIES RESOURCE CENTER



The Promise of Community Action

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

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COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP

THE LEARNING COMMUNITY

Building Capacity to Increase Impact

***Purpose**: The purpose of the LCRC is to analyze Community Action outcomes and identify effective, promising, and innovative practice models that alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty.*

Build CAA Capacity To Fight Poverty!

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THE LCRC TEAM



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AGENDA

- A Brief History
- AmeriCorps and VISTA Structure
- VISTA in Virginia
- Q&A

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QUESTION FOR CHAT WINDOW

Have you ever been/hosted an AmeriCorps VISTA Member?

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In the beginning…



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– 1964 –
Office of Economic Opportunity

- Community Action
- VISTA
- Head Start
- Legal Aid
- Job Corps
- And more!



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Mission of VISTA



VISTA builds capacity in nonprofit organizations and communities to help bring individuals and communities out of poverty.

Core Principles

- Ending poverty
- Empowering communities
- Building capacity
- Creating sustainable solutions

Who are VISTAs?

- Are at least 18 years old; no upper age limit
- Are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents
- Pass a criminal history review
- Meet knowledge, skill, and ability requirements set by the sponsoring organization
- Serve full-time
- Make a one year commitment

Who are VISTAs

Nationally

- 81% female
- 82% born in 1982 or later
- 93% are experienced volunteers
- 68% have more than two years of volunteer experience
- 62% are local recruits
- 38% are national recruits



From: CNCS AmeriCorps VISTA agency data 2011-13

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VISTAs' Responsibilities

- Engage in capacity-building activities
- Create sustainable projects
- Perform activities outlined in VAD
- Meet with a supervisor weekly
- Support efforts to gather data and information

Capacity Building

vs.

Direct Service

Tasks & activities to expand the scale, reach, efficiency, or effectiveness of programs or organizations.

The act of providing services to the identified recipients or clients of a program.

VISTA vs. Staff

- VISTA ***cannot*** replace the duties of an existing staff member
- VISTAs ***cannot*** conduct administrative support duties
- VISTAs ***are not*** interns

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Who are VISTA Leaders?

VISTA Leaders have already served as a VISTA for one year or more.

- Projects with 6 or more VISTAs may have a Leader assigned to help support the members
- Leaders guide data collection & interpret data (but not perform the reporting)
- They coordinate, facilitate, and support the efforts of VISTAs (but do not supervise)

VISTA Member Benefits



- Living allowance
- Education award or end of service stipend
- Professional development
- Health benefits
- Childcare benefits
- Housing assistance (optional)
- Mileage reimbursement for service-related travel

http://www.vistacampus.gov/in-service/benefits-service



Project & Member Management

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Site Supervisor Expectations: Overview

- Orient VISTAs
- Participate in supervisor meetings and site visits conducted by the Intermediary, CNCS State Office, or CNCS Headquarters
- Dedicate time to meet with your VISTAs each week
- Serve as supervisor, coach, and mentor to VISTAs
- Ensure timely submission of member attendance documents & reports
- Complete end of term evaluation

Site Supervisor Expectations: Member Management

- Onboarding, orientation and training
- Administrative support (space, supplies, equipment)
- Supervision (guidance, support, coaching)
- Attendance and leave monitoring
- Service-related transportation (not commuting)
- Sponsor Verification Form
- Emergency Funds Advance, if required
- Acknowledge members as VISTAs and AmeriCorps as a funder/supporter

Addressing Member Issues

Prohibited activities

- Replace the duties of an existing staff member
- Perform political or religious advocacy
- Manage or apply for CNCS grants or sub-grants

The VISTA Member Support Unit (VMSU)

National Service Hotline

Toll Free: 800-942-2677

Fax: 202-403-3457

questions.nationalservice.gov

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Helping Your VISTA

What can you do as a VISTA sponsor to support your VISTA member?

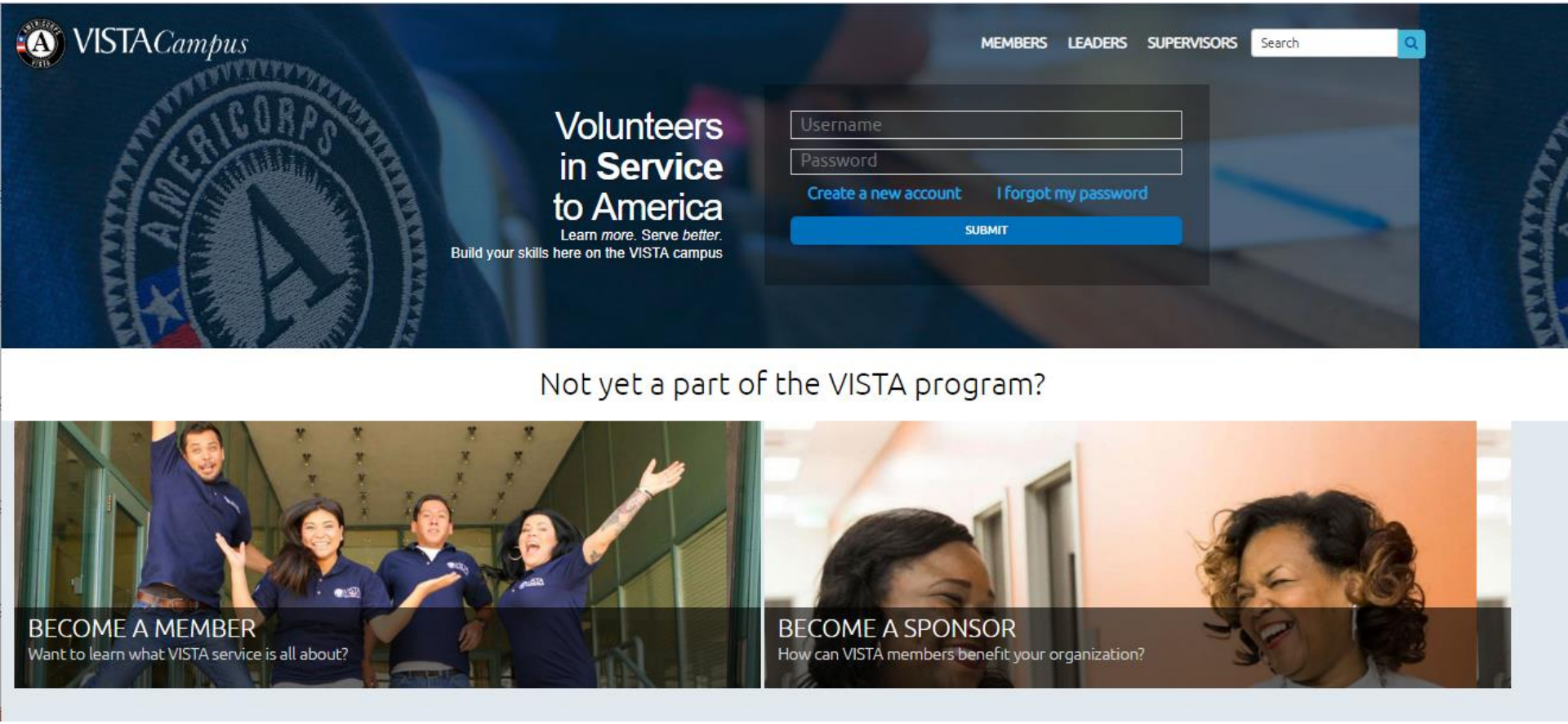
- Housing
- Food/gifts
- Clothing/Promotional items (agency logo apparel)
- Health insurance
- Ongoing training

Be fair and equitable in support to all VISTAs serving with you

VISTAs and Housing

- Know your VISTAs' status (already secured housing or arriving directly from PSO)
- Advise VISTAs on safe areas to live
- Ask Board, staff, community for housing leads
- Offer temporary housing if possible during the search
- Allow VISTAs time for the search and settling in

https://www.vistacampus.gov/



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Community Action VISTA Program in Virginia

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The Virginia CAA VISTA Program

- Virginia State CSBG Office is the Intermediary for the CNCS VISTA Program.
- Started our program in 2016 with 4 VISTA members at 4 CAA's in Virginia
- Currently we have 10 VISTAs in service and have 7 open VISTA slots.
- 15 of 31 agencies have had a VISTA or are currently recruiting a member

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The Virginia CAA VISTA Program

- All CAA's have the chance to apply annually for a VISTA slot.
- State CSBG Staff review applications and award VISTA slots.
- We have MOU's and stated cost share amounts that each agency pays to our office.
- Cost share amounts are determined by the amount we are obligated to pay to CNCS split by the number of members awarded.

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Structure of Program

- Agencies choose the focus and objective of their project during the application phase. We allow agencies to choose the objectives that are most needed.
- Many agencies have focused on:
  - Community Needs Assessment
  - Marketing
  - Fund Development
  - Volunteer Recruitment/ Management
- Opioid and Addiction VISTA projects
  - CNCS had a priority to have VISTAs work on Opioid and Addiction specific projects and last year we had 4 VISTAs who specifically focused on opioid projects

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Highlights

- CAA understanding of VISTA and National Service Programs.
- VISTAs understanding of Community Action.
- And of course the results for the agencies!

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Highlights

- **2016-2018 Results!**
  - 533 community volunteers recruited
  - 2025 # of Service Hours performed by Community Volunteers who were recruited
  - $32,739 - Dollar value of cash resources leveraged during the reporting period
  - $290,510 Dollar value of in-kind resources leveraged during the reporting period (a VISTA secured $241,200 in mental health services for her community)
  - 5 Completed Comprehensive Community Needs Assessments
  - Multiple updated marketing and development plans including new website development and social media
  - A recidivism study for our Statewide Re-entry program
  - 23 Listening sessions across Virginia to understand the current opioid crisis and develop community responses and resources
  - …. And many more!

Challenges

- **Recruitment** – finding the right candidates has been increasingly harder
- **Administrative Burden** – Running the program at the state level is time consuming
- **Supervision** – Agencies must provide a site supervisor, that person commits to providing support to the VISTA Member

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Comments and Discussion

In the Chat window, please tell us:

- **What support or tools would be most helpful?**
- **Comments and questions!**



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August 21st: Census 2020: Why Your CAA MUST Be Involved!

https://communityactionpartnership.com/events/category/webinars/

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Training & Technical Assistance

The Community Action Partnership offers a variety of Training & Technical Assistance (T/TA) to meet the needs of the national network. Topics include, but are not limited to:

Management & Operations

Organizational Standards
Community Needs Assessment
Strategic Planning Data Analysis
Board Governance Succession
Planning Customer Satisfaction
Systems Strategic Financing
Risk Assessment

Innovative Practices

Two-Generation Approaches
Bundling Services
Financial Empowerment
Racial Equity
Trauma Informed Approaches
Health Intersections
Homelessness Poverty Trends
Developing a Learning Community



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We design and deliver trainings tailored to the needs of our Network:
Webinars | Workshops | 1-2 day In-Person Trainings

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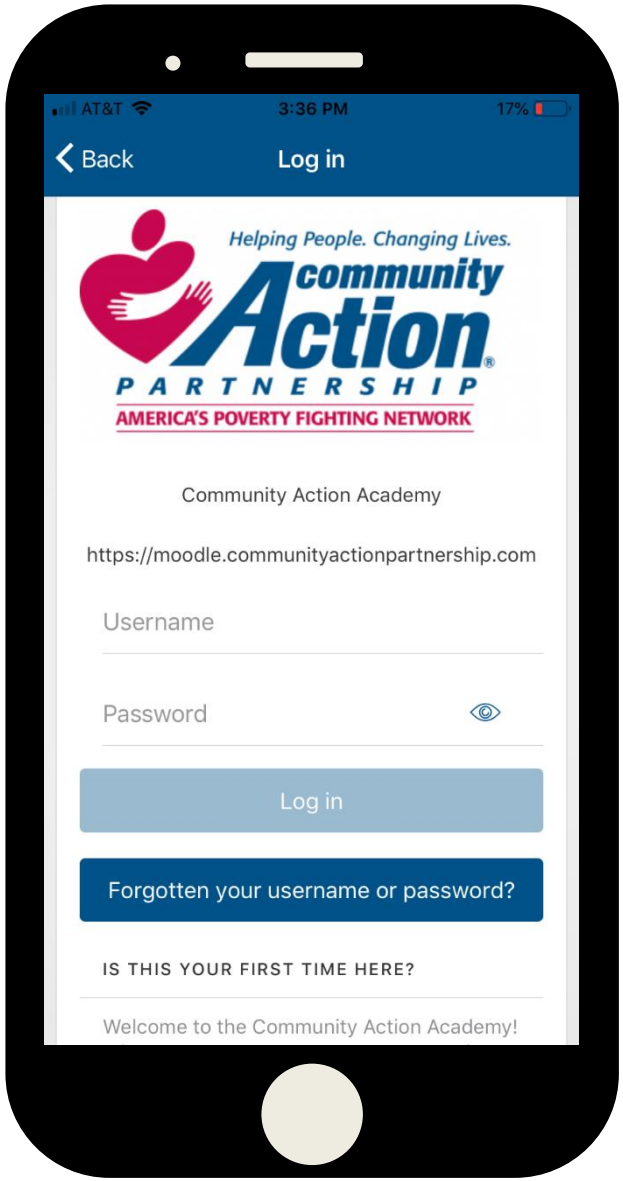
Community Action Academy

Moodle is an online learning platform designed to provide trainers and learners with a single robust, secure, and integrated system to create personalized learning environments. https://moodle.communityactionpartnership.com

Free & Accessible to the entire Community Action Network!

- ✓ On-demand courses, videos & resources
- ✓ Peer Engagement & Virtual Networking
- ✓ Virtual space for Learning Community Groups

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NEW! Mobile App for Community Action Academy

1) Search your **App Store** (Apple) or **Google Play** (Andriod) for the official moodle app (can simply type "moodle").

2) Once the app is downloaded to device, enter URL: **moodle.communityactionpartnership.com**

3) Login on the moodle app using your same credentials for Community Action Academy on the computer.

For more information, you can visit this link.

Celebrating 55 Years of Community Action

https://communityactionpartnership.com/ac2019/



2019

COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL CONVENTION

COMMUNITY ACTION: A VOICE FOR CHANGE

CHICAGO, IL • AUGUST 28-30, 2019

#CAPCON19 @CAPartnership

2020 MANAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP TRAINING CONFERENCE

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

Sheraton Puerto Rico Hotel







January 8-10, 2020

SAVE THE DATE



2019 Annual Convention

LCRC Session Offerings

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LCRC Session Offerings

Wednesday, August 28

General Sessions

AM: **Building Belonging in a Time of Othering** with ***john powell***

A Roadmap to Reducing Child Poverty with ***Child Welfare League of America*** & the ***American Academy of Pediatrics***

PM: **Poverty, Equity, and Migration** with ***Hope Border Institute; Community Action Partnership National Board, and Journalist Robert Moore***

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LCRC Session Offerings

Wednesday, August 28

Deep Dive Presentations

3:30 – 5 pm

- ❑ **Introduce or Re-Introduce Yourself to Your Community From the Whole Family/ 2Gen Model Perspective**
  - ➢ *Presenters – Metropolitan Action Commission*

- ❑ **From Insights to Innovation: Using Human Insights to Improve Racial Equity in Financial Empowerment Program Design**
  - ➢ *Presenters – Prosperity Now*

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LCRC Session Offerings

Thursday, August 29

Deep Dive Presentations

10:15 – 11:30 am

- **Learning Community Practice Transformation**
  - *Presenters – Whole Family Approach COP member agencies*
- **Universal Screening for Trauma & Adversity**
  - *Presenters – UCSF Benioff Oakland Childrens Hospital*

1:45 – 3:15 pm

- **Racial Healing Circle**
  - *Presenters – Tiffney Marley, Mee Mou, and local Racial Healing Practitioners*

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LCRC Session Offerings

Friday, August 30

Deep Dive Presentations

9:15 – 10:45 am

- **Applying a Racial Equity Lens to Creating a Trauma-Informed Organization**
  - *Presenters – Dr. Denese Shervington*
- **Securing America's Future: Two Generation/Whole Family Approaches to Reducing Poverty**
  - *Presenters – Jeannie Chaffin*
- **Incorporating Financial Education and Account Access into Workforce Programs**
  - *Presenters – FDIC*

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Thank You!



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