

VISTA Program Update

City Council Meeting
January 17, 2017

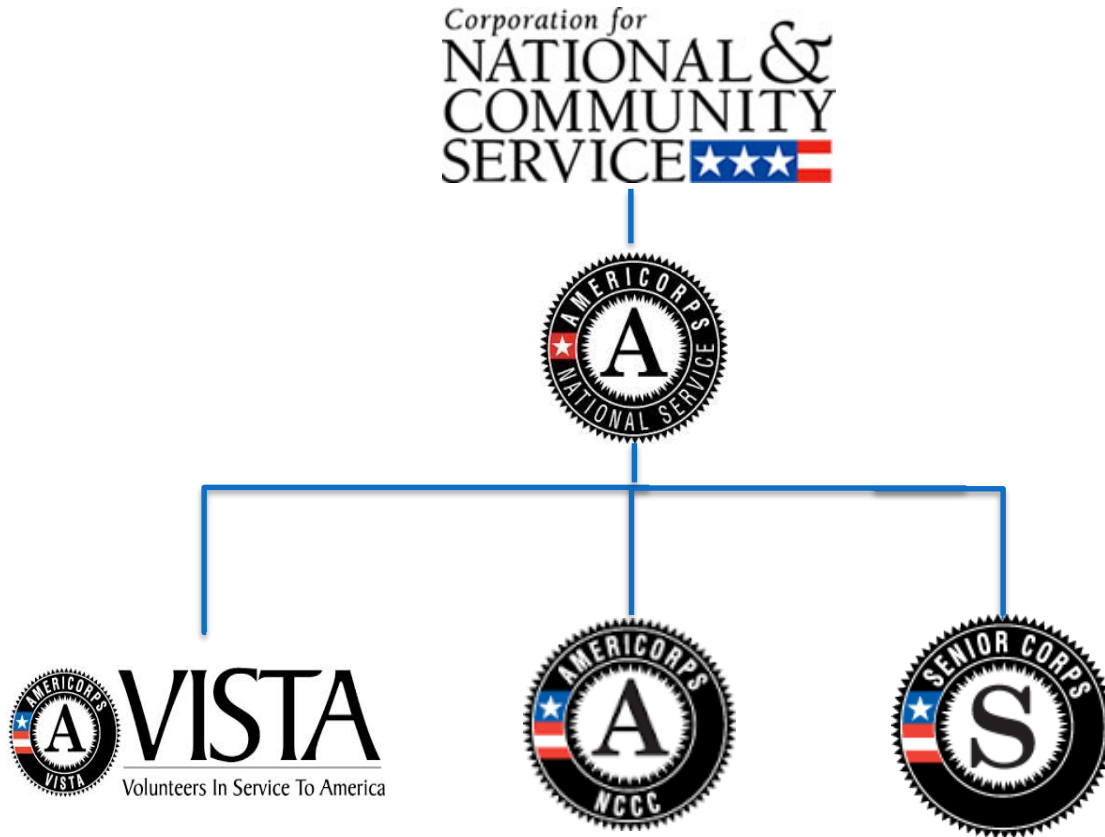


VISTA Program

- VISTA was founded as Volunteers in Service to America in 1965 as a national service program designed specifically to fight poverty in America.
- In 1993, VISTA was incorporated into the AmeriCorps network of programs.
- Members make a year-long, full-time commitment to serve on a specific project at a nonprofit organization or public agency.
 - Build the organizational, administrative, and financial capacity of organizations
 - Emphasis assist low-income communities.
- Public, private, or faith-based nonprofit organizations, as well as, local, state, or federal agencies can become an AmeriCorps VISTA sponsor.



Program Opportunities



Avondale Educational and Community Engagement Initiative (AECE)

- **Program Strategies**

- Harnessing volunteers to improve the housing of low-income residents
- Encouraging parents to engage in their children's education
- Connecting residents to technology and educational resources through the libraries
- Funneling volunteers to support the schools
- Supporting the volunteer needs of non-profit organizations
- Educating residents on consumer scams, predatory lending and crime prevention



Avondale Educational and Community Engagement Initiative (AECE)

Sites

- Neighborhood and Family Services Department
- Parks, Recreation and Libraries Department
- Avondale Police Department



AmeriCorps VISTA

Council approval in 2014

- Five VISTA Members (two cost shares FY15)
- \$150 Monthly Housing Stipend

Current Members

- Community Engagement(1) – October 2017
- Crime Prevention (1) – October 2017
- Parks, Rec. & Libraries(1) – February 20, 2017
- Housing Stipend has been increased to \$300 per month



Project Summaries

- Overview
 - 8,186 Hours of volunteer service generated
 - \$186,886 in volunteer service
 - \$166,792 in direct service (NCCC & Summer VISTA)
 - \$7,960 in funds generated (grants & sponsorships)
- PD Programs
 - Inventory of crime prevention materials for distribution
 - Crime prevention modules for training
 - Crime Scene Technician Program
- PRLD Programs
 - One Step Beyond - Vocational Training
 - Volunteer recruitment
 - Friends of Libraries & Recreation development
- NFSD Programs
 - Research volunteer management systems
 - Develop grant applications
 - Volunteer recruitment
 - Parent Volunteer Project



NCCC Program

- NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps)
 - AmeriCorps NCCC is a full-time, team-based residential program for men and women age 18-24.
 - Direct service program with 8-12 member teams
 - First project (January 8- February 19, 2015)
 - Housing Study
 - Born Learning Trail
 - Community Enhancements
 - Energy Conservation
 - Second project (January 7 – February 18, 2016)
 - Energy Conservation
 - Park improvement projects
 - Wetlands clean-up
 - Painted 4 homes



Summer Associates

- **VISTA Summer Associate program**
 - The VISTA Summer Associate program is an 8 to 10 week direct service summer program.
 - Existing sponsors are selected and encouraged to work with community partners to enhance programs that engage youth in productive summer activities
 - The 2015 team provided STEM programming to 317 youth
 - 84% of participants demonstrated improved test scores
 - The 2016 team provided STEM programming to 150 youth in partnership with the Boys & Girls Club
 - 89% of participants demonstrated improved test scores



Project Status

- Current agreement will expire on February 7, 2017
- Performance measure have all been well exceeded.
- “Avondale continues to excel with VISTA resources”
- The CNCS Arizona State office requested that Avondale submit concept papers for a fourth project award.



Project Status

- Application submitted on December 7, 2016 has been approved
- Four standard members and two cost-share members

Project Focus:

- **K-12 Success** - Through the development of innovative partnerships to provide enrichment programming.
- **Employment** - Through the development of new funding streams and collaborative relationships with workforce development service providers.
- **Safer Communities** - Through the development of training and communication materials as well as the mobilization of volunteers to provide crime prevention education and training to members of the community.



Budgetary Impact

Funds are budgeted to support the program for the duration of FY 16-17.

The CNCS Arizona State Office has requested that the city's application include two (2) Cost Share members and four (4) Federal grant members for a total of six (6) VISTA Members.

- The Cost Share amount for 2 VISTA Members are \$23,760.
- Housing allowance cost for 6 VISTA Members are \$21,600.
- Total program costs are \$45,360 per year.

Funding in the amount of \$45,360 will be necessary in the FY17-18 budget if a new agreement is established.



Questions

