

VISTA Program Update

City Council Meeting

June 6, 2016



Youth & Community Engagement

– Youth Services

- Avondale Youth Advisory Commission
- Next STEP (Summer Teen Employment program)
- Genesis Youth Center
- Global Youth Service Day
- Kids at Hope
- Youth Summit

– Community Engagement Opportunities

- National Service Programs
- Make A Difference Day
- Community Clean-up Projects
- Tool Box – Neighborhood Tool Loan Program
- Volunteer Opportunities

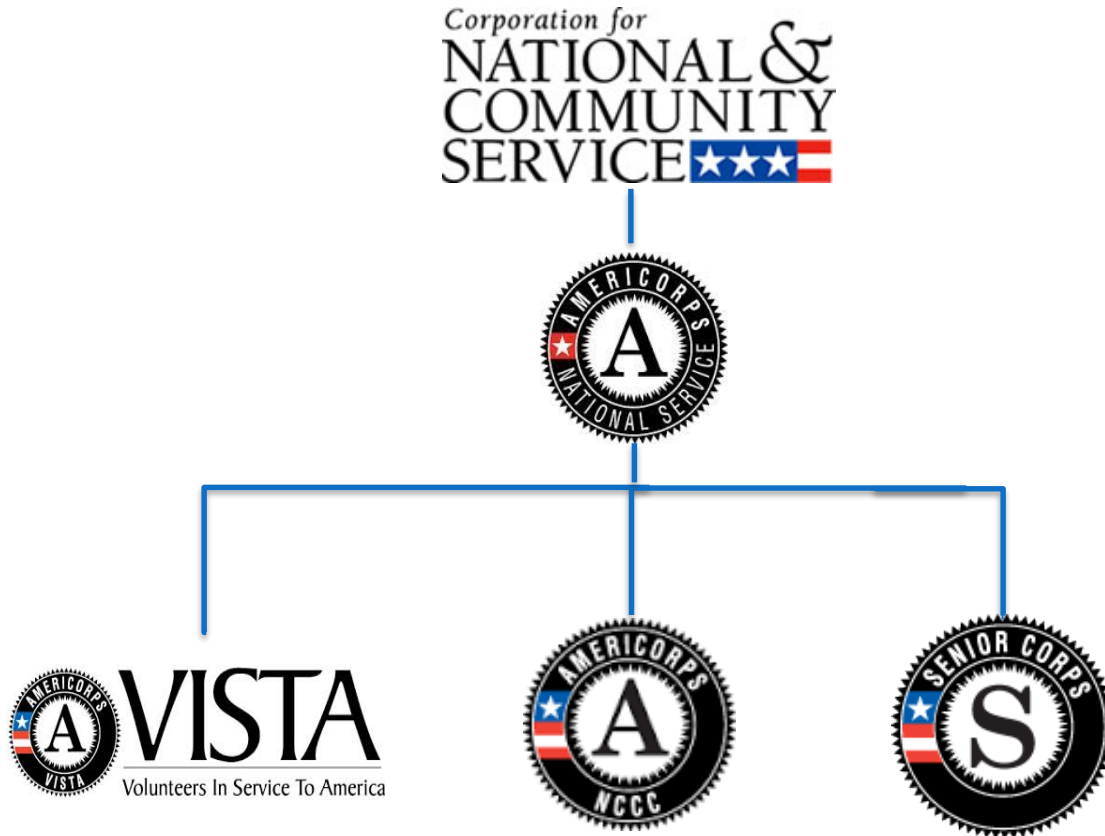


VISTA Program

- 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, Libraries and Recreation Department
- Avondale Police Department



AmeriCorps VISTA

Council approval in 2014

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

Recruitment

- Community Engagement(1) – February 19, 2016
- Parks, Rec. & Libraries(1) – February 22, 2016
- Crime Prevention (1) - April 22, 2016
- Two remaining placements opportunities
- Housing Stipend has been increased to \$300 per month



Project Summaries

- Overview
 - 7,227 Hours of volunteer service generated
 - \$164,992 Leveraged
 - \$7,960 in funds generated
- 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
 - 3 Summer Associates were recently selected to serve at the Boys & Girls Club this summer



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 has requested that Avondale submit concept papers for a second project award.



Questions

