

# Program Overview

## Oklahoma Campus Compact AmeriCorps VISTA, 2010-2013

**Grantmaking Agency:** Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)

**Sponsor:** The Oklahoma Campus Compact (OkCC) of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

**Program Purpose:** AmeriCorps VISTA (hereinafter referred to as VISTA) is designed to create and expand programs that leverage human, financial, and material resources to increase the capacity of host organizations to serve populations affected by poverty. In 2010-2013, OkCC VISTA Members will serve their host communities by starting or expanding programs that:

- tutor or mentor students for college readiness
- teach financial literacy, or
- connect poverty-affected people with health care resources.

Because VISTA service emphasizes sustainability and capacity-building, OkCC VISTA Members will make extensive use of at least one of the following program-building activities:

- Volunteer recruitment and training
- Acquiring funding and resources
- Building relationships with partners
- Creating tools or documents

**Available Grants:** Funding for VISTA Member positions at institutions of higher education in Oklahoma (total of 15 positions). In exchange for a year of service, OkCC VISTAs earn a subsistence allowance, health insurance, FICA, *and* a post-service education award of \$5,350 to pay for college tuition or student loans, *or* a stipend of \$1,500. Members receive their living allowance biweekly through direct deposits from the Corporation for National & Community Service. Sites may host more than one VISTA Member.

**Start Date:** VISTA Members may begin service after August 14, 2010 (provided OkCC first receives notice that the grant has been awarded). Service must begin immediately after a CNCS-sponsored Pre-Service Orientation, an event which is normally scheduled monthly or bi-monthly. Supervisors are required to attend a Supervisor Training either before or with their VISTA Member. Travel, lodging, and meals during required federal training for Site Supervisors and VISTA Members are arranged and paid for by CNCS. OkCC will also conduct a mandatory State Orientation and Training for VISTA Members and new supervisors.

**Duration:** Three years. OkCC must apply yearly for continuation. If the Corporation for National and Community Service approves OkCC's continuation requests, host sites that wish to continue participating in the grant may renew their participation, contingent on a satisfactory review of project sustainability and performance milestones. Sites not yet participating in the Program may apply for the next upcoming year (2011-2012 or 2012-2013) by completing the 2010 Host Site Application (if you apply on this basis, contact the VISTA State Program Coordinator first to express your intent and check for updates to Performance Milestones). OkCC may apply for additional grants after this term expires (in August 2013); under other grants,

OkCC VISTA Members would have to be assigned to different projects addressing different community needs. Planning of future grant goals would take place in late 2012 / early 2013.

**Previous VISTA Program Participants (2007-2010):** Cameron University, Murray State College, Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College, Northeastern State University, Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma City Community College, Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma State University – Oklahoma City, Rose State College, Tulsa Community College, University of Central Oklahoma, University of Oklahoma, University of Oklahoma Health Science Center, and the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma.

**CNCS Obligation:**

1. Member cost-of-living allowance of \$10,296 (\$396 biweekly), Medical benefits.
2. Payroll Services.
3. Education Award of \$5,350 upon Completion of Year of Service, or Cash Award of \$1,500.
4. Pre-Service Orientation (includes reservations and costs for travel and hotel, and providing food at the Orientation site).
5. Child Care subsidies for income-eligible Members.
6. Website for posting VISTA Member positions nationally and processing all VISTA Member applications.

**OkCC State (Sponsor) Obligation:**

1. State Orientation and Training.
2. State Coordinator, Supervision, Technical Support, Etc.
3. Compliance with all CNCS Reporting Requirements.
4. Assist with Recruiting VISTA Members.
5. *Payment of cost-share to CNCS.*

**Host Institution Obligation:**

1. Direct supervision for the VISTA Member.
2. Other training as necessary for the selected VISTA Member to accomplish project goals.
3. Office/Work Station; equipment, including computer, email access, phone with voice mail; supplies; parking; etc.
4. Reimbursement for travel (includes local mileage, expenses for use of university vehicle, etc) necessary for VISTA Member activities (Up to \$200/Year).
5. Orient VISTA Member to campus and community.
6. Assist in recruiting VISTA Members.
7. Monthly reports on VISTA Member activities.
8. *Payment of cost-share to OkCC.*

**Note:** Since VISTA Members' cost-of-living allowance is based on regional poverty wage standards, institutions are encouraged (not required) to consider the additional provision of available housing and/or a meal plan.

**Campus VISTA programs should be designed to:**

- Serve the community by addressing local poverty.
- Build capacity (establish new programs, or expand existing ones).
- Be sustainable - continue serving the community after the grant ends and the VISTA member is gone.