

COST-SHARE PARTNERSHIP FOR ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Our Mission

OneStar Foundation's mission is to connect partners and resources to build a stronger nonprofit sector in Texas. OneStar utilizes the following strategies to accomplish our mission:

- **Connect** – OneStar connects faith-based and community organizations, businesses, government and foundations to resources and information about the nonprofit sector.
- **Promote** – OneStar promotes the nonprofit sector, innovative strategies and public-private partnerships to drive community solutions.
- **Convene** – OneStar is the statewide convener of nonprofit networks, developing a coordinated approach to building the strongest most impactful nonprofit sector. OneStar envisions Texas having the strongest, most effective nonprofit sector in the country.



The Role of VISTA

Authorized in the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, AmeriCorps VISTA is a highly professional and rigorous volunteer service program, through which national service members serve with organizations full-time for one year. VISTA projects focus on building permanent capacity and infrastructure to help more effectively bring individuals and communities out of poverty.

Administered nationally by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the VISTA program places members at sponsoring organizations that absorb the majority of costs related to project supervision and logistical support. CNCS provides VISTA members a modest living allowance and benefits, including an end of service stipend or education award. Investment by the sponsoring organization and the community is fundamental to the project, as the VISTA resources are intended to be short-term.

To achieve its program purpose, AmeriCorps VISTA operates under the following core principles:

Anti-Poverty Focus

The purpose of AmeriCorps VISTA is to support efforts to fight poverty. The VISTA project should address helping individuals and communities out of poverty, not simply making poverty more tolerable through short-term services.

Community Empowerment

Sponsoring organizations must ensure that the VISTA project engages the beneficiary community in planning, developing and implementing the project. The project must be responsive and relevant to the needs of the community, and should tap into inherent community assets, strengths, and resources.

Sustainable Solutions

VISTA members provide short-term, human resources to build long-term sustainability of anti-poverty programs. All projects should be developed with the goal to phase out the need for VISTA members and to strengthen the ability of the project to continue indefinitely.

Capacity Building

VISTA members do not provide direct services to individuals; rather, they work to increase the capacity of organizations to fight poverty. Through activities such as community outreach, establishment of volunteer recruitment and management systems, fundraising, and collaboration development, VISTA members mobilize local resources to build lasting solutions to poverty.

The primary focus of all VISTA programs nationwide is anti-poverty. Within AmeriCorps*VISTA, there are five anti-poverty focus areas: *Education, Veterans and Military Families, Economic Opportunity, Healthy Futures, and Disaster Services*. Proposals must clearly identify how projects will contribute to one or more of these five Focus Areas and describe how the proposed VISTA activities are directed toward permanently pulling people out of poverty. Activities may be part of a process to pull people out of poverty over a long period of time (i.e. improving child literacy).



Why VISTA through OneStar?

As Texas' State Service Commission, OneStar has the experience and capacity from an operational, programmatic, and strategic standpoint to assist nonprofit organizations interested in applying for AmeriCorps*VISTA member placements by serving as the primary VISTA grant administrator and intermediary.



Experience. OneStar has a long and successful track record of administering federal and state grant sub-awards to nonprofits and local governments. OneStar not only manages Texas' AmeriCorps*State program (\$13.8 million in pass through federal funds in FY17), but has previously served as a Compassion Capital Fund intermediary, administrator of the Renewing Our Communities Account (ROCA) set up by the State of Texas, and has established nonprofit capacity building grant programs in partnership with the Texas Workforce Commission and the Governor's Criminal Justice Division.

Knowledge. Previously known as the Texas Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (TXCVCS),

OneStar has provided grant-related training and technical assistance to federal subgrantees and national service programs since 1994. Nationally, OneStar is a member of Grantmakers for Effective Organizations, Independent Sector, the Conference of Southwest Foundations, and the National Grants Management Association to stay current on best practices in effective grant management practices and high impact grant making.

Oversight and Support. OneStar’s VISTA Project Director will work closely with VISTA project placement sites and site supervisors to ensure that grant reporting deadlines and requirements are met and that grant deliverables are achieved or adjusted as needed. The Cost-Share Partnership is a quick, easy and low-cost way to leverage the human capital your organization needs to jump-start an anti-poverty initiative to address local community needs while reducing the complexities and overhead costs of starting up and implementing a new VISTA project on your own.

In order to support the costs of VISTA recruitment, training, supervision, materials, and grant oversight, OneStar host sites will be required to build in a cost share for sites at the rate of \$8,700 for each full-time VISTA per year, or the equivalent of \$725/month. For this amount, OneStar VISTA host sites will receive the following benefits:

WHAT YOU CONTRIBUTE	WHAT YOU RECEIVE	HOW ONESTAR SUPPORTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YOUR COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION– \$8,700 PER MEMBER TO THE ONESTAR FOUNDATION VISTA PROJECT • OFFICE SPACE AND EQUIPMENT (DESK, COMPUTER, INTERNET, PHONE, AND RELATED RESOURCES) • ON-SITE SUPERVISION • POSITION-SPECIFIC TRAINING • HOUSING ALLOWANCE (<i>OPTIONAL</i> – HOWEVER, ONESTAR RECOMMENDS HOST SITES PROVIDE \$100/MONTH OR \$1,200/YEAR TO VISTAS TO ASSIST WITH RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FULL-TIME VOLUNTEER(S) TO SERVE WITH YOUR ORGANIZATION 40-45 HOURS/WEEK FOR 12 MONTHS • VISTA LIVING ALLOWANCE - VISTA MEMBERS RECEIVE A “LIVING ALLOWANCE” RANGING BETWEEN \$12,300 - \$13,300 DURING THE YEAR OF SERVICE • VISTA HEALTH CARE BENEFIT-REIMBURSEMENT, UP TO A VALUE OF \$6,600 • A \$5,815 EDUCATION AWARD OR \$1,806 POST-SERVICE STIPEND FOR EACH VISTA • MOVING ALLOWANCE FOR VISTAS RELOCATING TO SERVE (IF ELIGIBLE) • LIABILITY COVERAGE FOR ALL MEMBERS, UNDER THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES COMPENSATION ACT AND THE FEDERAL TORTS CLAIMS ACT. • FOOD STAMPS AND/OR CHILD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASSISTANCE WITH RECRUITING AND ON-BOARDING VISTA MEMBERS • FLEXIBILITY AND ACCELERATED TIMELINE – PROJECT SPONSORS MAY APPLY FOR AS FEW AS ONE VISTA PER YEAR (WHEREAS CNCS IN TEXAS NOW REQUIRES A MINIMUM CAPACITY OF 5 VISTAS/YEAR FOR NEW APPLICANTS). IF APPROVED, SPONSORS MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO PLACE VISTAS THROUGH ONESTAR WITHIN 3-5 MONTHS (AS OPPOSED TO 7-8 MONTHS IF APPLYING DIRECTLY TO CNCS AS A NEW APPLICANT) • TRAINING IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP FOR MEMBERS AND SITE SUPERVISOR • PAYROLL SERVICES: MEMBERS RECEIVE THEIR

	<p>CARE ASSISTANCE FOR INCOME-ELIGIBLE MEMBERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS, GRANT REVENUE, AND/OR CASH OR IN-KIND DONATIONS THAT YOUR VISTA MEMBERS GENERATE FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION!* 	<p>PAYCHECKS DIRECTLY FROM ONESTAR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASSISTANCE WITH GRANT REPORTING, OVERSIGHT, AND MANAGEMENT TO REDUCE RISK TO YOUR ORGANIZATION <p>ESTIMATED TOTAL VALUE: \$25,000</p>
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**Nationally, VISTA members annually recruit an average of 200,000 volunteers who provide more than 6 million hours of additional service to their communities. National research also shows that VISTA members have helped their sponsoring organizations generate an additional \$50 million in donations annually – an average of \$50,000 per VISTA project.*

For more information, contact:

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