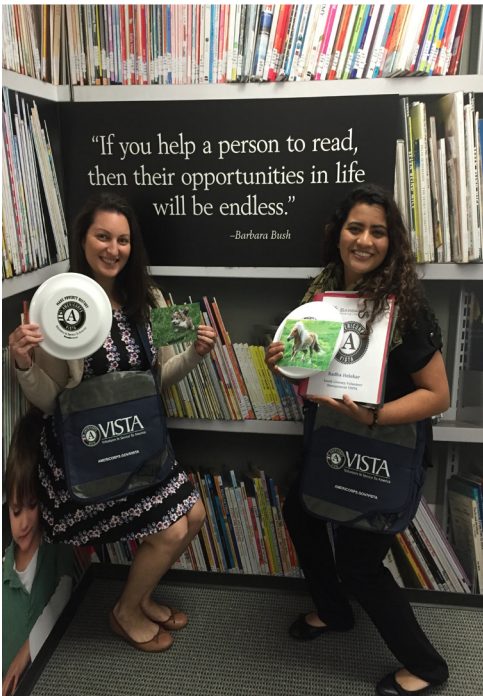




# About OneStar VISTA Project

How would you answer the question: “If only I had the time, I would \_\_\_\_\_?”

The power of AmeriCorps VISTA is extraordinary. AmeriCorps VISTA members come equipped with the talent and drive to work on transformative projects that expand organizational capacity and advance your mission in meaningful ways.



## WHAT IS AMERICORPS VISTA?

The mission of AmeriCorps VISTA is to strengthen organizations that alleviate poverty through volunteerism and mobilization of resources.

AmeriCorps VISTA is a volunteer service program, administered nationally by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), through which national service members serve with organizations full-time for one year. VISTA projects are designed to build permanent capacity and infrastructure to help more effectively bring individuals and communities out of poverty. Within AmeriCorps VISTA, there are five anti-poverty focus areas: **Education, Veterans and Military Families, Economic Opportunity, Healthy Futures, and Disaster Services**. Goals for VISTA members may include establishing systems, institutionalizing knowledge, and developing community relationships to better generate resources, encourage volunteer service at the local level, and empower individuals and communities to address urgent social needs. AmeriCorps VISTA operates under the following core principles:

### Anti-Poverty Focus

The purpose of AmeriCorps VISTA is to support efforts to fight poverty. OneStar VISTA Project aims to help individuals and communities out of poverty, not simply make poverty more tolerable through short-term services.

### Community Empowerment

OneStar VISTA Project engages your community in planning, developing and implementing the project. The project is responsive and relevant to the needs of your community, and taps 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. OneStar VISTA Project is developed with the goal of phasing out the need for VISTA members by strengthening your organization's resiliency and self-sufficiency.

### 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 & management systems, fundraising, and collaboration development, VISTA members mobilize local resources to build solutions to poverty.



# Why Partner with OneStar VISTA Project?



**OneStar VISTA Project is a quick and low-cost way to leverage the human capital your program needs to jumpstart new initiatives while reducing the complexities and overhead costs of launching and implementing a new VISTA project on your own. OneStar makes it easy for organizations to access national service resources by providing greater flexibility and ongoing support. You can rely on our extensive experience and knowledge in grants management, which reduces your administrative burden and allows you to focus on the important work of alleviating poverty in the local community.**

## ABOUT US

OneStar was created and commissioned by the State of Texas to equip Texas communities to address local needs. We accomplish this by convening partners across sectors to build the capacity of nonprofits, promoting service and volunteerism, and investing in effective solutions.

## FLEXIBILITY

OneStar VISTA Project enables organizations to access VISTA resources with fewer restrictions. Applicants may request as few as one member per year (whereas applying directly to CNCS requires a minimum request of 5 members per year). We are also able to accommodate an accelerated placement timeline. If approved, host sites may be eligible to place VISTA members through OneStar within 3-5 months (compared to 7-8 months if applying directly to CNCS as a new applicant).

## EXPERIENCE

Your organizations benefits from OneStar's 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 (more than \$13.8 million in federal funds), but also previously served as a Compassion Capital Fund intermediary, administrator of the Renewing Our Communities Account 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, 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.

## SUPPORT

OneStar's VISTA Program 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.



# How the OneStar VISTA Project Works

OneStar VISTA Project is a **cost-share partnership**, in which all parties contribute to the success and outcomes of the VISTA program at your organization. Investment by the host site and the community is fundamental, as the VISTA resources are intended to be short-term.

WHAT YOU CONTRIBUTE	WHAT YOU RECEIVE	HOW ONESTAR SUPPORTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>\$8,700 per member</b></li> <li>■ <b>Office space and equipment</b> <i>e.g., desk, computer, Internet, phone, and related resources</i></li> <li>■ <b>On-site supervision and logistical support</b></li> <li>■ <b>Position-specific training</b></li> <li>■ <b>Housing allowance</b> <i>Optional, but OneStar recommends host sites provide members with \$100/month or \$1,200/year to promote recruitment and retention.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Full-time volunteer(s) to serve with your organization 40-45 hours per week for 12 months</b></li> <li>■ <b>VISTA living allowance</b> <i>Members receive a living allowance ranging between \$12,300 - \$14,200 during the service term.</i></li> <li>■ <b>VISTA healthcare benefit</b> <i>Reimbursement of up to \$6,600.</i></li> <li>■ <b>A \$5,920 education award, or \$1,803 post-service stipend for each VISTA member</b></li> <li>■ <b>Moving allowance for VISTA members relocating to serve (if eligible)</b></li> <li>■ <b>Liability coverage for all members</b> <i>Provided under Federal Employees Compensation Act &amp; Federal Torts Claims Act.</i></li> <li>■ <b>Food stamps and/or child care assistance for income-eligible members</b></li> <li>■ <b>Additional volunteers, grant revenue, and/or cash or in-kind donations that your VISTA members generate for your organization!*</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Assistance with recruiting and onboarding VISTA members</b></li> <li>■ <b>Flexibility and accelerated timeline</b> <i>Applicants may request for as few as one VISTA member per year (whereas CNCS requires a minimum capacity of 5 members per year for new applicants in Texas). If approved, host sites may be eligible to place VISTA members through OneStar within 3-5 months (compared to 7-8 months if applying directly to CNCS as a new applicant).</i></li> <li>■ <b>Training in project management and leadership for members and site supervisor</b></li> <li>■ <b>Payroll services</b> <i>Members receive their paychecks directly from OneStar.</i></li> <li>■ <b>Assistance with grant reporting, oversight, and management to reduce risk to your organization</b></li> </ul> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;"> <p>Estimated total value:</p> <h2 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">\$25,000</h2> </div>

\*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 members have helped their host sites generate an additional **\$50 million in donations** each year—an average of \$50,000 per VISTA project!