



Frequently Asked Questions

Oregon Health Authority VISTA Partnership Project

Important Dates		
	Spring 2019 Cohort	Fall 2019 Cohort
Recruitment Period:	January 18-March 15, 2019	May 24 – July 19, 2019
Member Selection Deadline:	March 15, 2019	July 19, 2019
Service Start Date:	April 15, 2019	August 19, 2019
Service End Date:	April 13, 2020	August 18, 2020
Mandatory Online Pre-Service Orientation:	April 9, 2019	August 13, 2019
Mandatory OHA VISTA Orientation Webinar:	TBD	TBD

What is AmeriCorps VISTA?

AmeriCorps Volunteers In Service To America (VISTA) is the national service program designed specifically to fight and address issues relating to poverty. VISTA has been on the front lines in the fight against poverty in America for more than 50 years. It is operated by Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the federal government agency that leads volunteering, service, and grant-making efforts in the United States. CNCS operates nationwide service programs such as various AmeriCorps programs and Senior Corps.

➤ Visit the CNCS website to learn more: <https://www.nationalservice.gov/>

How long do you serve as an AmeriCorps VISTA?

VISTA members serve at a site for one year (12 months), serving 40 hours each week.

Are the start dates flexible?

No. Members must attend required orientations and established start/end dates at their host sites.

What are the benefits of VISTA?

Benefits during service

- Modest living allowance of approximately \$12,300-\$14,100 for the year (varies by county)
 - Paid every two weeks. Amount is federally taxed and reflects the pre-tax amount
- Student loan forbearance or deferment for qualified federal loans
- Healthcare benefits (learn more at: americorpsvista.imglobal.com)
- Childcare assistance
- Access to the network of VISTA & VISTA Alumni (170,000 strong)
- Valuable training from CNCS, the state, and the service site
- Travel support for those relocating over 50 miles for a service placement
 - Settling-in allowance of up to \$750
 - Relocation allowance of \$0.40/mile (based on direct mileage between home of record and site)

Benefits after completion of service

- A Segal AmeriCorps Education Award (\$6,095) or post-service stipend (approximately \$1,800)
- One year of noncompetitive status for a federal government job

Can I get a part time job on the side?

Yes. Outside employment must be approved by the site supervisor, OHA and CNCS, be legal, and not interfere with regular service work hours or other AmeriCorps VISTA events and trainings.

What is the Oregon Health Authority AmeriCorps VISTA Partnership Project?

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is a state government agency with the mission to help people and communities achieve optimum physical, mental and social well-being through partnerships, prevention, and access to quality, affordable health care. The project aims to reduce poverty in Oregon through sustainable public health initiatives and taking a systems-approach to creating healthy communities.

- This program continues to be the largest VISTA project in Oregon.
- Public, private, or faith-based non-profit organizations, as well as local, state, tribal or federal agencies apply to the state Public Health Division to be selected as a host site for a VISTA member.
- Since 2009, the program has expanded to tackle many projects targeting specific public health issues that impact people living in poverty. These include health department accreditation, chronic disease prevention, environmental health, oral health, disaster healthcare volunteer management, healthcare reform, and health equity, fighting the opioid epidemic, and more.

Where do Oregon Health Authority VISTAs serve?

OHA VISTAs conduct public health-related service in professional office settings at statewide organizations, local public health departments, tribal agencies, or non-profits sites throughout the state of Oregon, in rural frontier and urban communities.

- **Learn more about our program or view our open positions here:** <http://healthoregon.org/vista>

What are the benefits of joining the OHA VISTA Partnership Project?

- Regular team meetings and professional development opportunities
- Funding for conferences and other training opportunities
- Transit passes and other benefits (select sites)
- A support system of a large cohort of VISTAs serving in similar projects across the state
- Structure and experience of the established 10-year program, which includes: connections to public health organizations throughout the state, support from leadership at the Oregon Health Authority, and a team of VISTA Leaders to ensure success throughout the service year

What training opportunities are available to me as an OHA AmeriCorps VISTA?

At the start of service, VISTAs will learn about poverty alleviation and capacity building from a virtual Pre-Service Orientation, hosted by CNCS. Throughout the service year, OHA VISTA team members will have the opportunity to attend various state conferences and engage in continuous training on a variety of topics such as:

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| • Public health fundamentals | • Leadership | • Effective communication |
| • Professional development | • Strategic planning | • Volunteer management |
| • Public health science | • Grant writing | • Cultural agility |
| • Trauma Informed Care | • Fundraising | • Emergency preparedness |
| • Project management | • Health equity | • and more! |

How do I apply?

Complete the online application on the [My AmeriCorps](https://my.americorps.gov) website. Search for VISTA programs in Oregon to find our positions or view our open positions on the OHA website.

- **My AmeriCorps:** <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/login.do>
- **OHA VISTA Partnership Program:** <http://healthoregon.org/vista>

What happens after I submit my application?

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. A representative should be in contact with you within one week regarding our pre-screening interview. The representative will then send your application to our partner agencies who determine if they would like to extend an interview. Interviews will be scheduled as requested.