

# Capacity Building in Maryland with AmeriCorps\*VISTA

# What is AmeriCorps\*VISTA



**AmeriCorps VISTA is a national service program designed specifically to fight poverty.**

**It was founded as Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) in 1965 and was incorporated into the AmeriCorps network of programs in 1993.**

# What VISTAs Do



**VISTA members commit to serve at nonprofit organizations or local government agencies, working to fight illiteracy, improve health services, create businesses, strengthen community groups, and much more.**

## What VISTAs Do (cont'd)



**For this project, the VISTA volunteer's primary responsibility is to establish trusted working relationships with community leaders in underserved and economically disadvantaged areas for community capacity building.**

**These areas are defined by the Census' "hard-to-count" criteria**

## What VISTAs Do (cont'd)



**The VISTA volunteers will identify and outreach to community groups in areas where non-English speakers, people in poverty, and new immigrants reside.**

**These community contacts will be used by state and local governments to enhance an accurate and complete count in Census 2010.**

# VISTA Volunteers across Maryland

- **17 members**
- **Service Period: Sept. 2009 – Sept. 2010**
- **Sponsoring organizations:**
  - Maryland Dept. Of Planning (MDP)
  - Governor's Office of Community Initiatives (GOCI)
  - Maryland Secretary of State's Office (SOS)
- **Local Partners:**
  - Anne Arundel County (1)
  - Baltimore City (5)
  - Baltimore County (2)
  - Montgomery County (2)
  - Prince George's County (4)
  - MDP Regions (Western MD, Upper and Lower Eastern Shore) (3)