

Capacity Building in Maryland with AmeriCorps*VISTA

Sept. 30, 2009

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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.

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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.

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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

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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.

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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)

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