



Santa Fe
**MOUNTAIN
CENTER**



Over 35 years empowering thousands of individuals to become more resilient and lead healthier and more successful lives.

OUR MISSION

We are dedicated to promoting personal discovery and social change among youth, families and groups through the use of creative learning experiences in wilderness, community and cultural environments.

WHO WE ARE

The Santa Fe Mountain Center is a nationally recognized and accredited 501(c)3 educational and therapeutic organization that, since 1979, has been providing experiential and adventure-based programs, community mobilization, and civic engagement for children, youth, families, communities and groups. Program designs are rooted in our **Experiential Adventure Based Resiliency Model®**, which incorporates elements of adventure, education, and challenge to help participants break through self-limiting beliefs, discover their potential, and build positive self-identity and resiliency.

In over 30 years we have served over 30,000 participants—helping each individual explore and adopt new skills to solve problems, make healthy decisions and confront the issues challenging his or her life. We seek to stay relevant with pressing social issues that effect the marginalized populations that we primarily serve.

AWARDS

The SFMC has taken a national leadership role for experiential education and evidenced-based research and evaluation. We have won numerous awards and recognitions throughout our 35 years of service to the community and SFMC is recognized at national, state, county, city and agency levels as being an excellent program model with proven capacity. Recent accolades include:

Santa Fe Community Foundation's "Tried and True" Piñon Award (2011)
Association for Experiential Education's Organization of the Year (2008)
Human Rights Alliance Treasure Award (2006)

OUTCOMES

SFMC's experiential programs build resiliency focusing on the strengths participants already have. Our progressive and unique approach guides individuals to develop self-esteem, self-confidence and self-awareness, learn positive values, develop better social skills and relationships, become better decision-makers and problem solvers, and facilitate positive social change in communities.

Our programs are proven to increase resiliency; each program has compelling evaluation demonstrating participants' successes. 98% of referring agencies felt SFMC activities had a positive effect on the clients' sense of personal power, capabilities, and potential and 97% of referring agencies agreed SFMC methods helped clients improve their self-concept, self-esteem, and self-efficacy.

"The most effective aspect was creating a safe learning environment for the youth and understanding of program and population. This helped to effectively apply metaphors, examples, behaviors, and experiences to this specific population and cultural backgrounds."

WHO WE SERVE

Each year, SFMC provides over 700 prescriptively designed program days to meet the needs of more than 2,700 participants. We partner with community and government agencies, schools, Native American communities, and non-profits in order to formulate collaborative strategies to deliver positive outcomes and outreach to underserved individuals. With the exception of the New Mexico Gay Straight Alliance Network and Adventure OUT!, we do not work with participants on an individual enrollment basis.

- **Therapeutic Adventure Program** serves adjudicated youth, survivors of sexual, physical or emotional abuse and substance abusers, youth at risk of entering the system, youth in treatment and displaced youth from a diversity of backgrounds and cultures
- **Adventures in a Caring Community** provides bullying prevention for elementary students
- **Emergence Program** provides culturally relevant experiential programs for Native American communities that support decolonization and Indigenous knowledge and values
- **Healthy Transitions**, serving young people 16-26 who are falling through the cracks and are in need of behavioral health and youth support services.
- **New Mexico Gay Straight Alliance Network** provides resiliency building and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning young people and their allies
- **Courage to Risk Program** serves trauma survivors
- **Adventure OUT!** provides HIV/AIDS prevention services serving high-risk populations
- **Harm Reduction** reduces risk of drug overdose and HIV/Hep C infection for Northern New Mexicans
- **Counseling Services** Individual and group, as well as Intensive and regular outpatient

Our programming demands increase annually, however, the needs in New Mexico are greater than we are able to address. Many groups are on a waiting list for future participation.

“The most effective aspect of SFMC programming was having them understand their self-worth. Having the clients participate in the high ropes course gave them the esteem they needed to see their self-worth. Also, the nurturing environment really helped them to open up.”

PRIVATE PROGRAMMING

SFMC provides impactful programs, trainings, planning sessions and retreats for non-profits, schools, state agencies, businesses, colleges, and community groups. We have decades of experience and expertise in designing and delivering customized action-based learning programs to meet the specific needs of participants. We also offer specialized trainings on topics that include: facilitations skills, organizational risk management, cultural competency, social justice and anti-oppression, LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) awareness, and bullying prevention. Proceeds are used to support our mission.

“The adventure experience takes the clients out of the everyday environment to participate as a team to problem solve and overcome barriers to progress individually and as a team.”

YOU CAN HELP

We have made great strides, and our future is bright. One of our greatest needs is donations to cover our operational cost, a gap not covered by government and most foundation funding.

Contributions to our Annual Fund are of the utmost priority to our organization’s well-being.

Your donation helps transform the lives of vulnerable youth and adults in New Mexico.

Santa Fe Mountain Center
PO Box 449
Tesuque, NM 87574



505-983-6158
info@santafemc.org
www.santafemc.org

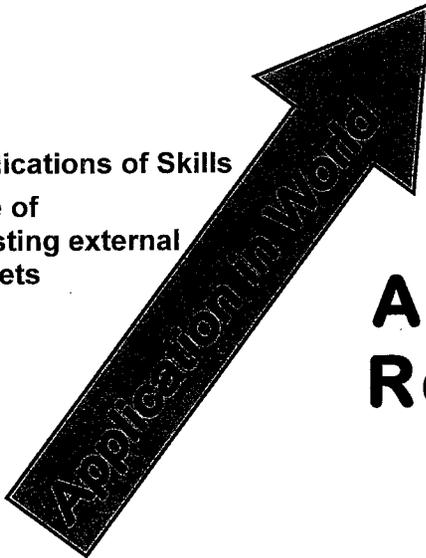


Santa Fe
**MOUNTAIN
CENTER**

**Participants'
Existing
External & Internal
Assets**



- Successful Applications of Skills
- Increase in base of participants existing external and internal assets



Experiential Adventure-Based Resiliency Model[©]



- Prescriptive Programming
- Adventure-Based Activities
 - Hiking, Camping, Rock Climbing, Ropes/Challenge Courses, Whitewater Rafting, Initiatives, Connection to Outdoors
- Civic Engagement
 - Youth Organizing, Community Mobilization, & Service Learning

Improved Outcomes

- Self-Efficacy
- Empathy
- Cooperation
- Goal Setting
- Problem Solving
- Self-Awareness



Increased Resiliency

Internal Assets
(Positive Values, Positive Identity, Social Competencies)

External Assets
(Caring Adult, Caring Community)

- Practice Implementing Skills
- Continuing and Consistent Use of Similar Tools and Language in ongoing experiences



AMERICORPS SUMMARY OF PROGRAMS

	AmeriCorps State & National	AmeriCorps VISTA	AmeriCorps NCCC	AmeriCorps NCCC FEMA Corps
Program Focus	Members serve either in groups or individually at local community-based private and public organizations, such as nonprofits, faith-based institutions, schools and universities, public agencies, and Native American tribes. Members solve problems primarily through direct service. Service areas include education, public safety, health, and the environment.	Members serve through private organizations and public nonprofit agencies, addressing issues related to poverty – such as fighting illiteracy, improving health services, and fostering economic development— by developing and mobilizing resources that create long-term sustainable benefits at a community level. VISTA members focus on capacity-building opportunities such as fundraising, recruiting volunteers, and designing sustainable programs.	Members live communally and travel throughout one of five regions of the country, serving in teams to meet community needs in the areas of natural and other disasters, infrastructure improvement, environmental stewardship, energy conservation, and urban and rural development. Projects consist of hands-on service with nonprofit organizations, state and local agencies, and other community groups. Projects generally last 6-13 weeks; Each service year may consist of 3-6 projects.	FEMA Corps is a track under AmeriCorps NCCC developed in partnership with FEMA and CNCS. FEMA Corps members receive focus solely on administrative and logistical support on emergency management and long-term recovery activities within FEMA. This may include: canvassing communities, developing disaster preparation materials, compiling data and reports, tracking inventory, and setting up shelter operations. Project lengths and locations are disaster-dependent.
Eligibility	Applicants must be at least 17 years old and a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or lawful permanent resident alien of the U.S.	Applicants must be at least 18 years old and a U.S. citizen or U.S. national, or lawful permanent resident alien of the U.S.	Applicants must be 18 to 24 years old and a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or lawful permanent resident alien of the U.S. The team leader position has no maximum age requirement.	Applicants must be 18 to 24 years and a U.S. citizen. The team leader position has no maximum age requirement. Credit checks are conducted.
Skills Needed	All skill levels are needed.	All skill levels are needed. Bachelor's degree or three years of related volunteer/job experience preferred.	All skill levels are needed.	All skill levels are needed.
Term of Service	Full-time for 3 months to 1 year. Part-time opportunities are available of various durations depending on the program.	Full-time one year. Occasional part-time opportunities available during the summer.	Full-time for 10 months (corps member) or 11 months (team leader). No part-time service opportunities available.	Full-time for 10 months (corps member) or 11 months (team leader). No part-time service opportunities available.
Living Allowance/ Stipend	Most programs provide a modest living allowance.	A modest living allowance is paid biweekly.	A modest living allowance is paid biweekly. The total amount is \$4,000 for corps members and \$12,500 for team leaders.	A modest living allowance is paid biweekly. The total amount is \$4,000 for corps members and \$12,500 for team leaders.
Program Locations	Projects are located in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.	Projects are located in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.	Members are based out of one of five campuses, located in Denver, CO; Baltimore, MD; Sacramento, CA; Vicksburg, MS; and Vinton, IA. Projects are conducted throughout a multi-state region.	Members are based out of one of five campuses, located in Denver, CO; Baltimore, MD; Sacramento, CA; Vicksburg, MS; and Vinton, IA. Project locations are disaster-dependent.

For more information or to apply, go to www.nationalservice.gov/nccc or call 800-942-2677.



AMERICORPS SUMMARY OF PROGRAMS

	AmeriCorps State & National	AmeriCorps VISTA	AmeriCorps NCCC	AmeriCorps NCCC FEMA Corps
Room & Board	In most cases, members are responsible for covering their own housing and meal expenses.	In most cases, members are responsible for covering their own housing and meal expenses.	Members are provided with housing/meals and live in residence hall-style housing while on one of five campuses. Housing on projects is provided; accommodations vary.	Members are provided with housing/meals and live in residence hall-style housing while on one of five campuses. Housing on projects is provided; accommodations vary.
Education Award/Stipend	Upon successful completion of service, full-time members receive a \$5,730 education award (or amount equal to the Pell grant) to help pay for college, graduate school, or to pay back qualified student loans. Part-time members receive a prorated education award.	Upon successful completion of service, members have a choice of a \$5,730 education award (or amount equal to the Pell grant) to help pay for college, graduate school, or to pay back qualified student loans or can opt for a \$1,500 cash stipend.	Upon successful completion of service, members receive a \$5,730 education award (or amount equal to the Pell grant) to help pay for college, graduate school, or to pay back qualified student loans.	Upon successful completion of service, members receive a \$5,730 education award (or amount equal to the Pell grant) to help pay for college, graduate school, or to pay back qualified student loans.
Student Loans	Members may qualify for a forbearance (or postponement of the repayment) of their student loans during their term of service.	Members may qualify for a forbearance (or postponement of the repayment) of their student loans during their term of service.	Members may qualify for a forbearance (or postponement of the repayment) of their student loans during their term of service.	Members may qualify for a forbearance (or postponement of the repayment) of their student loans during their term of service.
Insurance and Childcare	Full-time members receive health coverage and may qualify for childcare assistance.	Members receive health coverage and may qualify for childcare assistance. Members have the option of purchasing life insurance.	Members receive health coverage and may qualify for childcare assistance. (Children are not allowed to reside on campus or on projects with members.)	Members receive health coverage and may qualify for childcare assistance. (Children are not allowed to reside on campus or on projects with members.)
Relocation Expenses	Most programs do not pay for relocation.	Members who relocate over 50 miles to serve may be eligible for relocation assistance.	Members are provided with transportation to and from their campus at the beginning and end of service. <i>Team leaders</i> receive \$250 relocation assistance at the beginning and end of a successful term of service.	Members are provided with transportation to and from their campus at the beginning and end of service. <i>Team leaders</i> receive \$250 relocation assistance at the beginning and end of a successful term of service.
Training	Members receive pre-service orientation, in-service training, and end-of-service training as determined by each program.	Members attend a 3-day pre-service orientation, in-service training, and receive additional training as determined by each program.	Members receive training on campus and during service for specific projects. All members receive training in CPR, first aid, disaster relief, leadership, and team building.	Members receive NCCC training when they arrive on campus followed by FEMA-specific training in one or more emergency management-related areas.
When To Apply	Applications are accepted year-round and deadlines depend on program.	Applications are accepted year-round and deadlines depend on position.	Corps Member application deadlines: April 1 (summer/fall start) and Oct. 1 (winter start). <i>Team leader</i> application deadlines March 1 (summer/fall start) and Sept. 1 (winter start).	Corps Member application deadlines: April 1 (summer/fall start) and Oct. 1 (winter start). <i>Team leader</i> application deadlines March 1 (summer/fall start) and Sept. 1 (winter start).

WHY VOLUNTEER & SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY?

Perhaps the first and biggest benefit people get from volunteering is the satisfaction of incorporating service into their lives and making a difference in their community and country.

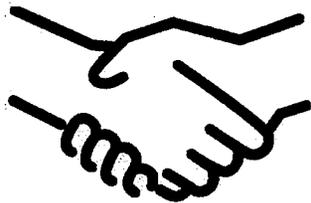
The intangible benefits alone—such as pride, satisfaction, and accomplishment—are worthwhile reasons to serve. In addition, when we share our time and talents we:

- Solve Problems
- Strengthen Communities
- Improve Lives
- Connect to Others
- Transform Our Own Lives

VOLUNTEER/SERVICE WORK AS A PATHWAY TO EMPLOYMENT

Per a report published by the Corporation for National & Community Service, volunteering helps individuals gain increased social connections, and increased skills and experience that lead to potential future job opportunities and employment.

- Volunteers have a 27 percent higher likelihood of finding a job after being out of work than non-volunteers.
- Volunteers without a high school diploma have a 51 percent higher likelihood of finding employment.
- Volunteers living in rural areas have a 55 percent higher likelihood of finding employment.



NEW MEXICO COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERISM

The mission of the New Mexico Commission for Community



NEW MEXICO COMMISSION FOR
**COMMUNITY
VOLUNTEERISM**

Volunteerism (NMCCV) is to engage citizens of New Mexico of all ages and backgrounds in community based service. NMCCV:

- is administratively housed within the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions.
- is guided by a bipartisan board of Commissioners, appointed by the Governor.
- provides oversight and accountability for grants.
- leads volunteerism initiatives throughout the state.

As the designated State Commission on service and volunteerism, NMCCV administers funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service to AmeriCorps State programs in New Mexico.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Curtis Cannon

Executive Director

New Mexico Commission for Community Volunteerism

New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions
401 Broadway NE
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Email: curtis.cannon@state.nm.us

www.dws.state.nm.us/nmccv

Phone: (505) 841-8488

Fax: (505) 841-8491



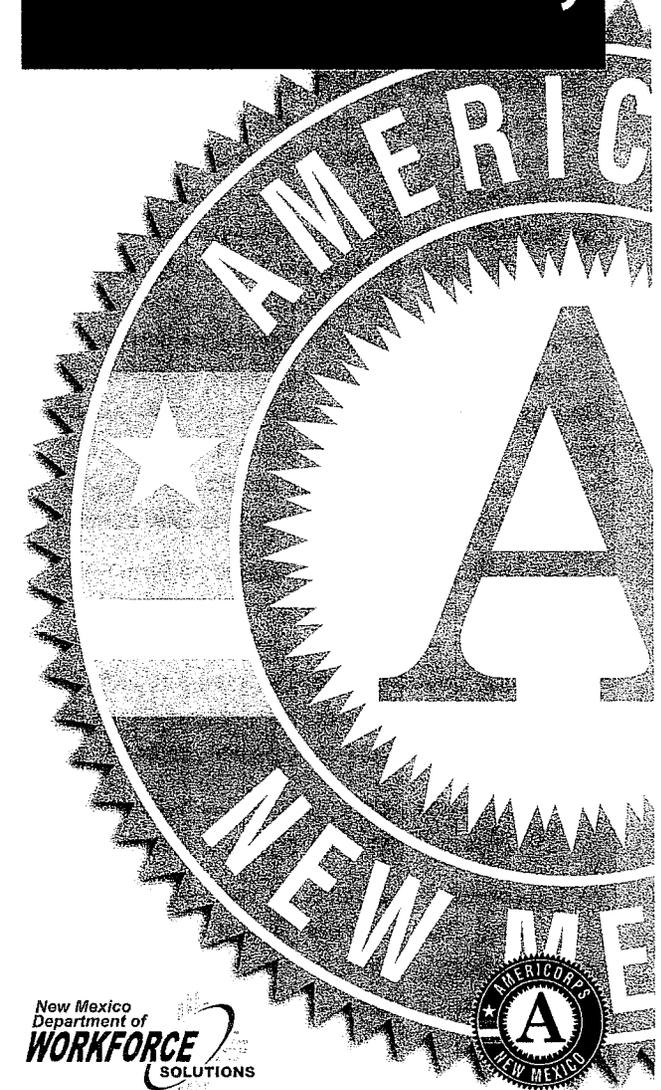
Download a QR code reader app on your smart phone or tablet to scan the code for more information on AmeriCorps.

Revised 8/2015



NEW MEXICO COMMISSION FOR
**COMMUNITY
VOLUNTEERISM**

Serve Your Community



New Mexico
Department of
WORKFORCE
SOLUTIONS



WWW.DWS.STATE.NM.US/NMCCV

WHAT IS AMERICORPS?

AmeriCorps programs provide opportunities for Americans to make an intensive commitment to service. The AmeriCorps network of local, state, and national service programs engages more than 80,000 Americans in projects around the nation each year.



Joining AmeriCorps is a way to put your idealism into action. As an AmeriCorps member, you can help make the world a better place: help children learn, protect the environment, or bring needed services to a low-income community.

There are opportunities in AmeriCorps for anyone who is willing to do something special, something unique, something exciting.

**ARE YOU READY TO
MAKE A DIFFERENCE?**

WHY JOIN AMERICORPS?

National service and volunteering open the door to incredibly rewarding experiences - both for you and those you serve. But finding the opportunity that best suits your skills and expectations can make all the difference.

Most AmeriCorps members receive student loan deferment, and training, and may receive a living allowance and health insurance. After you complete your term of service, you will also receive a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award to help pay for college, graduate school, or vocational training or to repay student loans.

AMERICORPS STATE & NATIONAL

AmeriCorps State and National supports and provides grants to a network of local and national organizations and agencies committed to using national service to address critical community needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment.



AMERICORPS VISTA

AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) provides full-time members to nonprofit, faith-based, and other community organizations, and public agencies to create and expand programs that bring low-income individuals and communities out of poverty.



AMERICORPS NCCC

AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) is a full-time, team-based, residential program for men and women ages 18-24. Members live on one of five campuses, located in Denver, CO; Sacramento, CA; Perry Point, MD; Vicksburg, MS; and Vinton, IA.



SENIOR CORPS

Senior Corps offers a network of programs that tap the rich experience, skills, and talents of older citizens to meet community challenges.



WHO CAN SERVE?

To be eligible to become a state AmeriCorps member, an individual must meet all of the following base criteria, as well as pass all required background checks:

1. Be a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or lawful permanent resident alien of the United States;
2. Be at least 17 years of age at the commencement of service unless the member is out of school and enrolled in a full-time, year-round youth corps or full-time summer program as defined the Act (42 U.S.C subsection 12572 (a) (3)(B)(x)), in which case he or she must be between the ages of 16 and 25; and
3. Have a high school diploma or an equivalency certificate (or agrees to obtain a high school diploma or its equivalent before using an education award) and who has not dropped out of elementary or secondary school in order to begin a term of service as an AmeriCorps member (unless enrolled in an institution of higher education on an ability to benefit basis and is considered eligible for funds under section 484 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, 20 U.S.C. subsection 1091), or who has been determined through an independent assessment conducted by the grantee to be incapable of obtaining a high school diploma or its equivalent.

AT A GLANCE – TERMS OF SERVICE

Term of Service	Minimum # of hours	Minimum Living Allowance	Maximum Total Living Allowance	FY15 Education Award
Full-time	1700	\$12,530	\$25,060	\$5,730.00
One-year half-time	900	N/A	\$13,265	\$2,865.00
Reduced half-time	675	N/A	\$9,950	\$2,182.78
Quarter-time	450	N/A	\$6,635	\$1,515.55
Minimum-time	300	N/A	\$4,420	\$1,212.44

SENIOR CORPS

Senior Corps is a network of programs that taps into the rich experience, skills, and talents of older citizens to meet community challenges.



- **Foster Grandparents:** Connects volunteers age 60 and over with children and young people with exceptional needs.
- **Senior Companion Program:** Brings together volunteers age 60 and over with adults in their community who have difficulty with the simple tasks of day-to-day living.
- **RSVP:** offers "one stop shopping" for all volunteers 55 and over who want to find challenging, rewarding, and significant service opportunities in their local communities.

AMERICORPS INDIAN TRIBES

AmeriCorps Indian Tribes are grant-funded AmeriCorps programs offered to tribal governments, tribal organizations, urban American Indian organizations, and national and local non-profit organizations serving Native American communities.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) is a federal agency that engages more than five million Americans in service through its core programs - Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and the Social Innovation Fund - and leads President Obama's national call to service initiative, United We Serve.



As the nation's largest grant-maker for service and volunteering, CNCS plays a critical role in strengthening America's nonprofit sector and addressing our nation's challenges through service.

NEW MEXICO COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERISM

The mission of the New Mexico Commission for Community



NEW MEXICO COMMISSION FOR
COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERISM

Volunteerism (NMCCV) is to engage citizens of New Mexico of all ages and backgrounds in community based service. NMCCV:

- is administratively housed within the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions.
- is guided by a bipartisan board of Commissioners, appointed by the Governor.
- provides oversight and accountability for grants.
- leads volunteerism initiatives throughout the state.

As the designated State Commission on service and volunteerism, NMCCV administers funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service to AmeriCorps State programs in New Mexico.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Curtis Cannon

Executive Director

New Mexico Commission for Community Volunteerism

New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions
401 Broadway NE
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Email: curtis.cannon@state.nm.us

www.dws.state.nm.us/nmccv

Phone: (505) 841-8488

Fax: (505) 841-8491



Download a QR code reader app on your smart phone or tablet to scan the code for more information on AmeriCorps.

Revised 2/2015



NEW MEXICO COMMISSION FOR
COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERISM

Bring the AmeriCorps Program to Your Community



WWW.DWS.STATE.NM.US/NMCCV

AMERICORPS OVERVIEW

AmeriCorps programs do more than move communities forward; they serve their members by creating jobs and providing pathways to opportunity for young people entering the workforce.



AmeriCorps places thousands of young adults into intensive service positions where they learn valuable work skills, earn money for education, and develop an appreciation for citizenship.

800,000 - number of AmeriCorps members since 1994

1 billion - number of hours served since 1994

80,000 - number of AmeriCorps members each year

AmeriCorps programs focus on the areas of:

- education
- disaster services
- health
- environmental stewardship
- economic opportunity
- service to veterans and military families

AMERICORPS STATE & NATIONAL

AmeriCorps State and National is a broad network of grant-funded AmeriCorps programs. It provides financial support to public and nonprofit organizations that sponsor service programs around the country, including hundreds of faith- and community-based organizations, higher education institutions, Indian tribes, and public agencies.



Grants provide assistance to programs to recruit, train, and supervise AmeriCorps members meeting critical community needs. Grant applicants design service activities for a team of members serving full- or part-time during the summer or up to one year.

AMERICORPS VISTA

AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) is the national service program designed specifically to fight poverty. VISTA:



- encourages individuals to engage in a year of full-time service with a sponsoring organization to create or expand programs designed to bring individuals and communities out of poverty.
- places members with sponsoring organizations, rather than providing cash grants.
- relies on investment by the sponsoring organization and community.
- provides a small living allowance and certain benefits for members.

AMERICORPS NCCC

AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) is a full-time, residential, national service program.



- NCCC combines the best practices of civilian service with the best aspects of military service.
- NCCC mission: to strengthen communities and develop leaders through team-based national and community service.
- Members help communities meet needs in the areas of:
 - natural and other disasters
 - infrastructure improvement
 - environmental stewardship and conservation
 - energy conservation
 - urban and rural development.

Service projects typically last from six to eight weeks. Members can be reassigned on short notice to support disaster relief operations.

AT A GLANCE – SERVICE IN NEW MEXICO

Program	Projects	Service Locations	Participants	Education Scholarships	Program Funding
AmeriCorps State & National	29	112	951	\$3,094,005.00	\$3,507,318.00
AmeriCorps VISTA	5	34	38	\$215,870.00	\$618,260.00
AmeriCorps NCCC	2	2	19	--	--
AmeriCorps Indian Tribes/ Territories	2	2	26	\$99,579.00	\$221,897.00
Senior Corps	51	513	4,094	--	\$1,662,291.00
	89	663	5,128	\$3,409,454.00	\$6,009,766.00
Total CNCS Funding (including Education Awards):					\$9,419,220
Total Local Program Support (local CNCS match funding):					\$8,549,093
Total Funding for National & Community Service in New Mexico:					\$17,968,313



Fact Sheet

AmeriCorps VISTA



Annual Statistical Highlights*

- Community Volunteers Recruited and Managed by VISTAs 1.1 million
- Hours Served by Community Volunteers 11.7 million
- Veterans and Military Families served 115,000
- Veterans and Military Family Members Engaged as Community Volunteers 12,610
- Disadvantaged Youth Receiving Services 2.5 million

AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) taps the skills, talents, and passion of more than 8,000 Americans annually to support community efforts to overcome poverty. The program's nationwide corps of VISTAs commits full-time for a year at nonprofit organizations or local government agencies to build the capacity of these organizations to carry out programs that tackle poverty. VISTAs recruit and manage community volunteers, raise funds, and help manage projects. VISTAs support programs that improve literacy, expand job opportunities, develop financial assets, reduce homelessness, and improve health services. They also support programs that increase housing opportunities, increase economic opportunities for low-income veterans and military families, and expand access to technology for those living in rural and urban areas of poverty across America.

Core Principles of AmeriCorps VISTA

Anti-Poverty Focus: AmeriCorps VISTA supports community efforts to overcome poverty. Any nonprofit organization, educational institution, or tribal or public agency with a project explicitly designed to alleviate poverty may sponsor a VISTA.

Community Empowerment: AmeriCorps VISTA values the inherent strengths and resources of the community. VISTA expects project sponsors to involve residents of the community in planning, developing, and implementing the VISTA project. This approach allows low-income individuals the freedom to speak for themselves in determining the projects that suit their specific needs.

AmeriCorps VISTA Statistical Highlights*

- AmeriCorps VISTAs 5,958
- Summer Associates 2,207
- Hours served by VISTAs 12.6 million
- VISTA projects 1,132
- Value of cash and in-kind resources raised \$170.1 million
- Annual Federal Funding \$94.81 million

* Statistics are for fiscal year 2012

Corporation for
NATIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE ★★★

1201 New York Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20525
202-606-5000
www.AmeriCorps.gov

Capacity Building: AmeriCorps VISTA expands the ability of sponsor organizations to fight poverty. VISTAs strengthen and support organizations by building infrastructure, expanding community partnerships, securing long-term resources, coordinating training for participants, and much more. These capacity-building activities enable organizations to provide better services to low-income individuals and communities.

Sustainable Solutions: VISTAs serve as a short-term resource to help sponsor organizations achieve lasting solutions to poverty.

Become an AmeriCorps VISTA

AmeriCorps VISTA is open to U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents age 18 and older. VISTAs choose from projects throughout the country, based on their skills and interests, and serve full time for one year with community-based organizations. During their service, VISTAs receive a living allowance, as well as health care, child care, training, relocation expenses, and liability insurance. After a successful year of service, VISTAs receive either a \$1,500 stipend or a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award equal to the maximum amount of the federal Pell Grant. The award can be used to pay for educational expenses at qualified institutions of higher education, or to pay back qualified student loans. For VISTA service approved in fiscal year 2014, the education award is \$5,645.*

Find out more at AmeriCorps.gov
Or call 800-942-2677
TTY 800-833-3722

* Check AmeriCorps.gov for the annual updated amount.

Sponsor a Project

Any nonprofit organization or public agency involved in alleviating poverty may partner with AmeriCorps VISTA to develop a project and host VISTAs. Potential sponsors must have the capacity and commitment to recruit, train, supervise, and support VISTAs.

View these additional resources at AmeriCorps.gov:

- *Guide to Becoming a VISTA Sponsor*
- *VISTA 101: Understanding VISTA*

Contact the local CNCS State Office

Or call 202-606-5000

TTY 202-565-2799

Email: vista@americorps.gov

Corporation for National and Community Service

AmeriCorps VISTA is an anti-poverty program created by the federal government in 1964. The first class of VISTAs began serving in 1965. In 1993, VISTA became part of AmeriCorps, a network of national and community service programs that annually engage more than 75,000 members in intensive service to meet critical needs in disaster services, economic opportunity, education, environmental stewardship, healthy futures, and veterans and military families. AmeriCorps is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the federal agency that improves lives, strengthens communities, and fosters civic engagement through service and volunteering. Each year CNCS engages more than five million Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service to meet local needs through AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, the Social Innovation Fund, and other programs, and leads President Obama's national call to service initiative, United We Serve. For more information on the Corporation, visit www.NationalService.gov.



AMERICORPS NCCC

AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) is a full-time, team-based residential program for men and women ages 18-24. NCCC members are assigned to one of five regional campuses into teams of approximately ten members, and complete 2-3 month projects responding to local communities' needs throughout the United States. To achieve NCCC's mission of strengthening communities and developing leaders through service, members assist community and faith-based based organizations, national nonprofits, schools, local municipalities, national and state parks, and Indian tribes. NCCC projects span across five issue areas including: Natural and Other Disasters, Infrastructure Improvement, Environmental Stewardship, Energy Conservation, and Urban and Rural Development.

NCCC's flexible program structure has created the opportunity to partner with non-profit or government organizations that might lack the capacity to manage longer grant programs, as well as the ability to create strategic collaborations with other national service programs and federal agencies to magnify the impact on communities served. In 2012, NCCC collaborated with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and created a new unit of members called FEMA Corps (details on back side). Between the traditional and FEMA Corps, up to 2,800 members serve with AmeriCorps NCCC each year.

In addition to NCCC FEMA Corps, traditional NCCC teams are deployed to meet immediate community disaster needs throughout the United States. Trained in CPR, first aid, disaster response and firefighting, teams have responded to regional and national disasters since the program was established in 1994.

AmeriCorps NCCC

AmeriCorps NCCC Typical Service Activities

- ★ Filling and installing sandbags for local communities to mitigate the impacts of natural disasters
- ★ Educating people on sustainability and energy conservation practices
- ★ Constructing or repairing hiking trails in local and national parks across America
- ★ Receiving, inventorying, and distributing donated food and other goods
- ★ Removing exotic vegetation and planting new trees
- ★ Making facilities handicap accessible and installing informative public signs
- ★ Directly assisting veterans, homeless, and senior citizen populations
- ★ Constructing and rehabilitating low-income housing

"Young people that serve in AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps show us the best of America's spirit. They tutor our children, aid victims of disaster, and restore our streams and parks. I urge you to support these young Americans."

~Colin Powell

AmeriCorps NCCC is a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). CNCS improves lives, strengthens communities, and fosters civic engagement through service and volunteering.

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202-606-5000 • AmeriCorps.gov/NCCC





AMERICORPS NCCC FEMA CORPS

FEMA Corps

Every year disasters strike throughout the United States resulting in human losses, social problems, economic harm, and environmental damage. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is committed to fortifying its existing disaster workforce. As a result, FEMA partnered with the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) to establish a unit of service corps members solely devoted to disaster preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery. The partnership adds an additional 1,600 service corps members annually within AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), a full-time residential service program for individuals ages 18-24.

FEMA Corps promotes an ethic of national service, strengthens the federal government's disaster capabilities, and expands educational and economic opportunities for young people. The federal partnership between FEMA and CNCS achieves a significant cost savings for the American taxpayer by eliminating duplicate efforts and increasing disaster response efficiency.

Program Description:

FEMA Corps members engage in a variety of disaster work including supporting disaster services facilities, responding to helpline calls, and disseminating disaster preparedness and mitigation information to the public. Members serve in the program for a 10-month term with an option to extend for a second year. Members are assigned to one of five campuses located in Denver, Colorado; Sacramento, California; Baltimore, Maryland; Vicksburg, Mississippi; and Vinton, Iowa.

FEMA Corps training and experience prepares members for careers in emergency management and related fields. Members learn about community organizing, public speaking, customer service, and office management skills while positively impacting the lives of disaster victims.

FEMA Corps Typical Service Activities

- ★ Helping survivors complete applications for disaster assistance
- ★ Educating communities, assessing needs, and collecting information
- ★ Developing promotional public disaster preparedness materials
- ★ Procuring materials, tracking inventory, loading supplies, and managing IT equipment
- ★ Updating electronic files, managing data, and compiling reports
- ★ Coordinating disaster survivor services by partnering with nonprofits and government agencies
- ★ Assessing and reporting damage to public facilities
- ★ Setting up shelter operations and re-unification of families and pets

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