

Are you an AmeriCorps or VISTA program of excellence?

If so, then you'll be interested in the EnCorps project. EnCorps is a web-based collection of effective practices and resources contributed and reviewed by AmeriCorps and VISTA programs. The EnCorps project engages program staff in powerful professional development, offers new tools for strengthening programs, peer networking experiences, and increased program visibility. In the process, you'll be contributing to the knowledge base in national service.

How will programs participate?

Selected programs will work with NWREL to secure effective practices, tools, and other resources that help programs recruit, orient, train, supervise, and transition their VISTA members. Participants will attend an orientation webinar in February. Two meetings (April and July) will provide networking and peer exchange opportunities for sharing, discussing, and reviewing effective practices. Between meetings, you'll be submitting and reviewing additional practices. The final webinar, in August, involves a review of the web-based resources contributed this year. Time contributed to the project will be offset by stipends and travel expenses reimbursed.

How will programs benefit?

Participants from the last two years told us they appreciated the:

- Individual professional development and peer networking
- Capacity building through access to effective practices and resources
- Increased visibility for their programs
- Financial support to offset time involved and travel

What are we looking for?

Effective practices and resources in...

- planning and evaluating member recruitment processes
- engaging site staff in supporting members
- orienting members to program, site, team, and community
- supporting effective member training and promoting retention
- supervising members effectively, including multi-site and at a distance
- addressing member issues at the service site

How do you get involved?

Point your browser to this location to apply: http://snipurl.com/encorps_application
Slots are limited so act quickly!

How do I learn more?

Explore the EnCorps collection at <http://encorps.nationalserviceresources.org>
E-mail encorps@nwrel.org, or contact Jerian Abel (abelj@nwrel.org, 503-275-9620) or Nancy Henry (henryn@nwrel.org, 503-275-9661).

Here's what last year's participants had to say about their involvement with EnCorps:

“It was invigorating to learn from one another and to contribute. I loved it all!”

“You have all provided the very best of support throughout the entire process. It was all terrific!”

“[This] project gave me the opportunity to rejuvenate my program with a number of great new ideas and activities.”