

AmeriCorps*VISTA

Offered by: Corporation for National & Community Services (CNS)

Target Credit

Union Participants: Credit unions wishing to serve disadvantaged consumers and communities.

Program

Objective:

Since 1965, AmeriCorps*VISTA has been building permanent infrastructure to help organizations more effectively bring communities and individuals out of poverty. Today nearly 6,000 VISTA members serve in hundreds of nonprofit organizations and public agencies throughout the country—working to fight illiteracy, improve health services, reduce unemployment, increase housing opportunities, and helping to bridge the digital divide.

Credit Union

Eligibility:

All credit unions with a focus on low-income and economically disadvantaged communities across the country.

**Program Features
and Requirements:**

The VISTA members can develop and help implement wealth building programs on behalf of a credit union to better serve individuals in underserved areas that the credit union is attempting to reach . Some examples where VISTA members can assist credit unions in serving underserved areas are:

- Conducting demographic studies.
- Developing marketing programs specifically focused on the needs of the members located in the underserved area.
- Developing specific loan or share programs.
- Developing counseling/financial education programs.

This program provides a Cost-Share Partnership between CNS and credit unions. A credit union contributes the living allowance (approximately \$9,500) for each VISTA member. In return, CNS covers the cost of benefits and services the VISTA member. Some of the benefits covered by CNS include payroll services, health coverage, and travel costs associated with the training of the VISTA member.

Program Cost:

Dependent on the CNS program area. (Refer to the Program Features and Requirements section above, for a descriptive overview of the costs involved).

Contact:

Contact the Corporation for National and Community Service office in your state. For a directory of those offices, visit <http://www.nationalservice.org>, or contact the AmeriCorps*VISTA office in Washington, DC at: (202) 606-5000 X338 or e-mail at vista@cns.gov.