



**VISTA and RSVP: Summary and
Application Process**

Coming attractions of information

- **CNCS and State Office role**
- **Senior Corps – SCP, FGP& RSVP**
- **RSVP Competition**
- **VISTA Programs & Sponsorship**
- **Contact information**

Corporation for National and Community Service

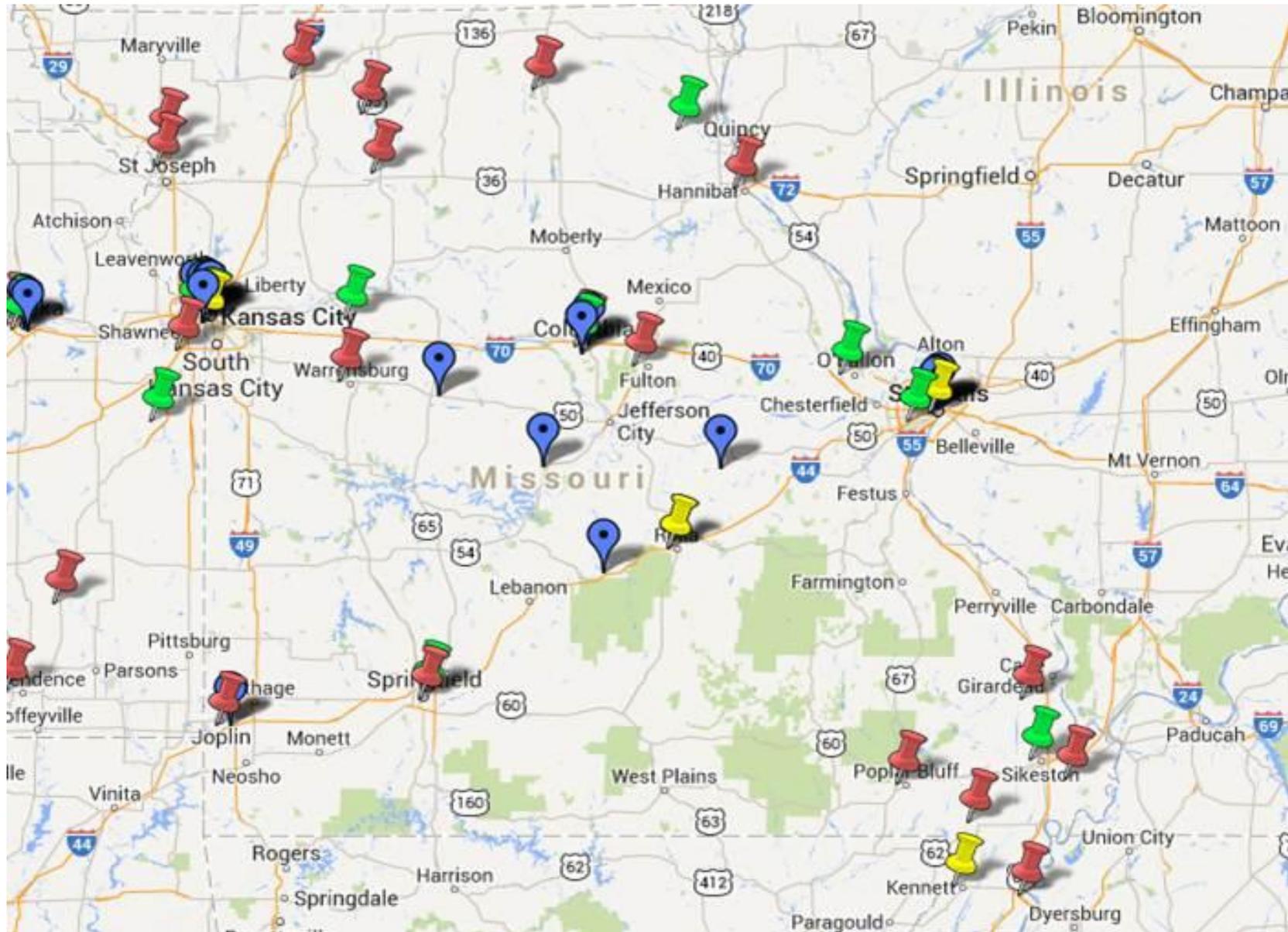
- was created to connect Americans of all ages backgrounds with opportunities to give back to their communities and their nation.
- is the nation's **largest grant maker** supporting service and volunteering.
- **engages more than 5 million Americans** of all ages and backgrounds in service each year through AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and other national service programs

Through programs and grants, the Corporation for National and Community Service provides **human capital—people power**—to help address emerging needs in communities not just in Missouri but all across the country.

Role of Kansas/Missouri State Office

- One of 47 CNCS Field offices around country
- State Offices represent portfolio of Senior Corps and AmeriCorps VISTA programs throughout the nation and U.S. territories
- KS/MO State office based in Kansas City, MO.
- Support 22 VISTA sponsor programs and 63 Senior Corps projects of RSVP, FGP and SCP.
- In Missouri-13 VISTA programs and 31 Senior Corps projects.

State Office programs in Missouri



State Office Programs



AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America)



**Senior Companion Program
Foster Grandparents Program
RSVP**

Senior Corps Programs



Senior Companion Program
Foster Grandparents Program
RSVP



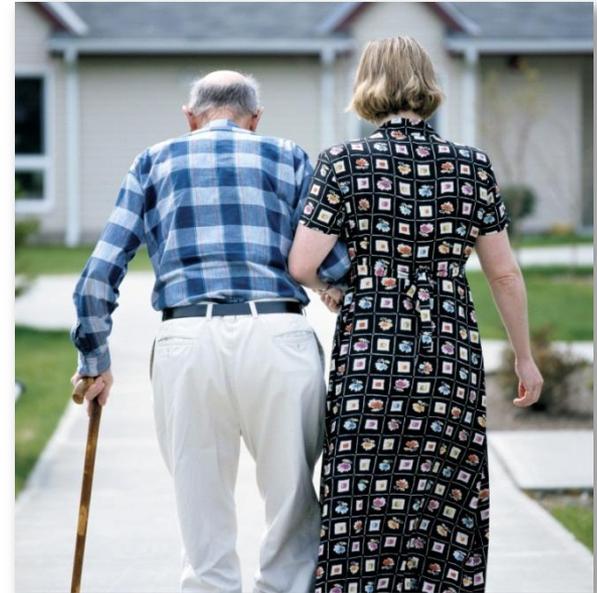
Senior Corps

Senior Companions Program



Senior Companions:

- provide assistance and friendship to adults who have difficulty with daily living tasks
- are 55 and older
- serve 15 - 40 hrs/week
- Income-eligible participants receive a stipend.



Senior Corps

Foster Grandparents Program



Foster Grandparents:

- are role models, mentors and friends to children with exceptional needs
- are 55 and older.
- serve 15 - 40 hrs./week.
- Income-eligible participants receive a stipend.



Senior Corps RSVP



RSVP Volunteers:

- engage people age 55 and older in a diverse range of volunteer activities
- have flexibility to choose where they want to serve
- serve a few hours to more than 40 hours a week
- provide a wide variety of community services



What is the RSVP competition?

- A national competition through all U.S. states and territories
- Serves to increase the impact of national service in 270 specific communities across the country
- Supports a range of service activities for participants 55 and older that meet community needs and respond to National Performance Measures

RSVP 2015 Competition

- Communication comes directly from **Senior Corps HQ**, not State Offices
- 2015 NOFO will probably be sent out in late spring/early summer, which contains information about training/technical assistance and application due dates. Due date will likely be September.
- Geographic service areas (counties) in Missouri that are open for competition will announced when NOFO opens
- Number of required unduplicated volunteers to serve each program included in NOFO
- Grant amounts per program in Missouri are usually \$30,000 to \$100,000, and include administration costs
- Successful applicants will likely be notified February 2015

Basics of RSVP sponsorship

- Agency interest, capacity and infrastructure to run volunteer program for local seniors for at least 3 year grant cycle
- Non-incumbents applicants must be able explain sources of non-federal funding, and to provide beginning match of 10% of total match in first year, 20% in second year, and 30% in third year of program, and 30% from then on.
- Able to hire support staff such as project directors and assistants to run the program and follow federal regulations and requirements
- Sponsors can provide programmatic and fiscal oversight and supervision of all project staff running RSVP

Basics of RSVP sponsorship

- Able to recruit volunteers and find partnering agencies (volunteer stations) to place volunteers in service activities
- If filling grant program that was formerly held by incumbent, able to manage existing volunteers and create new work plans or service activities based on CNCS priorities
- Able to incorporate CNCS six strategic focus areas (Education, Healthy Futures, Veterans and Military Families, Environmental Stewardship, Economic Opportunity, Disaster Services) and 16 agency wide national performance measures into work plans
- Able to adhere to programmatic and fiscal reporting guidelines

Basics of RSVP sponsorship

- Sponsor has ability to collect and measure data related to performance of work plans
- Able to assess community need to create service plans and opportunities for volunteers
- Have a plan to retain and annually recognize the contributions of volunteers
- Able to provide training and technical assistance opportunities to project staff, volunteers, and advisory council members
- Willing to create a community participatory group such as an Advisory Council to assist with overseeing project's responsibilities to the community and any fundraising needs

Application requirements

- Apply through eGrants, web-based system
- Complete grant application and sections
 - Narratives
 - Executive Summary
 - Strengthening Communities
 - Recruitment and Development
 - Program Management
 - Organization Capacity
 - Other NOFO requirements
 - Work Plans (performance measures)
 - Budget

Application requirements

- Submit required programmatic and financial documentation:
 - List of the sponsor's current **Board of Directors**.
 - Names and addresses of **community advisory group** or proposed advisory group members.
 - **Financial Management Survey**.
 - Copy of **Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate** if indirect costs are requested.
 - Applicant's **organizational chart** showing the major components and the number, positions and reporting relationships of the proposed project staff within the sponsoring organization.

Application requirements

- Project Director job description.
- **Statement of audit status** that indicates whether the applicant is subject to A-133 Audit requirements. If yes, provide the date of the last audit and the date forwarded to the Audit Clearinghouse.

If non-profit, submit the following:

- Aggregate annual dollar amounts of funding
- **IRS certification of non-profit status.**
- Most recent **financial statement audit or 990.**
- Articles of Incorporation.

Where to find info. on competition

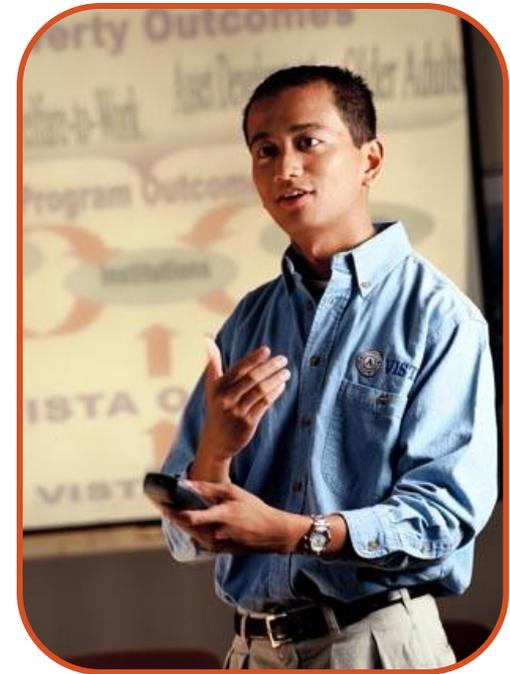
- **Access the expired NOFO from 2014 as example:** <http://www.nationalservice.gov/build-your-capacity/grants/funding-opportunities/2013/2014-rsvp-competition>
- **NOFO includes comprehensive list of FAQs**
- **Access the Senior Corps Virtual Conference for the 2014 grant:**
<https://www.nationalserviceresources.gov/scvirtualconference>
- **Replays of 2014 Training and Technical Assistance webinars and calls are included in 2014 NOFO. T/TA information for 2015 will be provided when the 2015 NOFO is published**

AmeriCorps VISTA



AmeriCorps VISTA

- **AmeriCorps' poverty-fighting arm**
- **Created in 1964 as part of War on Poverty**
- **Around 6,500 members serve each year**
- **VISTAs collaborate with low-income individuals and communities to fight poverty**
- **Focus on capacity building: raising funds, recruiting volunteers, and designing sustainable programs**
- **More than 1,200 project sponsors**
- **Full-time year-long service**



AmeriCorps VISTA activities

- **Focus of program is on indirect services,**
- **VISTAs build the organizational, administrative, and financial capacity of organizations**
- **VISTAs develop programs to meet a need.**

Some VISTA activities are the following:

- **Design city-wide literacy awareness campaigns**
- **Expand access to affordable health care**
- **Recruit and train mentors for children**
- **Develop rural community technology centers**
- **Build programs to assist the unemployed**
- **Organize housing for hurricane victims**

AmeriCorps VISTA benefits

- **Living allowance**
- **Health care**
- **Student loan deferment**
- **Training**
- **Segal AmeriCorps Education Award of \$5,550 to pay for college or pay back student loans**
- **Benefits vary (housing, child care allowance, etc.)**



VISTA Sponsor responsibilities

- Develop and implement Project Plan and performance measures
- Identify a supervisor for the members
- Create an Advisory Council
- RECRUIT and place VISTA members using tools provided by CNCS and own resources
- Provide work space, training, equipment, and supplies

Sponsor Responsibilities

- Create two-week member On Site Orientation and Training
- Assist VISTA members with community entry
- Conduct member performance appraisals, track time and attendance, and perform other supervisory duties
- Connect VISTA members with training and development opportunities
- Document all project achievements and legacy through Project Progress Reports

Cost-Share: The Fast Track

- Sponsor is encouraged to pay the living allowance of at least one member, and possibly more depending on number of VISTAs requested
- Living allowance is approximately \$10,000-\$12,000 and varies by county and cost-of-living adjustments

Next Steps

- Design and submit a Concept Paper in eGrants at any time
- If approved, create and submit a full application
- If awarded, VISTA supervisor sent to CNCS orientation and begin recruitment process
- VISTA placement around Pre-Service Orientations of February, April, July, August and November

Creating an eGrants Account

- Go to www.cns.gov and click on eGrants
- At the login page, click on the link titled: *Don't have an eGrants account? Create an account.*
- eGrants is used to create a concept paper and application, write recruitment listings, approved VISTA members, and more

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Corporation for NATIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE

eGRANTS

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Concept Paper Elements

- Applicant Info
- Application Info
- Narratives
 - Executive Summary
 - Need
 - Strengthening Communities
 - Organizational Capacity
- Review
- Authorize and Submit

Consider...

- What changes will you measure in the agencies where VISTA members serve?
- What changes will you measure in the communities and/or people those agencies serve?
- How will you engage community members, particularly representatives from the low-income community?
- How will the VISTA members' work lift people out of poverty?
- How will the systems members create be sustainable beyond the three-year project period?
- How will you know you're making progress?

VISTA programs in Missouri

- **Salvation Army, Sedalia**
- **Gateway Greening, St. Louis**
- **SGSM Network, St. Louis**
- **College Bound, St. Louis**
- **Grace Hill Settlement House, St. Louis**
- **Heartland Independent Living Center, Owensville**
- **Waynesville R-VI School District, Waynesville**
- **Missouri River Community Network, Columbia**
- **Missouri CASA, Columbia**
- **Bright Futures Connections for Success, Joplin**
- **PAVE Eldon Schools, Eldon**
- **Youth Volunteer Corps, Kansas City**
- **Mayor's Mentoring Initiative, Kansas City**

For more information, please contact:

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