

# Be a VISTA

## AmeriCorps Works in New Jersey!

**Member Summary Information:** AmeriCorps VISTA members serve on a full-time basis for one year. Every candidate must successfully complete a required orientation and training.

*All applicants must be approved by both the sponsor organization and the New Jersey State Office.*

This is merely a summary – other benefits and/or conditions may apply.

### Living Allowance

Each Member Receives a bi-weekly subsistence allowance. Federal income tax is withheld. The approximate subsistence allowance rates for NJ can be found at <https://www.nationalservice.gov>.

### End of Service Award

Once successfully completing a year of service, VISTAs are eligible to receive the Segal AmeriCorps Education Award. For members starting service on or after October 1, 2018, the value of the education award is \$6,095 for full year members. Instead of the education award, VISTAs may choose an end-of-year cash stipend of \$1,800 instead. Members will NOT receive both. To be eligible for either of these awards, the AmeriCorps VISTA member must complete a full year of service.

### Leave

AmeriCorps VISTA members are entitled to 10 days of personal leave and 10 days of medical leave. Leave must be approved in advance by the VISTA member's project supervisor.

### Child Care

AmeriCorps VISTA offers child care benefits through an application process to qualifying members. Eligibility is based on household income, not including the VISTA living allowance. The maximum benefit is \$400 per month.

### Healthcare Benefit

VISTAs have several options regarding health benefits during their term of service. VISTA members who maintain insurance throughout the year are eligible to access a \$7,150 Healthcare Allowance, which is designed to help with out-of-pocket costs such as copays. The other option is to purchase insurance through the Health Insurance Marketplace within 60 days of your start date. If you are legally exempt from maintaining health insurance, a Health Benefit Plan is available to you. For more information visit: <https://www.vistacampus.gov/chapter-8-healthcare-benefit-support-0>

### Outside Employment

If an AmeriCorps VISTA pursues outside employment during service year, the VISTA is not permitted to be an employee of or contractor for the sponsor, sub-recipient, or other project-related organization to which the VISTA is assigned to serve. While in VISTA service, outside employment requirements are: Part-time; Do not conflict with VISTA's service hours; Do not violate any Federal, state, and local laws and regulations; and do not conflict with any AmeriCorps VISTA program requirements or policies. Supervisors must provide written approval.

### Relocation Allowance

If a VISTA is moving more than 50 miles from home to a new community to serve, AmeriCorps offers relocation travel assistance and a settling-in allowance. A \$550 settling-in allowance can help offset moving expenses. A relocation travel allowance is also available. Both allowances must be requested in advance and are not guaranteed. For more information visit the AmeriCorps VISTA Campus website: <https://www.vistacampus.gov/resources/vista-travel-fact-sheet>

### Member Restrictions

VISTA Members cannot proselytize, lobby, run for office, transport people to voting polls, etc. while performing VISTA functions. The Hatch Act applies to all AmeriCorps Members.



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<http://www.hcdnnj.org/amicorpstvista>