



Q&A Session: Connecting Office of Research & Evaluation Research Grantees with AmeriCorps NCCC and VISTA Programs

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Introductory Remarks

Connecting ORE Research Grantees with AmeriCorps NCCC and VISTA Programs



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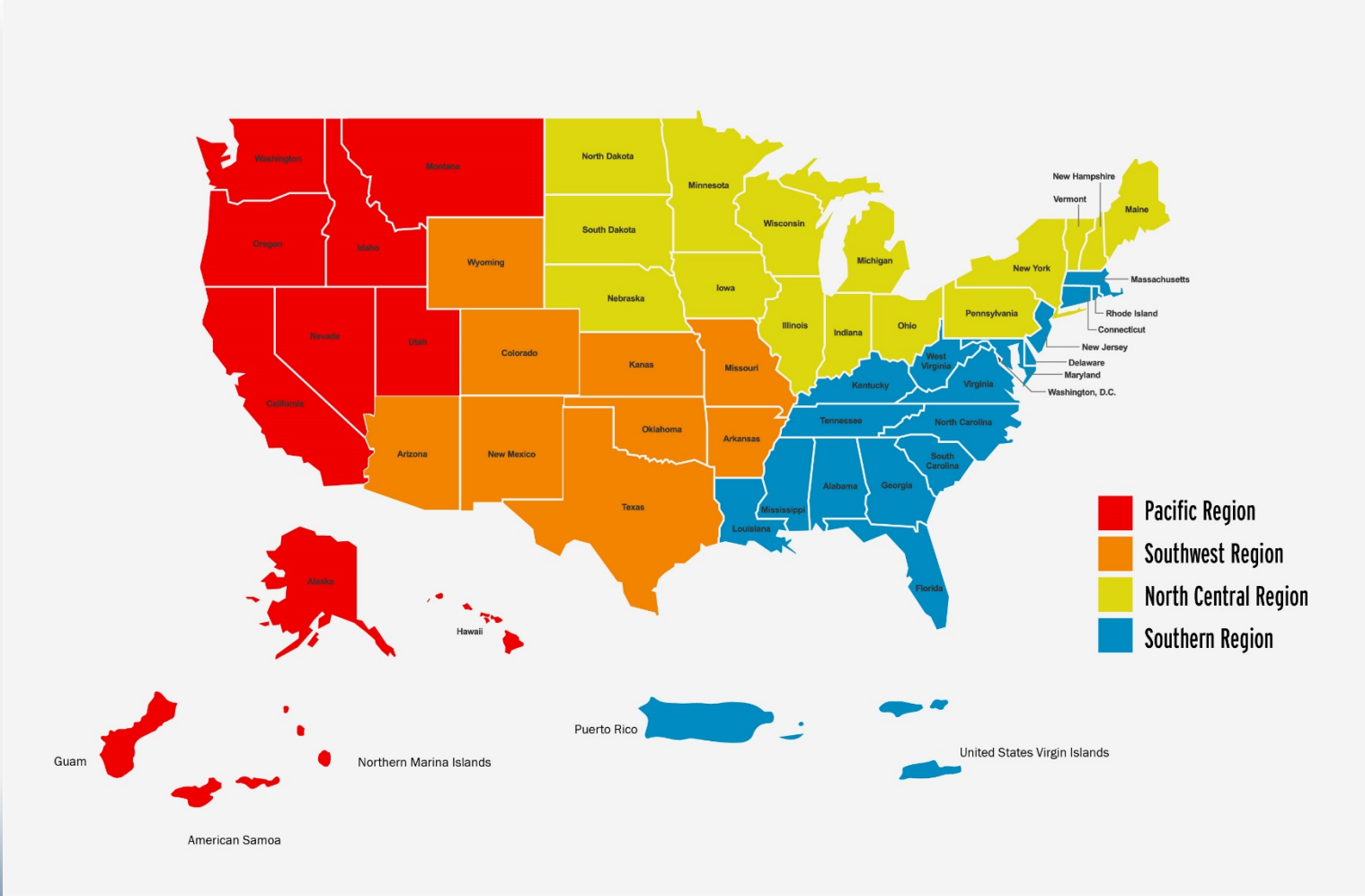
AmeriCorps NCCC

Amanda Cochran

Tanya Gipson-Nahman



AmeriCorps NCCC Structure



AmeriCorps NCCC

Direct service: Extra people power!

Team based: 8-12 members, 18-24 years old

Short term: 6-12 week projects



Areas of Service

- Natural and Other Disasters
- Environmental Stewardship and Conservation
- Energy Conservation
- Infrastructure Improvement
- Urban and Rural Development

Project Sponsors

Who can apply for a team?

- Nonprofits
- Faith-Based Organizations
- Government (federal, state, and local)
- Public schools, colleges and universities
- Tribal Councils and Native Corporations

How do I apply for a team?

- Coordinate with your region's Program Office staff to develop a project
- Submit a Project Concept Form as the first step, based on the timeline provided by the campus
- The campus will then provide you with the full application to complete



Teams Are Provided With

AmeriCorps NCCC Provides:

- 15-Passenger Van
- Food & laundry budget
- Camping and cooking gear
- Limited hand tools, if needed
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Worker's Compensation Coverage

Sponsors Provide:

- Orientation and training
- On-going supervision
- Tools and materials
- Housing
- Enough meaningful work
- Service learning

Pacific Region: NCCCPacific@cns.gov

AK, WA, OR, CA, NV, UT, ID, MT,, HI

North Central Region: NCCCNorthCentral@cns.gov

IA, IL, IN, MI, MN, NE, ND, OH, SD, WI, PA, NY, ME, NH

Southern Region: NCCCSouthern@cns.gov

AL, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV, CT, DC, VT, NJ, MA, RI, MD,
DE, USVI, PR

Southwest Region: NCCCSouthwest@cns.gov

AR, AZ, CO, KS, MO, WY, NM, OK, TX

National Request for Applications Document:

<https://nationalservice.gov/documents/2016/national-request-proposal-deadlines>

www.americorps.gov/nccc



Recruiting for AmeriCorps NCCC

Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE**



Member Eligibility

- ★ Youth between the ages of 18-24

Team Leaders can be 18+ and must have a valid U.S. Driver's License

- ★ U.S. Citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident
- ★ Willing to relocate and serve for 10 consecutive months on a variety of service projects, both indoors and outdoors
- ★ No work experience, education, or skills-based requirements. Selection is weighted towards an applicant's motivations, references, and leadership potential.





AmeriCorps VISTA

Craig Kinnear

Melissa McNeily



VISTA
Volunteers In Service To America



Volunteers in Service to America Core Principles

- Ending poverty
- Empowering communities
- Building capacity
- Creating sustainable solutions



VISTA Sponsor Application Process

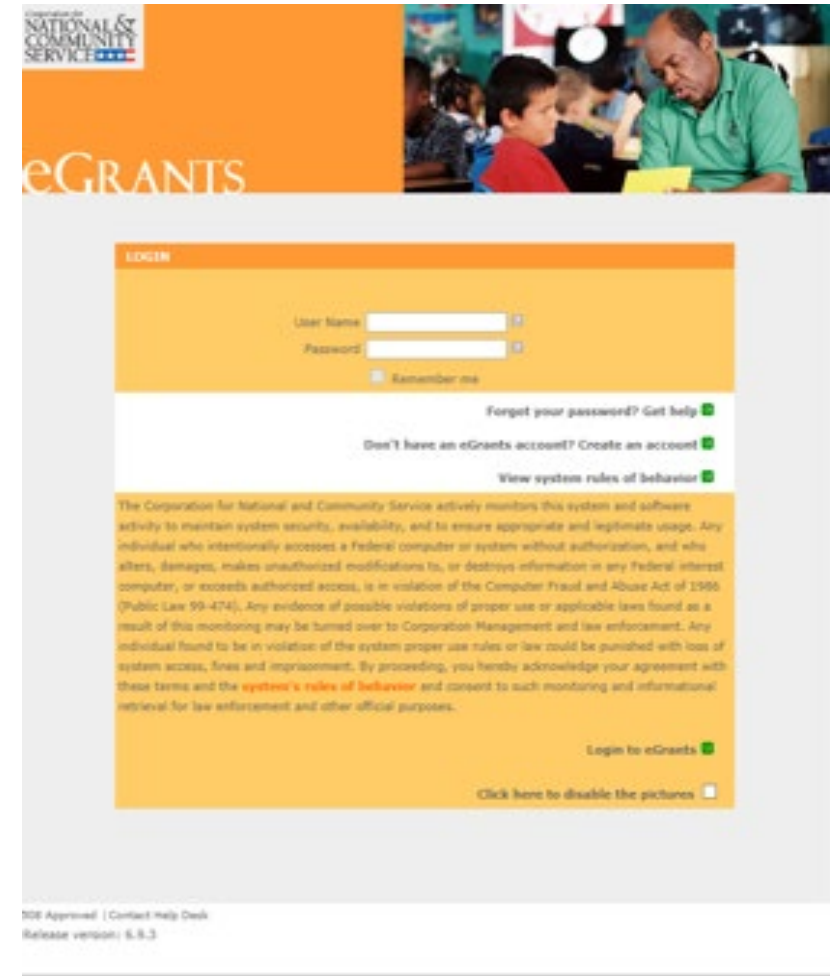


Step 1- AmeriCorps VISTA Concept Paper

Organizations submit an AmeriCorps VISTA Concept Paper. The Concept Paper is a preliminary screening tool used to evaluate whether the organization would be an appropriate sponsor.

Step 2- AmeriCorps VISTA Project Application

If CNCS approves the Concept Paper, the organization submits an AmeriCorps VISTA Project Application based on the approved Concept Paper.



Member Recruitment



- Service Opportunity Listings and VISTA Assignment Descriptions
- VISTA marketing materials
- Promote the benefits of service
- Professional development
- Post opportunities on:
 - job sites and local job boards (Idealist, LinkedIn, Indeed, SimplyHired, etc.)
 - social media (Facebook Groups, Twitter, etc.)
 - community or organization's bulletin boards and newsletters
- Reach out to partners and develop recruitment contacts



Benefits



Members:



Living Allowance

Receive a modest bi-weekly living allowance to cover basic expenses.



End of Service Award

Choose between a Segal Education Award (\$6,095, as of October 2018) to pay for a range of education expenses or a cash stipend (\$1,800).



Non-Competitive Eligibility (NCE)

NCE is a unique hiring path which makes it easier for federal agencies to hire you.



Healthcare Benefit

Choose between reimbursement for healthcare or a healthcare plan. Dental and vision are also included.

Sponsoring Organizations:

Capacity

VISTA Members will build and increase the capacity of anti-poverty programs and organizations.

Volunteers Leveraged

VISTA members will assist with recruiting, training and developing volunteer management systems.

Potential Increased Funding

VISTA members may assist with grant-writing and fundraising for your project.

Partnership Development

VISTA members will identify potential partners and maintain existing relationships with organizations and community members.

Program Expansion

VISTA members may conduct outreach to new clients.

Making the Invisible Visible: A CBPR Study with High School Youth Scientists

Jennifer Willett, PhD

Jenniferwillett@unr.edu

Assistant Professor, University of Nevada, Reno
School of Social Work

With Introduction by Melissa Gouge, PhD, Office of
Research and Evaluation, CNCS

Research Team



Area of Work: Slow Violence

- Hidden environmental problems that occur in historically marginalized or vulnerable communities
- The youth scientists lives in these communities
- Areas of focus, as determined by the youth:
 - Winter flooding on homeless populations
 - Lake flooding an elementary school
 - Inadequate garbage collections
 - Comparisons with wealthy neighborhoods
 - Wildfires
 - Historic mining pollution
 - Ditches, flooding, and no sidewalks

Sun Valley

- An unincorporated (no local government) area 3 miles north of Reno
- Working class
- High Latino population
- Mobile homes are common
- Lack of “normal” infrastructure
- Weak non-profit community

Ditches and No Sidewalks



Photo by Adan Albarran Ayala

- Ditches replace “typical” drainage systems that are underground
- No sidewalks
- Residents must walk or bike in the street
- Residents fall in ditches, especially when full of water during floods
- Car/pedestrian accidents are common

Ditches and No Sidewalks



Photo by Najeh Abduljalil

Developing a Partnership

- Site visit with ORE, NCCC, and Nevada Volunteers
- Amanda, NCCC, came back a few weeks later to figure out how to work together to find solutions



Advancing Solutions

- AmeriCorps NCCC built sidewalks in another Nevadan community
- AmeriCorps NCCC and the Nevada team met with a County Commissioner who was supportive
- We presented to the Sun Valley General Improvement District, who were supportive
- We met with resources who may be able to provide housing for an AmeriCorps team

Benefits for Research Team

- Easier to get in skeptical communities with the AmeriCorps resource
- Helpful for youth scientists to work on tangible solutions when environmental problems can be difficult to see on a daily basis
- Communities want to do more research with us to find solutions
- It's fun!

Q&A

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Questions?