

and private non-profit organizations which have goals in accord with AmeriCorps*VISTA's legislative mission, and have projects determined and defined by those to be served. Each AmeriCorps*VISTA project must focus on the mobilization of community resources, the transference of skills to community residents, and the expansion of the capacity of community-based and grassroots organizations to solve local problems. Programming should encourage permanent, long-term solutions to problems confronting low-income communities rather than short-term approaches for handling emergency needs. AmeriCorps*VISTA project sponsors must actively elicit the support and/or participation of local public and private sector elements in order to enhance the chances of a project's success, as well as to make the activities undertaken by AmeriCorps*VISTA self-sustaining when the Corporation for National Service no longer provides those resources.

Part II. Criteria for Selection of AmeriCorps*VISTA Sponsors and Projects

A. Criteria for Sponsorship

The following provisions explain the organizational requirements that must be met to sponsor an AmeriCorps*VISTA project; and the criteria necessary for selection of any AmeriCorps*VISTA project.

1. Organizational Selection Criteria

The applicant must:

- a. Be a public sector organization or a private organization designated as non-profit by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). (Organizations that have submitted applications for non-profit status from the IRS will also be considered.)
- b. Comply with applicable financial and fiscal requirements established by the Corporation for National Service or other elements of the Federal Government.
- c. Have resources available for AmeriCorps*VISTA members to perform their tasks; i.e., space, consumable supplies, telephone, on-the-job transportation reimbursement; and be able to provide emergency cash advances when needed.
- d. Be able to mobilize community, public, and private sector resources to achieve short-term program goals and long-term project self-sufficiency goals, and to encourage local part-time volunteer service.
- e. Have the capacity and commitment to recruit, orient, train, supervise, and

otherwise support locally and nationally-recruited AmeriCorps*VISTA members in appropriate capacity-building roles.

f. Have an understanding of the concept of, and be committed to, promoting national service and AmeriCorps.

g. Be experienced in the issues related to the beneficiaries of service and those being addressed by the proposed project.

h. Have the capacity to build community partnerships and collaborative efforts in order to achieve project self-sufficiency.

2. Project Selection Criteria

The proposed project must:

- a. Address the needs of low-income communities and otherwise comply with the provisions of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973, (DVSA) as amended (42 U.S.C. 4951 et seq.) applicable to AmeriCorps*VISTA and all applicable published regulations, guidelines and Corporation policies.
- b. Lead to building organizational and/or community capacity to continue the efforts of the project once AmeriCorps*VISTA resources are withdrawn. This will be demonstrated through measurable goals and objectives and the stated AmeriCorps*VISTA tasks which are attainable within the time-frame of the project.
- c. Be designed to generate public and/or private sector resources and to promote local, part-time volunteer service.
- d. Describe in measurable terms the anticipated self-sufficiency outcomes at the conclusion of the project, including outcomes related to the sustainability of the project activities.
- e. Clearly state how AmeriCorps*VISTAs will be trained, supervised and supported to ensure the achievement of program goals and objectives as stated in the project work plan.
- f. Be internally consistent; the problem statement which demonstrates need, the project work plan, the AmeriCorps*VISTA assignment description, and all other components must be related logically to each other.
- g. Ensure that AmeriCorps*VISTA and community resources sufficient to achieve project goals and objectives are available.
- h. Involve beneficiaries of service in project development and implementation throughout the life of the project.
- i. Have the management and technical capability to implement the project successfully.

j. Describe how the number of AmeriCorps*VISTA members being requested is appropriate for project goals and objectives, and how the skills qualifications described in the application are appropriate for the assignment(s).

k. Describe how AmeriCorps*VISTA assignments are designed to utilize the full-time member's time to the maximum extent.

B. Prohibited Activities

Applicant and current sponsoring organizations must ensure that the following prohibitions on AmeriCorps*VISTA and sponsor activity are observed:

1. AmeriCorps*VISTA are prohibited by law from participating in:

- (a) Partisan and nonpartisan political activities, including voter registration and transporting voters to the polls.
- (b) Direct or indirect attempts to influence legislation, or proposals by initiative petition.
- (c) Any outside employment while in AmeriCorps*VISTA service.

2. AmeriCorps*VISTA sponsoring organizations are prohibited by law from:

- (a) Carrying out projects resulting in the identification of such projects with partisan or nonpartisan political activities, including providing voters with transportation to the polls and any voter registration activity other than making voter registration applications and nonpartisan voter registration information available to the public on the premises.
 - (b) Assigning AmeriCorps*VISTAs to activities which would otherwise be performed by employed workers and which would supplant the hiring of or result in the displacement of employed workers, or impair existing contracts for service.
 - (c) Requesting or receiving any compensation for the services of AmeriCorps*VISTA members.
 - (d) Using funds to finance, directly or indirectly, labor and anti-labor organization and related activities.
 - (e) Using funds appropriated to carry out AmeriCorps*VISTA programming for any activity for the purposes of influencing the passage or defeat of legislation or proposals by initiative petition unless otherwise permitted under the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973, as amended.
3. AmeriCorps*VISTA members are prohibited from engaging in any religious activities as part of their duties. AmeriCorps*VISTA sponsors are prohibited from conducting any religious instruction, worship, proselytization or other religious