

(3) AmeriCorps*VISTA projects are eligible for funding of a full-time supervisory position if the project averages at least eight (8) AmeriCorps*VISTA members over the course of the Memorandum of Agreement.

d. Necessity of supervisor job-related travel based on number of AmeriCorps*VISTA members assigned and the geographic dispersion of the project.

The Corporation State Program Director will consider budget constraints, available resources, and program and geographic priorities in distributing AmeriCorps*VISTA supervision funds.

7. Elimination or Reduction of Transportation and/or Supervision Funding

a. As a general rule, the level of funding, determined by the Project Manager and contained in an AmeriCorps*VISTA project support grant/agreement, will be maintained throughout the term of the annual Memorandum of Agreement between the Corporation for National Service and the sponsoring organization. However, types of conditions which may cause the reduction or elimination of project support during the term of the annual Memorandum of Agreement are:

(1) Amendment by mutual agreement between the Corporation for National Service and the sponsor;

(2) Termination by the sponsor for any reason;

(3) Reassignment, resignation, or termination of AmeriCorps*VISTA members from the project before their term of service has ended with no replacements during that budget year;

(4) Substantial changes in member assignments; or

(5) Suspension or termination in accordance with 45 CFR Part 1206, Subpart A.

b. All grant awards or agreements documenting supervisory or on-the-job transportation arrangements will contain language indicating that the AmeriCorps*VISTA funding may be reduced or eliminated in accordance with the provisions of this Guideline and the Memorandum of Agreement.

Dated: June 4, 1998.

Kenneth L. Kloth,
General Counsel.

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CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Availability of Funds for AmeriCorps*VISTA "Welfare to Work" Grants Nationwide

AGENCY: Corporation for National and Community Service.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of Funds.

SUMMARY: The Corporation for National and Community Service (hereinafter "the Corporation") announces the availability of funds for fiscal year 1999, subject to the availability of appropriations, for new AmeriCorps*VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) program grants focusing on "Welfare to Work" strategies throughout the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Project applications will be written to cover a 12-month period and grants will be awarded for a 12-month period with a renewal option. As part of this effort, the Corporation is soliciting applications from public or private non-profit organizations, including current AmeriCorps*VISTA project sponsors, which will operate programs on a multi-state basis. Approximately five to seven grants are expected to be awarded in October 1998, subject to the availability of FY 1999 funding.

DATES: Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m., Eastern time, July 24, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Application instructions and kits are available from the Corporation for National and Community Service, AmeriCorps*VISTA, 1201 New York Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20525, (202) 606-5000, ext. 134, TDD (202) 565-2799, or TTY via the Federal Information Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. One signed original and four copies of the application should be submitted to the Corporation for National and Community Service, 1201 New York Avenue, N.W., Mailstop 9207, Attn: Kathleen Dennis, Washington, DC 20525. The Corporation will not accept applications that are submitted via facsimile or e-mail transmission. Applications submitted via overnight mail that arrive after the closing date will be accepted if they are postmarked at least two days prior to the closing date. Otherwise, late applications will not be accepted.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, contact Kathleen Dennis at (202) 606-5000, ext. 134.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

AmeriCorps*VISTA is authorized under the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973, as amended (Pub. L. 93-113). The statutory mandate of AmeriCorps*VISTA is "to strengthen and supplement efforts to eliminate and alleviate poverty and poverty-related problems in the United States by encouraging and enabling persons from all walks of life, all geographical areas, and all age groups . . . (to) assist in the solution of poverty and poverty-related problems, and . . . to generate the commitment of private sector resources, to encourage volunteer service at the local level, and to strengthen local agencies and organizations to carry out the purpose (of the program)." (42 U.S.C. § 4951)

AmeriCorps*VISTA carries out its legislative mandate by assigning individuals 18 years and older, on a full-time, year-long basis, to public and private non-profit organizations whose goals are in accord with AmeriCorps*VISTA's legislative mission. 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 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 members self-sustaining when the Corporation no longer provides resources.

B. Purpose of This Announcement

The Welfare to Work initiative is a nationwide effort to create and expand opportunities for low-income individuals who have significant barriers making it difficult for them to move into jobs providing long-term employment potential. The initiative will focus on developing efforts in job training, employment and self-employment to enable low-income individuals to achieve economic self-sufficiency. The Corporation is interested in promoting comprehensive, coordinated approaches to increasing low-income individuals' economic opportunities. All grant projects will be expected to be an integral part of a

comprehensive strategy for developing and implementing innovative approaches that enhance a community's ability to move eligible individuals into self-sustaining employment, to create upward mobility paths and higher earnings, and to achieve sustainable improvements in the community's service infrastructure for assisting low-income residents.

AmeriCorps*VISTA's participation in the Welfare to Work initiative will focus on:

1. National or multi-state organizations working in conjunction with local affiliates that share a vision of promoting economic self-sufficiency among low-income individuals;

2. Initiation and/or expansion of community-based economic and community development programs such as: microenterprise or small business development; community development credit unions; micro-lending; individual development accounts; neighborhood revitalization; job readiness/training/counseling/placement activities; and, job-related supportive services in areas with a substantial percentage of low-income residents;

3. Promotion of partnerships and collaboration between the public and private sectors including businesses, community-based organizations; faith-based organizations and other service programs;

4. Employment strategies which may include:

- creation of job opportunities (including self-employment) that allow for flexibility to address work and family needs while providing income levels that are adequate for self-sufficiency;
- proactive strategies to involve employers in design of service strategies and implementation of the project;
- activities to help individuals access nontraditional occupations;
- use of integrated work and learning strategies to develop skills; and,
- development of responsive transportation and child care service systems.

Job creation should include livable wages, benefits, and long-term economic progress for the individual and community;

5. Recruitment, training, and coordination of local volunteers;

6. Mobilization of resources needed to support the project; and

7. Development of a sustainable capacity in local communities to effectively move low-income residents and welfare recipients into permanent jobs to foster the long-term self-sufficiency of the target population.

C. Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants for AmeriCorps*VISTA program grants supporting the Welfare to Work initiative must be public or private non-profit organizations with a regional or national constituency who operate on a multi-state or national basis. Such entities may include: regional or national non-profit organizations, tribal or territorial governments, or organizations representing tribal populations. Current AmeriCorps*VISTA sponsoring organizations may apply without affecting the status of their existing projects.

D. Scope of Grant

Each grant budget will support 20 to 50 AmeriCorps*VISTA members on a full-time basis for one year of service. The average Federal cost of an AmeriCorps*VISTA service year i.e., total Federal cost divided by total number of members, will range from approximately \$11,000 to \$13,000 in the continental United States depending upon the location of the assignment(s). (Higher rates apply in Alaska and Hawaii.) Specific budget guidance is available in the project application kit; average allowance costs contained in the instructions should be used to prepare the budget submission.

Each grant will include funds for the grantee to pay: a monthly subsistence allowance for AmeriCorps*VISTA members that is commensurate with the cost-of-living of the assignment area and covers the cost of food, housing, utilities, and incidental expenses; an end-of-service cash stipend payment, accrued at the rate of \$100 per month, for those members not selecting the AmeriCorps education award; and relocation expenses for those AmeriCorps*VISTA members who must relocate in order to serve. The grant will also include funds for member in-service training, member supervision, and member/supervisor job-related transportation.

The following costs will be covered by the Corporation: an AmeriCorps education award in the amount of \$4725 for AmeriCorps*VISTA members who complete their year of service and do not elect the stipend, health support for all AmeriCorps*VISTA members; a child care allowance for eligible AmeriCorps*VISTA members; pre-service orientation; and, travel from home of record to training to assignment for all AmeriCorps*VISTA members as well as travel home at the end of service.

Grant applicants should demonstrate their commitment to matching the Federal contribution toward the operation of the AmeriCorps*VISTA Welfare to Work program grant by offsetting all, or part of, the costs of member supervision, transportation, and training, as well as the basic costs of the program itself (e.g., space, telephone, etc.). This support can be achieved through cash or in-kind contributions.

Grants will be awarded on a twelve-month basis with a renewal option subject to need, satisfactory performance, and the availability of Corporation resources. Publication of this announcement does not obligate the Corporation to award any specific number of grants or to obligate the entire amount of funds available, or any part thereof, for grants under the AmeriCorps*VISTA program.

E. Responsibilities of National Grantee

Applicant organizations must have: national or multi-state networks, the existing capacity needed to monitor and support a national or multi-state project; and experience in operating other national or multi-state programs. The applicant organization must demonstrate a strong institutional commitment of personnel, resources, training and technical expertise. Applicant organizations must develop a strong and well-coordinated multi-site project rather than loosely tying together several unrelated local programs.

The applicant organization will have several crucial roles and responsibilities in operating a high quality multi-site AmeriCorps*VISTA project. All applicant organizations must:

- identify local sites and assist them with preparation of Part A of the Project Application (Form 1421),
- provide on-going monitoring, training, technical assistance, and support to local sites,
- assist in member recruitment, and
- work with sites to develop long-term sustainability plans.

After selection, the national grantees will be advised by the Corporation of specific requirements related to the AmeriCorps*VISTA project, including the submission of Project Progress Reports to the AmeriCorps*VISTA Headquarters project manager and assistance in the design and delivery of training. The Corporation State Office works with the local project affiliates to develop Part B of the project application and to provide in-service training and technical assistance for the members. The Corporation State Office also provides training to AmeriCorps*VISTA supervisors through periodic site visits

and meetings with supervisors. A Project Progress Report is submitted by each local affiliate to the Corporation State Office on a quarterly basis.

F. Submission Requirements

To be considered for funding, applicants must submit **five copies, with original signatures** on items 2 and 3, of the following:

(1) A one-page narrative summary description, single-spaced, single-sided in 10–12 point, of the proposed AmeriCorps*VISTA Welfare to Work project including the name, address, telephone number, and contact person for the applicant organization as shown on the SF 424. The summary should include the major objectives and expected outcomes of the project. The summary will be used as a project abstract to provide reviewers with an introduction to the substantive parts of the application. Therefore, care should be taken to produce a summary which accurately and concisely reflects the proposal.

(2) Application for Federal Assistance, SF 424, with a detailed narrative budget justification.

(3) AmeriCorps*VISTA Project Application, Form 1421, Parts A and B. All project information must be contained in the space provided on the application form except where additional sheets may be submitted for the Project Work Plan and/or Member Assignment Description(s).

(4) Current resume of potential AmeriCorps*VISTA supervisor(s), if available, or resume of the director of the applicant organization.

(5) List of members of the Board of Directors including their professional affiliations and/or program-related activities.

(6) Organizational chart illustrating the location of the AmeriCorps*VISTA project within the overall applicant organization.

(7) Letters of support must be provided from outside organizations that will be collaborating in the overall project effort. Letters should reflect knowledge and endorsement of the specific objectives of the project, as well as any commitment of resources to the project if applicable.

(8) For each local site that will be hosting AmeriCorps*VISTA member(s), Part A of the application must be included. No other documents pertaining to the local sites should be attached.

National applicant organizations must also submit one copy of the following:

(1) Current Articles of Incorporation.

(2) Proof of non-profit status, or an application for non-profit status and related documentation.

(3) CPA certification of accounting capability.

(4) A copy of most recent annual report, if available.

No additional attachments are to be included. Such attachments will not be read or given to reviewers.

G. Criteria for AmeriCorps*VISTA Welfare to Work Project Selection

All of the following elements must be incorporated in the applicant's submission:

I. Program Design

a. Getting Things Done

The proposed project must:

1. Address the needs of low-income communities and otherwise comply with the provisions of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4951 *et seq.*) applicable to AmeriCorps*VISTA and all applicable published regulations, guidelines, and Corporation policies.

2. Be internally consistent, i.e. the problem statement that demonstrates need, the project work plan, the AmeriCorps*VISTA member assignment description, and all other components must be related logically to each other.

3. Contain clear and measurable objectives/outcomes in the project application for a 12-month period that address the overall objectives of the Welfare to Work initiative. Proposed projects must show how the activities of the AmeriCorps*VISTA members contribute to specific outcomes related to increased economic opportunity for low-income people. It is expected that outcome objectives will reflect the evolution of the project over the 12-month period.

4. Include activities and mechanisms that provide for the involvement of beneficiaries of the project.

5. Indicate how the proposed project complements and/or enhances welfare to work activities already underway in, or planned for, the community(ies) which will be served by the project. To the extent possible, projects should seek out opportunities to collaborate with other Corporation programs, as well as with other community partners, including the business sector.

6. Describe how the number of AmeriCorps*VISTA members requested is appropriate for the project goals/objectives, and how the skills requested are appropriate for the assignment(s).

b. Strengthening Communities

The proposed project must:

1. Describe how the project will develop a sustainable capacity in the local community to effectively create permanent employment and to foster the long-term self-sufficiency of the community. Project services should provide assistance oriented towards long-term solutions.

2. Demonstrate collaboration with organizations which provide supportive services to enhance job creation and community development.

3. Be designed to generate public and/or private sector resources, and to promote local, part-time volunteer service at the community level.

4. 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.

c. Member Development

The proposed project must:

1. Clearly state how

AmeriCorps*VISTA members will be trained, supervised, and supported to ensure the achievement of program goals and objectives as stated in the project work plan.

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

II. Organizational Capacity

The proposed project must:

1. Ensure that resources needed to achieve project goals and objectives are available.

2. Have the management and technical capability to implement the project successfully.

3. Have a track record or experience in dealing with the issues addressed by the proposed project.

4. Have systems for the evaluation and monitoring of project activities. Applicants must describe the methods that will be used to track progress toward the stated objectives, and the procedures that will provide the feedback needed to make adjustments and improve program quality. Projects must also be prepared to cooperate with the Corporation for National Service and its evaluation partners in all Corporation monitoring and evaluation efforts.

III. Budget/Cost-Effectiveness

The proposed project must:

1. Include a budget that adequately supports the program design.

2. Include a budget that adheres to budget guidance provided with the application.

3. Describe how the applicant organization is committing resources necessary for program implementation.

H. Application Review

Proposal Evaluation

To ensure fairness to all applicants, the Corporation reserves the right to take action, up to and including disqualification, in the event that a proposal fails to comply with any requirements specified in this Notice.

1. Program Design (60% as described below):

The project application allows the Corporation to assess the capacity of the applicant organization to implement the project and accomplish the purpose of the Welfare to Work initiative. The overall quality of the application will be evaluated as follows:

a. Responsiveness to Getting Things Done Criteria (25%).

b. Responsiveness to Strengthening Communities Criteria (30%).

c. Responsiveness to Member Development Criteria (5%).

2. Organizational Capacity (25%):

The applicant organization's capacity to direct, manage, support, provide technical assistance, assess the project, and promote long-term implementation of the project's efforts, must be reflected in the Project Application.

3. Budget (15%):

Applicants must prepare the budget according to information contained in Item D, Scope of Grant, above, and instructions about costs and allowance levels contained in the application kit. A detailed Budget Narrative must identify and justify each line item and cost. The Corporation will assess the cost-effectiveness of the proposed project and the project's ability to leverage significant resources from private and/or public sources.

I. Geographic Diversity

After evaluating the overall quality of the proposal and its responsiveness to the criteria noted above, the Corporation will take into consideration whether funded projects are: (1) geographically diverse, including projects in both urban and rural areas; and (2) in areas of high concentration of low-income residents, including those in empowerment zones, enterprise communities and homeownership zones.

J. Bidders' Conferences

An informal, technical assistance meeting and telephone conference call is being planned for June 24, 1998, at 2:00 p.m. Eastern time for potential applicants. The term "technical assistance," however, does not include advising the applicant how to make substantive improvements in its application that will affect ratings.

All applicants must pre-register by faxing the names, organization and phone number of up to two members planning to participate, and an indication of whether participation will be in person or via conference call. This information should be faxed to Kathleen Dennis at 202-565-2789. All reservations must be submitted by June 22, 1998.

Questions may be submitted in advance of the meeting via fax to the above number. If you are unable to attend the Bidders' Conference but would like the conference materials and a conference transcript, submit your request via fax to the fax number above.

K. Program Authority

Corporation Authority to make these grants is authorized under Title I, Part A of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973, as amended (Pub. L. 93-113).

Dated: June 4, 1998.

Kenneth L. Kloth,
General Counsel.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[OMB Control No. 9000-0022]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request Entitled Customs and Duties; Correction and Republication

AGENCIES: Department of Defense (DOD), General Services Administration (GSA), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Notice of request for comments regarding an extension to an existing OMB clearance (9000-0022).

SUMMARY: The notice document concerning OMB clearance 9000-0022 published on June 2, 1998 (63 FR 29977) contained incomplete information. Therefore, the entire document is reprinted for the convenience of the reader. The document as corrected reads as follows:

Correction and Republication

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE GENERAL SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[OMB Control No. 9000-0022]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request
Entitled Customs and Duties

AGENCIES: Department of Defense (DOD), General Services Administration (GSA), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Notice of request for comments regarding an extension to an existing OMB clearance (9000-0022).

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Secretariat will be submitting to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a request to review and approve an extension of a currently approved information collection requirement concerning Customs and Duties. The clearance currently expires on September 30, 1998.

DATES: Comments may be submitted on or before August 3, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: FAR Desk Officer, OMB, Room 10102, NEOB, Washington, DC 20503, and a copy to the General Services Administration, FAR Secretariat (MVRs), 1800 F Street, NW, Room 4037, Washington, DC 20405.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Linfield, Federal Acquisition Policy Division, GSA (202) 501-1757.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Purpose

United States laws impose duties on foreign supplies imported into the customs territory of the United States. Certain exemptions from these duties are available to Government agencies. These exemptions are used whenever the anticipated savings outweigh the administrative costs associated with processing required documentation. When a Government contractor purchases foreign supplies, it must notify the contracting officer to determine whether the supplies should be duty-free. In addition, all shipping documents and containers must specify certain information to assure the duty-free entry of the supplies.

The contracting officer analyzes the information submitted by the contractor to determine whether or not supplies should enter the country duty-free. The information, the contracting officer's determination, and the U.S. Customs forms are placed in the contract file.

B. Annual Reporting Burden

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing