



# Serving with the Maine VISTA Project



The Maine VISTA Project is a statewide AmeriCorps VISTA program that builds capacity and sustainability of nonprofit and faith-based organizations, educational institutions, and government agencies to reduce poverty in Maine communities. VISTA members are placed with organizations that provide services within one of the six focus areas of the Corporation for National & Community Service: Economic Opportunity, Education, Disaster Services, Environmental Stewardship, Healthy Futures, and Veterans & Military Families.

The Maine VISTA Project is sponsored by the Maine Commission for Community Service. *The Corporation for National & Community Service and the Maine Commission for Community Service encourage qualified applicants with and without disabilities to apply. Reasonable accommodations and/or materials in alternative formats are available upon request.*

*Interested applicants should contact the Maine VISTA project at [VISTAdirector@VolunteerMaine.org](mailto:VISTAdirector@VolunteerMaine.org).*

## Pine Tree Legal

Established in 1967, Pine Tree Legal Assistance is a well-respected nonprofit with a local and national reputation for excellence. Pine Tree's mission is to ensure that state and federal laws affecting poor people are upheld, while also addressing the systemic barriers to justice faced by Mainers with low incomes. To achieve this end, Pine Tree provides free civil legal assistance in cases where it can make a difference in meeting basic human needs or in enforcing basic rights.

The VISTA member will be focused on finding sustainable ways to maintain and increase Pine Tree's capacity to serve veterans. Working with staff and building off two years of prior VISTA projects, the VISTA member will focus on fundraising (primarily grant writing) and developing training/presentation templates that anyone in the program can use for outreach. In addition, the VISTA member will conduct outreach to target populations.

Although the VISTA member will work closely with staff providing legal assistance to clients with low incomes, ideal candidates should have an express interest in grant writing, development and non-profit management. **The accepted applicant for this position will be expected to attend a AmeriCorps Pre-Service Orientation July 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> and begin at Pine Tree Legal Monday July 14, 2014**

*For more information about this specific VISTA placement, please email [rliscord@ptla.org](mailto:rliscord@ptla.org).*

## What is AmeriCorps VISTA?

AmeriCorps VISTA is the national service program designed specifically to fight poverty in America. Founded as Volunteers in Service to America in 1965 and incorporated into the AmeriCorps network of programs in 1994, VISTA has been on the front lines in the fight against poverty in America for almost 50 years. VISTA is funded through the Corporation for National and Community Service.

## What qualifications do Maine VISTA Members need?

- Self-motivated with a high degree of flexibility.
- Clear, concise oral and written communication skills.
- Ability to manage time, set priorities, plan & implement projects effectively.

- Ability to travel independently as required by service assignment.
- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience in related field preferred.

## Who can be an AmeriCorps VISTA Member?

Anyone who is:

- At least 18 years old (no upper age limit!)
- A U.S. Citizen, national or legal resident
- Able to commit to one year of full-time service- be available evenings and weekends as needed by your host site
- Not employed – while serving as a VISTA, members cannot work to supplement their living allowance
- Not attending school full-time – Maine VISTA Project members must have written approval from their supervisor and the Maine VISTA Project Director **before** enrolling in any class.
  - If applicants are enrolled in a class(es) when applying to the Maine VISTA Project, contact [VISTAdirector@VolunteerMaine.org](mailto:VISTAdirector@VolunteerMaine.org) to discuss whether the course work would interfere with VISTA service requirements. (Service requirements vary from site to site.)

All AmeriCorps VISTA members are required to undergo a criminal history check prior to the beginning of their service term. This background check entails a search of the National Sex Offenders Registry (NSOPR) and an FBI criminal history check, which requires candidates to be finger printed at the Pre-Service Orientation.

## What are AmeriCorps VISTA Member Benefits?

VISTA members receive:

- 1) A living allowance (\$983/month in Maine)
- 2) Health coverage
- 3) Upon successful completion of service term, a \$5,550 educational award or \$1,500 cash stipend
- 4) Optional life insurance
- 5) One year of non-competitive status for a federal government job.

Additional benefits may be available to eligible members:

- Relocation allowance,
- Child care credits up to \$400/month,
- Student loan deferment or forbearance.

*For more information about the Maine VISTA Project contact  
[VISTAdirector@volunteermaine.org](mailto:VISTAdirector@volunteermaine.org).*



*For more information about AmeriCorps, visit [www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov).*