

Oregon Health Authority AmeriCorps VISTA Partnership Project Frequently Asked Questions



Important Dates	
	August 2022 cohort
Recruitment Period:	May 13, 2022-July 17, 2022
Member Selection Deadline:	July 22, 2022
Service Start Date:	August 15, 2022
Service End Date:	August 14, 2023
Mandatory Online Pre-Service Orientation:	August 9, 2022
Mandatory OHA VISTA Pre-Service Webinar:	TBD

What is AmeriCorps VISTA?

AmeriCorps Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) is the national service program designed specifically to fight and address issues relating to poverty. VISTA has been on the front lines in the fight against poverty in America for more than 50 years. It is operated by AmeriCorps, the federal government agency that leads volunteering, service, and grant-making efforts in the United States. AmeriCorps operates nationwide service programs such as various FEMA Corps and Senior Corps. This program is available to all, without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, disability, gender identity or expression, political affiliation, marital or parental status, genetic information, and military service.

- **Visit the AmeriCorps website:** <https://www.nationalservice.gov/>
- **Attend a webinar to learn more about the AmeriCorps VISTA program:** https://americorps.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_2-IQI7EPSHi4Zsj5eK_0rw

How long do you serve as an AmeriCorps member?

AmeriCorps members with any VISTA project serve at a site for one year (12 months), approximately 40 hours each week.

Are the start dates flexible?

No. Members must attend required orientations and established start/end dates at their host sites.

What are the benefits of VISTA service?

Benefits during service - Learn more on the AmeriCorps website

- Modest living allowance of approximately \$15,001-\$17,589 for the year (varies by county) ○ Paid every two weeks. Amount is federally taxed and reflects the pre-tax amount
- Student loan forbearance or deferment for qualified federal loans
- Healthcare benefits (learn more at: americorpsvista.imglobal.com) and childcare assistance
- Access to the network of AmeriCorps members & VISTA Alumni (220,000 strong)

- Valuable training from AmeriCorps, the Oregon Health Authority, and the service site
- Travel support for those relocating over 50 miles for a service placement
 - Settling-in allowance of up to \$750
 - Relocation allowance of \$0.40/mile (based on direct mileage between home of record and site)

Benefits after completion of service

- A Segal AmeriCorps Education Award (\$6,495) or post-service stipend (approximately \$1,800) • One year of noncompetitive status for a federal government job

Can I get a part time job on the side?

Yes. Outside employment must be approved by the site supervisor, OHA, and AmeriCorps, be legal, and not interfere with regular service work hours or other AmeriCorps VISTA events and trainings.

What is the Oregon Health Authority AmeriCorps VISTA Partnership Project?

Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is a state government agency with the mission to help people and communities achieve optimum physical, mental, and social well-being through partnerships, prevention, and access to quality, affordable health care. We partner with AmeriCorps VISTA to reduce poverty in Oregon through sustainable public health initiatives and taking a systems-approach to creating healthy communities.

- This program continues to be the largest AmeriCorps VISTA project in Oregon.
- Public, private, or faith-based non-profit organizations, as well as local, state, tribal or federal agencies apply to the state Public Health Division to be selected as a host site for an AmeriCorps member.
- Since 2009, the program has expanded to tackle many projects targeting specific public health issues that impact people living in poverty. These include health department accreditation, chronic disease prevention, environmental health, oral health, disaster healthcare volunteer management, healthcare reform, and health equity, fighting the opioid epidemic, and more.

Where do Oregon Health Authority AmeriCorps members serve?

AmeriCorps members conduct public health-related service in professional office settings at statewide organizations, local public health departments, tribal agencies, or non-profits sites throughout the state of Oregon, in rural frontier and urban communities.

➤ **Learn more about our program or view our open positions here:** <http://healthoregon.org/vista>

What are the benefits of joining the OHA AmeriCorps VISTA Partnership Project?

- Regular team meetings and professional development opportunities
- Funding for conferences and other training opportunities
- Transit passes and other benefits (select sites)
- A support system of a large cohort of AmeriCorps members serving in similar projects across the state
- Structure and experience of the established 12-year program, which includes: connections to public health organizations throughout the state, support from leadership at the Oregon Health Authority, and a team of VISTA Leaders to ensure success throughout the service year

What training opportunities are available to AmeriCorps member serving with the OHA?

At the start of service, AmeriCorps members will learn about poverty alleviation and capacity building from a virtual Pre-Service Orientation, hosted by AmeriCorps. Throughout the service year, OHA VISTA team members will have the opportunity to attend various state conferences and engage in continuous training on a variety of topics such as:

- Public health fundamentals
- Professional development
- Public health science
- Trauma Informed Care
- Project management
- Leadership
- Strategic planning
- Grant writing
- Fundraising
- Health equity
- Effective communication
- Volunteer management
- Cultural agility
- Emergency preparedness
- and more!

How do I apply?

Complete the online application on the My AmeriCorps website. Search for VISTA programs in Oregon to find our positions or view our open positions on the OHA website.

- **My AmeriCorps:** <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/login.do>
- **OHA AmeriCorps VISTA Partnership Project:** <http://healthoregon.org/vista>

What happens after I submit my application?

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. A representative should be in contact with you within one week regarding our pre-screening interview. The representative will then send your application to our partner agencies who determine if they would like to extend an interview. Interviews will be scheduled as requested.

I still have some questions; how can I learn more?

The OHA AmeriCorps VISTA Leadership team will be hosting weekly Recruitment Office Hours on Zoom to answer questions from potential applicants. Join us on **Thursday afternoons** between June 9th and July 14th from **1:00-1:45pm Pacific Time** to learn more!

Click here to join! <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/16147197531>

Meeting ID: 161 471 97531

Case sensitive passcode: OHA.VISTA

Dial in on your phone:

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