

## **New York State VISTA PROJECT LIST**

### **ACCESS National VISTA Project**

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Capacity building programs that support economic independence with a focus on expanding and improving culturally competent programs and services that support family health education and literacy, financial education and asset development, job readiness and placement for recent immigrants.

### **Advocates for Children**

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AmeriCorps\*VISTA volunteers work on behalf of children who are at greatest risk for school-based discrimination and/or academic failure. The VISTA project works to assist these children and their families and caretakers by expanding the Family Court Projects, working for Immigrant Student's Rights project, a foster care project and in development by increasing agency-wide funding and developing new programs.

### **Alternatives Federal Credit Union**

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Alternatives' mission is to build wealth and create economic opportunity for underserved people and communities. They focus on reaching the unbanked, providing access to transactional services (savings and checking), financial education, reasonably priced loans that help people build good credit, and assistance with asset ownership through Individual Development Accounts (IDA), micro-enterprise development, student loans and affordable mortgages. Three (3) AmeriCorps\*VISTA members will serve in positions designed to further Alternatives' mission by addressing areas of growth and

need. Members will assist with program design, resource development and sustainability. The three programs include: Financial Counseling; Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA); and the Business CENTS micro-enterprise rural outreach program.

### **America SCORES**

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America SCORES empowers students in urban communities using soccer, writing, creative expression, and service learning. With teamwork as the unifying value, America SCORES inspires youth to lead healthy lifestyles, be engaged students, and become agents of change in their communities. SCORES targets children from low-income urban communities that rank in the lowest deciles in academic performance. VISTA members will be placed at SCORES affiliates in 12 states, increasing their capacity to serve more youth. VISTA members will help to leverage funds, manage volunteers, and expand outreach to new school districts.

### **Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Capital Region**

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The AmeriCorps\*VISTA members at this project will be placed at Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Capital Region, the Satatoga Mentoring Program and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Warren and Washington County. Members will assist with the implementation of new site-based mentoring programs at schools and colleges in the greater Capital Region. Members will recruit and enroll volunteer mentors and children, and will coordinate mentoring program operations and activities. Because of the AmeriCorps\*VISTA project BBBS will be able to develop new partnerships with school districts and volunteer-rich businesses, organizations and colleges, thus expanding and sustaining mentoring services beyond the life of this AmeriCorps\*VISTA project.

### **Binghamton Neighborhood Assemblies Project**

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The City of Binghamton has been divided into 8 Neighborhood Assemblies in order to foster citizen participation in the political process and to increase grassroots community development. VISTAs will be engaged in a variety of projects including recruiting and training community volunteers, helping to develop small businesses and increasing home ownership.

### **Boys and Girls Clubs of Syracuse**

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The Boys and Girls Clubs of Syracuse project will focus on teen anti-violence programming, job training, childcare support for single low-income parents, literacy tutoring for children, and community unification initiatives aimed at forming a city-wide sense of community to help overcome gang turf alignments that inhibit children from accessing services and programs in different parts of the city, outside their home neighborhoods.

### ***Capital District Community Garden:***

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AmeriCorps\*VISTA members at Capital District Community Gardens will help the agency develop programming that will serve to involve and educate the Capital District's low-income community. VISTAs will work on three distinct initiatives

- (1) The Veggie Mobile- a VISTA member will help to increase the availability of affordable fresh produce for inner city residents
- (2) Community Gardens- a VISTA member will develop and implement an outreach and education plan that will impact the targeted low-income communities
- (3) Gardening Education and Job Training Center- a VISTA will help to develop this pilot project aimed at inner city youth.

### **Catholic Charities of Livingston County**

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Catholic Charities of Livingston County will use five AmeriCorps VISTA members to help address poverty in their rural community through three new program ventures: Empowering women living in poverty by developing a job training program that will prepare low-income women to gain employment at a local clothing factory; emergency assistance to low income community through the development of a food pantry and used furniture donation program; senior citizen independence through the development of "Home Safe Home" program which will perform home safety assessments and make minor safety modifications for low-income and disabled seniors.

### **Center for Alternative Sentencing and Employment Services**

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The Center for Alternative Sentencing and Employment Services (CASES) was created in 1989 when two demonstration projects of the Vera Institute of Justice merged as one non-profit organization. The mission of CASES is to increase the understanding and use of community sanctions that are fair, affordable, and consistent with public safety. CASES programs serve 10,000 offenders annually. CASES will place eight (8) AmeriCorps\*VISTA members to significantly build their capacity to assess individual needs of program participants, leverage private funding and community support, measure and track key performance indicators, build strategic partnerships, and develop new programs and program efficiencies. Members will be assigned to the Court Employment Project, Community Prep High School, Day Custody Program, and the following organizational units within CASES: Strategic Planning, Performance Measurement, Adult Mental Health, and Development and Communications.

### **Children for Children**

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Children for Children (CFC) was founded in 1996 with a mission to encourage children to develop a sense of responsibility and philanthropy. CFC helps socio-economically disadvantaged children through grants to schools struggling to provide quality education despite critical resource needs. Through the Birthday Party, Bar/Bat Mitzvah and Celebration Programs, CFC raises funds and awards grants to needy NYC schools. VISTA members expand the agency's reach and will replicate the program in additional locations throughout the city. Members develop curriculum and youth leadership

models; research and write grants; recruit teachers and school administrators; conduct site visits to schools; evaluate grant requests; and implement an overall evaluation of the CFC grantmaking process. Members will increase the number of schools receiving the agency's Grow Involved Kits and increase the number of family volunteering events that address community needs.

### **City of Rochester**

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The mission of the Mayor of Rochester's Literacy Initiative is to energize the community to actively work towards making Rochester the most literate mid-sized city in the country. To do this, one VISTA Member will be placed in each of the ten library branches to network community organizations around local literacy programs. VISTA Members will also establish local Advisory Councils that will ensure the programs are sustained.

VISTA Members will develop teams of trained and knowledgeable volunteers within each community, led by neighborhood library advisory groups, that will market each branch, plan and develop focused literacy programs, and replicate the Safe to be Smart and Summer Reading programs. By doing all of this, the VISTA Members in partnership with the libraries, will place focused and diverse literacy programs in low-income communities

### **Common Ground Community**

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Common Ground's mission is to solve homelessness by enabling homeless people to move from the streets and shelters into homes and to also assist those most vulnerable to homelessness with maintain their housing. Their permanent supportive housing enables tenants to restore their health, regain their economic independence and improve their lives. Their recent creation of the Brownsville Partnership will be the focus of the VISTA project. Through this partnership a targeted approach to address causes of family homelessness will be created with the corresponding goal of supporting and revitalizing one of the poorest communities in New York City.

VISTA Members will serve in the Brownsville community to create programs that focus on efforts to address public safety, employment, housing, early childhood health and

education, and local leadership development. Members will develop a civic engagement program that will increase community involvement while strengthening family bonds. Members will also work to incorporate green designs into supporting housing programs.

### **Community Impact/ Columbia University**

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(212) 854- Ext:

AmeriCorps\*VISTA members work to support and sustain tutoring, mentoring and conflict resolution programs for low-income youth through the Columbia University Youth Development Initiative, and also support low income adult programming through Urban NET, a computer technology initiative that helps adults learn computer skills.

### **Fifth Avenue Committee**

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Fifth Avenue Committee's (FAC) AmeriCorps\*VISTA project will increase the agency's capacity to provide low-income Brooklyn residents with the support they need to achieve economic stability and have genuine opportunities to achieve their goals and shape their community's future. FAC's AmeriCorps\*VISTA project addresses three serious problems facing low-income community residents: lack of employment opportunities, lack of affordable housing, and individual barriers to economic success, such as lack of financial assets and low level English skills. Twelve (12) AmeriCorps\*VISTA member assignments focus on developing and managing affordable housing for low-income families; increasing community financial literacy; launching an Individual Development Account (IDA) program; strengthening a neighborhood employment program; launching programs that support ex-offender re-entry, expanding the scope of a family literacy program; building organizational capacity for FAC in fundraising, media and volunteer generation and retention; and expanding an English as a Second Language (ESL) program in partnership with St. Agatha's Church in Sunset Park, Brooklyn. A thirteenth member will serve at partner placement site, Groundswell Community Mural Project. This member will engage in capacity building activities to support community arts programming, youth leadership development and job skill training for the agency.

### **Foothills United Methodist Church:**

Rev. Wayne Jones

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This program will serve low-income and disadvantaged people by providing safe places with structured activities during non-school and non-traditional hours to children and youth, and by developing an intensive and hands on peer parenting program.

**Groundwork, Inc.**

Monte Givhan  
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The increased capacity provided by VISTA volunteers will build the infrastructure and create sustainability in the following three program areas.

- 1) Groundwork for Youth: Strengthen the middle school component of the after-school program by developing a new program model that better engages middle school youth.
- 2) Groundwork for Success: Expand the capacity to serve additional teens by developing new work placements, and improve the college counseling and financial literacy components of the program.
- 3) General Operations: Develop an information technology infrastructure to support the ability to achieve Groundwork's mission with a focus on proper tracking and evaluation that is essential to donor reporting and allows staff to design effective programming.

**Habitat for Humanity NY**

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Habitat for Humanity (HFH) has the broad organizational goal to address the issues of poverty housing. At all levels, HFH, New York State is committed to building safe, affordable housing in partnership with families in need, and educating our communities regarding the issues of the housing crisis for families with limited means. The focus of HFH – New York State is to provide resources, information, and educational opportunities to all its affiliates around the state as they strive towards this common goal.

The VISTA Members will focus on two very specific areas (1) increasing volunteer participation (at the Syracuse, Thousand Island, Rochester, Tompkins-Courtland, Buffalo and Newburgh Chapters) and (2) increasing funding streams (at the New York State Main Office and Buffalo Chapter). All of these activities will allow HFH to work

towards its goal and will allow the affiliates to develop or increase their capacity building programs.

**Hamilton Hill Arts Center**

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AmeriCorps\*VISTA members at Hamilton Hill Arts Center (HHAC) are instrumental in helping to stabilize the infrastructure of this small, inner city non-profit organization by engaging in fundraising, grant writing, program development, public relations/outreach and a microenterprise project that markets and sells locally produced craft items. Stabilizing the infrastructure will enable HHAC to continue to provide access to the world of creativity and art for local low income residents.

**Helping Others Prosper Everyday, Inc.**

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Helping Others Prosper Every day's mission is to make available to communities the possibility of hope in their present conditions. HOPE, Inc. aims to develop viable urban communities by providing decent affordable housing and a suitable living environment, provide educational opportunities that support the needs of the communities that they are serving, create a safe environment for youth to learn community responsibility that can be fostered into civic pride, and expand economic opportunities for those who are entering, returning, or have been displaced in the work force. VISTA members will be working with the transition housing for male's recovering from substance abuse in resource development, design of a referral, resource and relapse prevention program. VISTA members will also be involved in the creation of an after school program to increase youth literacy and math ability and decrease risky behaviors such as youth violence, crime, drug and gang involvement.

**Highbridge Community Life Center**

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Highbridge Community Life Center (the Life Center) is a high performing community-based organization that aims to strengthen families and to revitalize the neighborhood.

BRIDGEBUILDERS is an exciting, ambitious multi-year project which Highbridge Community Life Center serves as the project's lead agency. It is a collaboration between ten organizations and the Administration for Child Services (ACS). The AmeriCorps VISTA members assigned will build the capacity of the organization to:

Provide support to youth that are aging out of foster care; 2) Reduce the number of youth that age out of foster care by reducing the number of children that go into foster care, the time children spend in foster care, and the number that re-enter foster care; 3) Recruit, organize, and train a large team of people (including a majority of Highbridge residents) who will take responsibility for this project as it matures. Service activities include: research and development of methods; outreach and recruitment of parents and volunteers; piloting the Powerful Families curriculum; training community members to facilitate and organize future workshops; writing and demonstrating locally developed curriculum for youth and parents in foster care support groups addressing aging out, reunification, and prevention. Members will also work on designing and testing a fundraising plan to support the foster care initiative after VISTA ends.

### **IMPACT Coalition**

Will Baker  
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(212) 702- Ext:  
Project Email: [impactcoalition@cs.com](mailto:impactcoalition@cs.com)

VISTA volunteers will build capacity for parents and students to gather the information they need to succeed, extend debate into more communities and into the classroom complementing the current programming that IMPACT directs. VISTA members will work on the expansion program assisting in Support Center development in the Bronx and Brooklyn to strengthen capacity in the outer boroughs and build greater alliances and coordination with classroom activities where debate can function as a co-curricular activity. They will also take a lead role in improving coordination with NYC Department of Education (DOE). They will support coaches and principals who take on greater administrative roles, including advocating for coaching stipends, communicating with the DOE, providing IMPACT with data on academic achievement and soliciting support. Also, they will educate community stakeholders about current debate activities using mapping technology and research findings at Center events. The Associated Leaders of Urban Debate (ALoud) project will help promote debate as a vehicle to develop civic participation and healthier communities. AC\*VISTA members will work on an expansion program by structuring STAND (Supporting Transformative Action for Nondiscrimination in Debate).

### ***Increasing Upwardly Global's Outreach and Capacity***

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Upwardly Global is a nationally recognized organization with the two-pronged mission of increasing economic opportunities for low-income and underemployed immigrants, refugees, and asylees while increasing immigrant inclusion in the labor market and workforce. Upwardly Global empowers immigrant professionals to return to their professional careers as businesspeople, educator, scientist, journalist, and nonprofit professionals by enabling them to overcome language and cultural barriers. The AmeriCorps\*VISTA Members will build critical infrastructure systems to support the newly launched New York City branch of Upwardly Global.

The Outreach and Job Seeker Development VISTA Specialist(s) will increase the organizations visibility in the immigrant community and network with community agencies.

The Employer Network Outreach VISTA will increase outreach of the employer education program while promoting inclusion in the American workplace.

### **International Rescue Committee**

Kate Macom  
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The International Rescue Committee's (IRC) AmeriCorps\*VISTA project, Building Refugee Women and Youth for a Change focuses on building the assets of individual refugee women and youth, of refugee organizations and other service providers, and of communities to help this unique population achieve self sufficiency and integration for themselves and their families. Two members will serve on resource development and youth mentoring program development.

### **Just Food**

Amy Blaenkstein  
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New York NY 10022-  
(212) 645- Ext:238  
Project Email: [amy@justfood.org](mailto:amy@justfood.org)

AmeriCorps\*VISTA members at Just Food address problems of food insecurity, poor access to fresh vegetables and fruits, and the loss of small farms in NYS. One VISTA member will develop and expand the reach of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs at local community based organizations so more low-income individuals can participate and benefit from CSA. Two members will also build the capacity of Just

Food's development unit through fundraising and grant writing activities and formally establish an Intern and Volunteer Program for the agency.

### **Medicare Rights Center**

Betty Duggan

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New York NY 10018-

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VISTA members will work to recruit on-site volunteers, increase the presence of Medicare counselors statewide, and create and disseminate training and educational materials, thereby forging a lasting network of individuals who will ensure that older and disabled New Yorkers can get the health care answers they need. VISTAs will complete non-direct recruitment, enrollment, education, and dissemination tasks that will work toward the alleviation of poverty among older and disabled New Yorkers.

### **Met Council's VISTA Project**

Esther Larson

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#### **Program Summary**

The mission of the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty is to fight poverty through comprehensive social services and a network of grassroots Jewish Community Councils that strengthen families and neighborhoods throughout New York City. The AmeriCorps\*VISTA Members will build the capacity of fourteen poverty fighting social service agencies and increase their ability to serve people in need.

#### **Service activities of AmeriCorps\*VISTA Members**

At nine of the sites, VISTA Members will focus on building the capacity of those organizations through increasing their funding base while developing databases that track current and future funding opportunities. At ten of the sites, VISTA Members will expand the ability of the agencies to providing services to low-income individuals and families through the development/implementation of media campaigns that raise local awareness. And at eight of the sites, VISTA Members will develop and implement strategies for recruiting baby boomers to fill volunteer opportunities at organizations that focus on poverty related causes.

### **National Association of Community Health Centers**

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The National Association of Community Health Centers will work with a network of community-based organizations across New York State to increase access to primary and preventive health care services and reduce health disparities among low-income residents of medically underserved areas. VISTA members will increase access to care through community outreach, volunteer generation, development and expansion of programs, and resource generation to sustain and expand services. Through projects focusing on health literacy, adoption of healthy behaviors, better management and control of chronic diseases, VISTA members will address health disparities by promoting, initiating and expanding activities that facilitate healthier lifestyles and available resources in order for low-income individuals to become healthier and help them move toward economic independence

### **New York Campus Compact**

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Campus Compact VISTAs will develop the anti-poverty programming activities and commitment of resources of participating NY college campuses in the low-income communities of the towns and cities in which those campuses are located. They will improve needs assessment tools, programming and implementation practices, and volunteer recruitment & training systems. They will also facilitate the strengthening of existing community partnerships and the formation of new partnerships with local institutions, coalitions, service agencies, schools, etc.

### **New York City Coalition Against Hunger**

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VISTA members and a leader will serve at the NYCCAH office in Manhattan and at 10 other community and faith-based organizations throughout the boroughs of metropolitan New York. VISTA members will recruit volunteers to serve at local agencies; create neighborhood emergency food action centers and food security networks; provide technical assistance to non-profit food pantries, soup kitchens and other community based agencies to build their capacity to reduce poverty, decrease hunger, improve nutrition and/or boost the economic security of low-income New York City families.

## **New York City Department for the Aging**

Joyce Chin  
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VISTA members will help develop and implement programs that recruit and use community volunteers to provide benefits and entitlement assistance to impoverished seniors, as well as activities that promote health, creativity and learning. VISTA members will determine the needs, interests, and preferences of seniors located in four community districts with the highest rates of elder poverty. They will conduct surveys of seniors at senior centers to identify the benefits/entitlements/resources that are needed. They will develop partnerships with organizations to recruit volunteers and resources that will enhance the lives of seniors. Additionally VISTA members will create a resource guide of citywide, borough-wide and community volunteer resources.

## **Newburgh Neighborhood Ambassadors Program**

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The City of Newburgh is forming the Newburgh Neighborhood Ambassadors Program. This program is charged with the development of sustainable initiatives that will improve the lives of low income residences and their community.

Through this program, the VISTA Members will engage neighborhood stakeholders in developing neighborhood-specific Revitalization Plans in Newburgh's most depressed and troubled communities. The VISTA Members will coordinate the utilization of these plans as a basis for collaboration with neighborhood leaders and the city government to develop and establish new programs, raise funds, and create neighborhood change. These efforts will focus on: Housing, Community Development, Criminal Justice and Restorative Practices, Youth Development, Environmental Impact at the Neighborhood Level, as well as City and Neighborhood Planning.

## **NY Sustainable Agriculture Working Group**

Hank Herrera  
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The NY Sustainable Agriculture Working Group focuses on low-income farmers, food processors, and farm workers in the multi-county region of western NY State surrounding the urban centers of Buffalo, Rochester, and Syracuse. It focuses on creating new markets for the products of low-income small farms (family farms), and the products of small-scale, low-income food processors in the western NY State region, and also at networking with farm workers to establish a dialogue between them and farmers around the issues of equitable farm labor practices. This last effort also has as its goal helping farm workers move toward farm ownership.

## **NYCfNAC**

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Project Email:

The New York City Financial Network Action Consortium (NYCfNAC) addresses the need of New York City's low-income residents for affordable, comprehensive financial services. NYCfNAC promotes the right of every low-income person to save, borrow, invest, acquire assets and enter the nation's economic mainstream. The organization has partnered with four of the city's leading community development credit unions enabling them to serve more low-income individuals, expand products and services and enhance their sustainability. A VISTA member will be placed at each credit union and NYCfNAC, focusing on the Retain and Promote Membership Project. VISTA members will develop new financial products and services to attract individuals to the credit union services as well as retain them as long-term members. VISTA members will also implement a marketing campaign through brochures, e-newsletters and a shared website in order to enhance communication between the credit unions and their communities. By doing all of this, VISTA members in partnership with NYCfNAC and the 4 credit unions, will improve the money management skills of low-income individuals and thus increase the retention rate of these low-income members to the credit unions.

## **NYDIS: Capacity Building for Disaster Preparedness & Recovery**

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### **Program Summary**

New York Disaster Interfaith Services (NYDIS) is a faith-based federation of service providers and charitable organizations who work in partnership to provide disaster

readiness, response and recovery services. NYDIS was founded on the beliefs that preparedness begins at the grassroots level and with that religious leaders and community organizers are instrumental in educating the population they serve. For this project, NYDIS will be placing AmeriCorps\*VISTA Members at the following partnering sites: the World Cares Center, the New York City Office of Emergency Management, the Muslim Consultative Network, the Sikh Coalition, and well as NYDIS offices.

#### Service activities of AmeriCorps\*VISTA Members

AmeriCorps\*VISTA Members will build a strong coalition of interagency partnerships that will expand programmatic capacity and increase the number of community members and religious leaders with disaster management skill sets in New York City. Through this partnership, religious and community leaders will be informed of disaster preparedness, response, and recovery trainings available to the low-income members of their houses of worship. This program will broaden the reach of NYDIS, expand its capacity and allow this coalition to better serve low-income groups impacted by disaster.

#### **NYS Dept. of Correctional Services**

Terry Richey  
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Rome NY 13440-  
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AmeriCorps VISTA members will be housed in ten selected NYS correctional institutions where they will work with community volunteers to provide multi-stage parenting skills classes to inmates and to visiting custodial parents.

#### **NYS Emergency Preparedness Project**

Diane Eschbacher  
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AmeriCorps\*VISTA members serve statewide at local chapters of the American Red Cross and county Offices of Emergency Management. Members will recruit volunteers and conduct education and awareness outreach to ensure residents of low-income communities are prepared in the event of an emergency or

#### **Operation Exodus Inner City**

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The overall goals of Exodus' programming are to build the volunteer-driven capacities of the After School Program, Saturday Mentoring Program, and the Summer Achievement Program through the following: volunteer recruitment; reorganization of existing recruitment and training materials and creation of new materials and processes; staff and volunteer retreats/planning meetings; and special expansion of the training program for the Youth Mentoring Project to specifically meet the needs of the Summer Achievement Program. To build the capacity of the current Educational Youth Service Programs at Operation Exodus Inner City (Exodus) through fundraising and to lay groundwork and begin long-range plans for replication of the Exodus programs into other sites and/or geographical locations.

### **Project Reach Youth**

John Brothers

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Project Reach Youth, Inc. is a community-based organization committed to helping low-income youth, adults and families to learn and grow in a creative and supportive environment. Through education, training and counseling, PRY provides participants with opportunities to reach their goals and embark on paths to brighter futures. Five VISTA members will help PRY increase its internal and external capacities, allowing the organization to further enhance its programming. Working in donor cultivation, public relations/brand marketing, human capacity development, developing measurable outcomes and building information and referral systems will not only help PRY become a stronger organization but will also open avenues to help their current and future clients obtain self-sufficiency and empowerment.

### **SEEDCO**

Carmen Sanguinetti

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Members will expand economic development and jobs by enhancing relationships with partners, develop jobs for people on public assistance with partners, educate businesses about WtW creating a supportive environment, help businesses expand and employ more people on public assistance, identify “nontraditional” jobs, expand opportunities for low income entrepreneurship. Enhance readiness and support needs by identifying local resources (GED/ESL/skills training) create links to training/readiness resources, curriculum development, coordinate access and expand childcare and transportation services. Build capacity of CBO’s to sustain WtW initiative volunteers by researching

State plans and help CBO's comply, research funding opportunities, develop networks with other CBO's and coordinate existing resources. Create exchange of experiences in community building by sharing best practices with SEEDCo/N-PAC sites nationwide and evaluating the three community building strategies and their impact on WtW.

\*This project has multiple sites in the Bronx, Brooklyn and New York City.\*

### **Serve New York-WSYB**

Adam Ellsworth  
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Serve New York's organizational hub will be the West Seneca Youth Bureau, and partnering Youth Bureaus and organizations will have AC\*VISTA members respectively placed in small regional clusters. Serve New York AC\*VISTA members will build the infrastructure and capacities of their host-sites and communities through service in our impact areas of mentoring, community based volunteer programs and community revitalization and improvement. Serve New York will address the Human Needs issue area through a focus on the Service Category of Mentoring. Members and host-sites will serve to increase participant enrollment in mentoring programs, increase the number of community volunteers serving as mentors, an increase agency partnerships, collaborations, and resources to grow and sustain mentoring programs, and an increase in beneficiaries of these programs. Additionally, members will increase youth enrollment in other programs that impact their positive development. Community Based Volunteer Programs, the members will recruit and train youth and at-risk youth volunteers, specialized volunteers such as lawyers to provide advocacy for low-income children and families, and members of the general community to serve seniors, non-profit agencies, and low-income community needs. AC\*VISTA members will also organize and implement large-scale National Day of Service projects and, in one case, help to implement a new volunteer centers.

Community Revitalization and Improvement members will focus on program fund development--empowering the community through strengthening the its organizations that provide needed programs to low-income youth, families, and individuals.

### **Siena College**

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Siena College marries academics and service and seeks to empower poor communities. Siena will utilize 5 VISTA members to develop programs, develop volunteer

management and training systems, and develop community relationships.

**Syracuse Cooperative FCU**

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(315) 471- Ext: 250

Project Email: [christinasauve@syrcoopfcu.org](mailto:christinasauve@syrcoopfcu.org)

The Syracuse Cooperative Federal Credit Union's (SCFCU) mission is to serve the financial needs of those people and neighborhoods underserved by conventional financial institutions. The AmeriCorps\*VISTA project is directed at breaking the cycle of poverty and building the credit union's capacity to have an increasing impact on poverty in Syracuse. The components of the project include complementary strategies to: 1) develop and implement an expanded Multicultural Financial Education and Counseling Program; 2) develop and implement a new Anti-Predatory Lending Program; 3) increase the capacity of programs designed to build member assets; 4) write grant applications and raise funds for additional services; 5) implement a marketing and outreach plan; and 6) develop and implement a new Volunteer Program. SCFCU is assigned three (3) VISTA member positions to support these activities.

**The Osborne Association**

Alicia Guevara

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Bronx NY 10455-

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Project Email: [aguevara@osborneny.org](mailto:aguevara@osborneny.org)

Since 1931, the Osborne Association has worked with people involved in the criminal justice system. The VISTA program focuses on three areas within Osborne's comprehensive services: children of incarcerated parents, building an in-house volunteer program and providing quality information to families of the incarcerated.

**Tompkins Community Action**

Cindy Martin

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Ithaca NY 14850-

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Project Email: [cindy.martin@tcaction.org](mailto:cindy.martin@tcaction.org)

The overall project focuses on empowering people in poverty to help solve community problems. In response to a countywide Needs Assessment done by the local United Way, TCAction has chosen to address four critical areas of identified need: child care, health, employment/underemployment and housing. This project will involve four TCAction departments: Early Childhood's Primary School Family Support Program (PSFSP), Energy Services' Healthy Homes Project (HHP), Housing Services' Family Self-

Sufficiency Program and Family Resources' Circles Family Project. The PSFSP VISTA member will help to expand this project to enable it to reach 20 more students and their families. The HHP VISTA will research funding opportunities that will enable TCAction to help low income families prevent and reduce the suffering of family members with respiratory illnesses caused or exacerbated by exposure to poor air quality in the home. The VISTA serving with Housing Services will be developing the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program. The two VISTA members in Family Resources will be initiating the Circles Family Project which will establish a continuum of contact for the low income community to gain access to all the support systems available to them in Tompkins County. This effort is expected to impact 75 low income families each year.

### **Urban Homesteading Assistance Board (UHAB)**

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Project Email: [levy@uhab.org](mailto:levy@uhab.org)

AmeriCorps\*VISTA Members locate in-rem properties that have been taken over by the city of New York. The members organize workshops involving low-income persons to allow residents to become owners of their buildings. Members work with residents of the low-income community to facilitate the transfer of building ownership from New York City to local residents. A key step in this transfer of ownership is the organization and creation of tenant cooperatives. UHAB members organize workshops and training programs for the residents, provide technical assistance to cooperatives, and work to develop networks of support and assistance for the cooperatives, to help get them ready for assuming ownership responsibilities of their buildings.

### **West Seneca Youth Bureau**

Lissa Piper  
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West Seneca NY 14224-  
(716) 558- Ext:  
Project Email: [lpiper@wsyb.org](mailto:lpiper@wsyb.org)

WSYB AC VISTA will embark on nine new and eleven existing partnerships with organizations that serve low-income individuals and communities to reduce poverty and its detriments to society. WSYB AC VISTA will pursue proactive strategies to help disadvantaged residents of Buffalo move up the socioeconomic ladder. Three focus areas will include: (1) community revitalization and improvement, (2) youth leadership development and (3) delivery of health services.

-Members serving in the community revitalization and improvement impact area will raise funds through organizing fundraisers, developing donor databases and promotional materials, and grant writing.

-AC VISTA members serving in the youth leadership development impact area seek to

increase youth development through mentoring, education, service-learning, and civic engagement.

-AC VISTA members serving in the delivery of health services capacity will increase access to public health resources for families and individuals in low-income communities.

### **Westcott Community Center**

Jessica Earley

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826 Euclid Avenue  
Syracuse NY 13210-

(315) 478- Ext:

Project Email: [jessicae@westcottcc.org](mailto:jessicae@westcottcc.org)

The Westcott Community Center project addresses a broad scope of community development and revitalization activities, including: anti-violence (IRC), financial literacy training for local at-risk youth (outreach to high schools, community radio programming), community outreach and networking (development of a community center), environmental initiatives in regard to issues affecting local low-income neighborhoods (Peace Council), employment and job training efforts for local youth (GSW), and arts & culture programming.

### **Westhab, Inc.**

James Coughlin

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Elmsford NY 10523-1326

(914) 345- Ext: 23

Project Email: [james.coughlin@westhab.org](mailto:james.coughlin@westhab.org)

AmeriCorps\*VISTA volunteers at Westhab are to serve as: a) Community Development team, helping to plan and implement community-based programs for a severely underserved neighborhood of Yonkers, NY. B) Social entrepreneurship Top Chefs Harvest (TCH), which provides jobs and services to homeless women. Examples of this volunteer's duties will be: identifying and scheduling volunteers to provide life-skills education to TCH' employees; coordinating with retail sites/community organizations to sell TCS at their stores/ events; and working on advertising and new product development. And c) Coordinator of Volunteers and Development Assistant, doing outreach, retention, liaisons with volunteer agencies, and planning volunteer recognition events; and research and cultivation of prospective donors, and planning and implementing fundraising events.

### **Youth Venture**

Sabeen Pirani

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Project Email: [ny@youthventure.org](mailto:ny@youthventure.org)

The mission of Youth Venture is to change the role of youth in society by enabling young people (ages 12-20) nationwide to create, launch, and lead "Youth Ventures" - organizations, clubs or businesses that contribute positively to the community. Youth Venture helps youth develop concrete plans of action and provides an array of supportive tools and resources designed to help youth realize their dreams and transform their communities. The AmeriCorps\*VISTA project is designed to provide the necessary capacity building to increase the number of youth and communities served in the New York metro area. VISTA members will be involved in Venture support and recruitment, partner agency support and recruitment, fundraising, website development, evaluation and media outreach.