

Updated October 2010

AmeriCorps VISTA
Retired Senior Volunteer Programs, Foster Grandparents, & Senior Companions
New York State Program Directory



Corporation for National & Community Service
New York State Office

Leo O'Brien Federal Bldg, Suite 900
1 Clinton Square
Albany, NY 12207
518/431-4151
www.nationalservice.gov

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Capital District

Siena College

Project Director: Mathew Johnson

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Loudonville, NY 12211-

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Email: mjohnson@siena.edu

Total # approved slots: 5

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 through placements with community based organizations addressing the identified needs in the area - high school dropout, financial literacy, hunger, homelessness, youth development, education, re-entry support, refugee and immigrant resettlement.

Capital District Community Gardens

Project Director: Amy Klein

40 River St.

Troy, NY 12180-

Phone: (518) 274-8685

Fax: (518) 272-2744

Email: amy@cdcq.org

Total # Approved slots: 4

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- 2 VISTA members 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.

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Central Region

The Underground Café

Project Director: Jeremy Butler

1115 Mohawk Street

Utica, NY 13501-

Phone: (315) 368-6046

Fax: (315) 792-3636

Email: jbutler@uticaschools.org

Total # Approved slots: 3

Utica Safe Schools Healthy Students Partnership supports a comprehensive approach to service coordination and delivery that enhances student success by reducing barriers to learning. The Underground Café falls under its umbrella as a component to empower and encourage teens to make healthy and beneficial life choices. Believing in the power of youth voice, The Underground Café endeavors to transform the experiences and perceptions of low-income teens in Utica by creating venues for leadership, civic engagement, and creative expression. The 3 VISTA members at The Underground Café will focus on creating systems necessary to increase the capacity of the program to recruit and retain volunteers, to raise funds, and to increase visibility in the local community.

Franciscan Collaborative Ministries

Project Director: Jonathan Logan

800 N. Salina Street, 3rd floor

Syracuse, NY 13208-

Phone: (315) 473-0952

Fax: (315) 473-0945

Email: jonathan@assisicenter.org

Total # Approved slots: 5

Franciscan Collaborative Ministries (FCM) is a comprehensive, multifaceted faith-based social service organization serving the North side of the City of Syracuse. Headquartered on the campus of the Franciscan Church of the Assumption, FCM's mission is to bring peace and reconciliation to the neighborhoods and people of Syracuse by serving the most neglected of its members—the underserved, the hungry, the elderly, searching teens and political refugees.

FCM's VISTA project will concentrate mainly on community and economic development by improving the economy of the North side. This will be accomplished by strengthening the existing locally-owned businesses, establishing a neighborhood workforce development program for un- and underemployed residents and developing social business ventures within FCM itself as a venue for employment and training opportunities as well as generating revenue to sustain FCM.

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Metro Region

Medicare Rights Center

Project Director: Lizaura German
520 Eighth Ave, North Wing, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10018-
Phone: (212) 204-6258
Fax: (212) 869-3532
Email: lgerman@medicarerights.org

Total # Approved slots: 5

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.

Community Service Society

Project Director: Deidre Ryan-Sporakis
105 East 22nd Street
New York, NY10010-
Phone: (212) 614-5536
Email: dryan@cssny.org
Total # Approved slots: 3

VISTA members will help build the capacity of CSS anti-poverty programs: Financial Coaching Corps, Center for Benefits and Services and MentorCHIP (Children of Incarcerated Parents). The tasks they perform include building the capacity of existing programs to serve more clients, cultivating relationships with new community partners, recruiting and placing volunteers in the programs, assessing training needs, developing/updating training curriculum, and participating in the training, and support for volunteers in place.

New York City Coalition Against Hunger

Project Director: Reggie Miller
50 Broad Street, Suite 1520
New York, NY 10004
Phone: (212) 825-0028 Ext: 206
Fax: (212) 825-0267
Email: rmiller@nyccah.org

Total # Approved slots: 15

Project # 1: This project engages 15 AmeriCorps VISTAs in effective anti-poverty services by providing on-site capacity building technical assistance to anti-poverty emergency food organizations throughout the five boroughs of New York City. VISTA Members will provide capacity building help and technical assistance to community-based agencies to build systems to more effectively fight poverty in low-income areas of New York City.

Total # Approved slots (nationwide): 48

Project #2: National Project – NYCCAH Anti-Hunger and Opportunity Corps: The interagency partnership between the USDA Food and Nutrition Service and VISTA will work to increase participation in the Supplemental Nutrition

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Assistance Program in 18 states. SNAP, formerly known as "food stamps," remains a high priority goal for the Administration. Increased participation is a key strategy to help end childhood hunger by 2015, to respond to the economic downturn, and to eliminate childhood obesity within a generation. This initiative will align with several objectives from CNCS's draft strategic plan for 2011-2015. Specifically, it will address Healthy Futures by improving the nutrition awareness and healthy food access that is necessary for curbing obesity. This partnership will also aim to target improving the lives of older Americans by better connecting them with resources such as SNAP. Additional services and resources provided by this partnership will serve CNCS's objective of improving opportunity by increasing the financial stability of economically vulnerable families and individuals through these increased food security resources.

Center for Alternative Sentencing and Employment Services

Project Director: Shana McMahan

346 Broadway, 3rd Floor West
New York, NY 10013-3971

Phone: (212) 553-6307

Fax: (212) 619-2821

Email: SMcMahan@cases.org

Total # Approved slots: 3

CASES' programs are aimed at helping New York City's high-need populations with criminal backgrounds including young people, adults with mental illnesses and chronic misdemeanants. AmeriCorps VISTA Members will increase CASES capacity to serve these populations by creating and expanding organizational relationships with other community-based providers; developing improved information systems; and by identifying stakeholders and potential funders in order to create proposals and reports to attract financial support. The long term goal of the project is to increase each program's capacity and further the organization's plan for expansion.

Up2Us

Project Director: Nick Beckman

520 8th Avenue

New York, NY 10018-

Phone: (212) 868-9510

Email: nbeckman@up2us.org

Total # Approved slots: 25

National Project: The work of all Up2Us members focuses on children from low-income urban or rural communities that rank in the highest deciles for childhood overweight/obesity and the lowest deciles in academic performance in NYC as well as a number of cities across the country. Furthermore, approximately 85% of their youth qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. Additionally, these students also regularly face the challenges of gangs, violence, and drug abuse in their communities. The tasks and responsibilities of all VISTA members will focus on capacity building, primarily through development and volunteer outreach. The continued placement of VISTA members at Up2Us HQ and its members will result in an increased sustainability of programs, an increase in the capacity of these programs to serve more youth, and an increase in diversified support for these programs locally and nationally. This will be accomplished through VISTA member contributions in the following areas: 1) leveraging funds for sustainability and expansion through development assistance in research, grant writing, and individual giving campaigns; 2) creating systems for mobilization, training, and retention of volunteers; 3) developing and implementing expansion models so programs can serve more youth; 4) creating and executing research and evaluation processes to ensure high quality sports-based youth development programming is maintained as growth occurs; and 5) conducting outreach to key community, state, and national stakeholders to raise the profile of sports and its critical role in youth development.

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CACF - Project PACT

Project Director: Vanessa Leung

50 Broad Street, 18th Floor

New York, NY 10004-

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Fax: (212) 785-4601

Email: vleung@cacf.org

Total # Approved slots: 9

Eight VISTA Members and 1 VISTA Leader will allow the Coalition for Asian Children and Families (CACF) and its partner organizations that make up Project PACT (Promoting Assets and Capacity Together) improve the effectiveness and sustainability of programs and services for low-income Asian Pacific American children and youth in New York City. VISTAs will do this through increasing fundraising capacity and improving program curricula. Financial resources are necessary to expand and continue programs and improving program quality will ensure that children and youth develop the necessary skills in order to become productive members of NYC.

The Asian Pacific American community has a child poverty rate of 24 percent in NYC. Only .24 percent of the City's social service contract dollars benefited Asian Pacific American non-profit organizations and only .38 percent of the City's foundation grant dollars went to this same group. Due to these limited resources, it is essential to have a VISTA project focused on addressing poverty in these particular neighborhoods and increasing the capacity of the partnering organizations focused on this high-need community.

Arab American Association of NY, Inc.

Project Director: Linda Sarsour

7111 Fifth Avenue

Brooklyn, NY 11209-

Phone: (718) 745-3523

Fax: (718) 745-3070

Email: arabamericanny@gmail.com

Total # Approved slots: 1

This VISTA project will be entering its 3rd year as an NY project. One VISTA Member will focus on increasing Arab American Association of New York's public presence throughout the community, both locally and on a larger scale. The VISTA Member will develop marketing and publicity materials, help coordinate public events and help improve communication systems within the organization

In to better meet the needs of the Arab immigrant community in low-income New York City neighborhoods. Arab immigrants living in NYC face a great deal of hardships ranging from poverty and language barriers to cultural acclimatization issues. Their need for social services and education programs put AAANY at the forefront to meet these needs. AAANY will be able to improve its organizational development and sustainability through community outreach and a better communication system. By developing and spreading the image and mission of AAANY through marketing materials, special events and improved presentations, more Arab immigrant families will be given the opportunity to reach independence and stability while ensuring their ability to be productive community residents..

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Operation Exodus Inner City

Project Director: Matthew Mahoney

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New York, NY 10033-

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Fax: (212) 543-3305

Email: ExodusTutoring@aol.com

Total # Approved slots: 2

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.

SEEDCO

Project Director: Shira Markoff

915 Broadway, 17th Floor

New York, NY 10010-

Phone: 212-994-2740

Fax: 646-843-6506

Email: smarkoff@seedco.org

Total # Approved slots: 6

Seedco's 3 main focus areas are: workforce development, asset building and community entrepreneurs and employers. VISTA service activities will build off the project's past success and will focus on product development and maintenance, Community-Based Organizations' (CBOs) capacity building and research and program coordination.

The project plans to focus on strengthening the rather new initiatives that the VISTA members are currently working on, with an end outcome on ultimately bringing low-income participants out-of-poverty by helping them achieve longer term benefits around employment and education. The VISTA Members will continue to build the capacity of the CBO partners with the end goal of the CBOs being able to implement these programs on their own and provide the necessary comprehensive services.

Upwardly Global

Project Director: Sherazade Langlade

401 Broadway, Suite 800

New York, NY 10013-

Phone: (212) 219-8828

Email: sherazade@upwardlyglobal.org

Total # Approved slots: 3

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

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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

Urban Homesteading Assistance Board (UHAB)

Project Director: Megan Reed

120 Wall Street, 20th floor

New York, NY 10005-

Phone: (212) 479-3302

Fax: (212) 344-6457

Email: reed@uhab.org

Total # Approved slots: 2

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.

NYCfNAC

Project Director: Pamela Davis

209 E. 3rd Street

New York, NY 10009

Phone: (212) 254-6060 Ext: 102

Fax: (212) 254-9090

Email: pdavis@nycfnac.org

Total # Approved slots: 4

The New York City Financial Network Action Consortium (NYCfNAC) VISTA project support the organization's objectives of 1) attracting financially-underserved individuals to credit unions, 2) building a long-term relationship with them to retain them as members, 3) promoting their active use of credit union services, 4) improving their money management skills and 5) providing holistic services that include screening benefits for public benefits.

An estimated 800,000 New York City residents do not use banking services. Instead, this population has the option of alternative financial services such as money order vendors, check cashers, pawnshops etc to handle their financial needs, often charging high interest and check cashing fees. NYCfNAC and its partner credit unions aim to attract the unbanked and underbanked to services that meet the needs of this population by strengthening these communities during tough economic times and beyond. By promoting credit unions and developing products and services to help low-income individuals as well as retain them as credit union members, this VISTA project will improve economic opportunities and allow thousands to achieve greater financial security. In its third year, VISTA activities are more focused on institutionalizing best practices and processes to further ensure sustainability.

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National Association of Community Health Centers

Project Director: Sherina Davis

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New York, NY 10018-

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Fax: (646) 935-1254

Email: sdavis@nachc.com

Total # Approved slots: 25

The National Association of Community Health Centers works with a network of community-based organizations in the metro NY area to increase access to primary and preventive health care services and reduce health disparities among low-income residents of medically underserved areas. VISTA members 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 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

Statewide

American Red Cross of Greater New York

Project Director: Diane Hart

1220 Washington Ave, Bldg. 22, Suite 101

Albany, NY 12226-

Phone: (518) 292-2436

Fax: (518) 457-9519

Email: dhart@dhSES.ny.gov

Total # Approved slots: 15

NYS Emergency Preparedness Project - 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 disaster. AmeriCorps VISTA members in the program will work with chapters to develop long term solutions to retain volunteers and build effective systems to recruit, engage and recognize the efforts of volunteers with all aspects of the Red Cross. VISTA members will work towards increasing American Red Cross services to Armed Forces, build and expand the Red Cross Chapters capacity to expand volunteerism and engage low income community members in service, and VISTA members will ensure the health and safe future for youth across the state of New York through the formation of Red Cross clubs in low income communities. Through the VISTA program, the Red Cross seeks to build the regional capacity of the agency to support volunteer that provide critical community services. The program will increase the capacity of regional Red Cross centers by building a network of resources to serve the armed forces and veteran communities.

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Habitat for Humanity NYS

Project Director: Mary Vivona

911 East Main Street

Endicott, NY 13760-

Phone: (607) 748-4138

Email: mvivona@habitatnys.org

Total # Approved slots: 15

Habitat for Humanity has the broad organizational goal to address the issue of poverty housing. For HFH, building safe, affordable housing in partnership with families in need and educating the community on issues regarding housing for families with limited means are core sponsor and program goals. HFH New York State was formed in 2005 to provide a centralization of resources and efforts for the 53 HFH affiliates within New York. The 15 VISTA members at 7 affiliates around the state will develop new and capacity building programs to support volunteer recruitment, community education and marketing. Sites include the main office in Endicott (Broome County), Buffalo (Erie County), Middlesex (Suffolk County), Greater Newburgh (Orange County), Syracuse (Onondaga County) and Tompkins – Cortland Counties.

Literacy New York

Project Director: Kathy Houghton

777 Maryvale Drive

Buffalo, NY 14225

Phone: (716) 631-5282

Fax: (716) 631-0657

Email: khoughton4@gmail.com

Total # Approved slots: 3

Description: Literacy New York's mission is to develop the organizational and program capacity of a network of 40 community and agency-based affiliates across the state. Literacy New York advocates and supports the cause of adult literacy at the state and federal levels. VISTAs will help continue building the capacity of their affiliates through outreach, developing a web and social media presence, and writing grants to support their affiliates. Outcomes include the creation of a statewide literacy event and developing a training manual for affiliate staff to use to take greater advantage of distance learning and using the internet for outreach.

New York Campus Compact

Project Director: Brittany Campese

95 Brown Rd, Suite 145, Box 1006

Ithaca, NY 14850-

Phone: (607) 254-6239

Fax: (607) 254-6397

Email: bcampese@cornell.edu

Total # Approved slots: 15

15 VISTA Members will serve low-income communities in NY to combat the effects of poverty through recruiting, training, supervision and evaluation functions. VISTAs will work with and provide resources for selected partners to build capacity to better serve its target population, while also researching, developing, implementing and institutionalizing service-learning courses, non-curricular volunteerism and long term mutually beneficial partnerships with community organizations. NY Campus Compact VISTAs will assist in the development of anti-poverty programming activities and the commitment of resources of participating NY college & university campuses in low-

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income communities. NYCC VISTA members will be helping individuals and communities out of poverty by providing a link between campus resources and the community. VISTA members will be recruiting, training and coordinating student volunteers to work in poverty-serving communities. Most of these volunteers will be working with at-risk youth, and the goal of those partnerships is to expose youth to the opportunities of higher education. The other agencies that rely on student volunteers benefit from the energy, passion and numbers of students involved to further their missions.

Serve New York/WNYAC

Project Director: Lisa Binsley

2188 Seneca Street

Buffalo, NY 14210

Phone: (716) 418-8500 Ext: 115

Fax: (716) 418-8501

Email: lbinsley@wnyamericorps.org

Total # Approved slots: 20

Serve New York's organizational hub is with Western New York AmeriCorps. Partnering Youth Bureaus and community organizations across the state, VISTA members are respectively placed in small regional clusters. Serve New York VISTA members 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. VISTA members also organize and implement large-scale National Day of Service projects.

Serve New York addresses the Human Needs issue area through a focus on Mentoring. Members and host-sites 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 focus on increasing youth enrollment in other programs that impact their positive development.

In Community Based Volunteer Programs, the members 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.

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

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Western Region

Catholic Charities of Livingston County

Project Director: Carrie Lyons

34 East State Street

Mt. Morris, NY 14510-

Phone: (585) 658-4466 Ext: 29

Fax: (585) 658-2513

Email: clyons@dor.org

Total # Approved slots: 3

Catholic Charities of Livingston County will use AmeriCorps VISTA members to help address poverty in their rural community through two program ventures: 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.

University of Rochester/Rochester Youth Year

Project Director: Glenn Cerosaletti

U of Rochester, Center for Community Leadership,

Box 270140, 515 Hyland Building

Rochester, NY 14627-

Phone: (585) 275-4085;

Fax: (585) 276-0151

Email: glenn.cerosaletti@rochester.edu

Total # Approved slots: 11

Rochester Center for Community Leadership at the University of Rochester developed the Rochester Youth Year program after recognizing the community's challenges in meeting the needs of youth in the area. The Rochester Youth Year program focuses on combating poverty and empowering the urban youth in Rochester by partnering with local colleges, non-profits and other community organizations. The colleges that make up this collaboration include the University of Rochester, Nazareth College, Roberts Wesleyan College, Rochester Institute of Technology, St. John Fisher College, SUNY Geneseo and SUNY Brockport. In partnership, programs and services are developed based on youth education and literacy, health and wellness and public safety needs. By expanding the capacity of these community-based organizations, more Rochester youth are supported and given the ability to become productive adults.

A VISTA Member will be placed at each community-based organization focusing on area youth needs. 10 VISTA Members will conduct community needs assessments, develop volunteer recruitment and management systems and identify sources of financial and in-kind support to advance youth programs. VISTA Members will be supported by the consortium of colleges in order to effectively implement and assess these youth initiatives. A VISTA Leader will provide support to the VISTA Members as well as coordinate their efforts to allow the VISTA Members to successfully accomplish their goals. In the end, this VISTA project will help organizations better meet the needs of the community and the impoverished youth of Rochester.

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Western New York AmeriCorps

Project Director: Lissa Piper

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Buffalo, NY 14210

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Total # Approved slots: 20

Members will work to increase capacity in non-profit organizations while empowering the community with tools for self-sufficiency. Aligning with some of the new need areas highlighted in the Serve America Act, the focus this year is on Financial Literacy and Asset Development, Neighborhood Revitalization, and Support for At-Risk Individuals, including youth and former offenders. VISTA members will build the infrastructure and capacity within non-profit organizations by developing asset-building practices within low-income communities, with a focus on recruiting more individuals to participate in financial literacy, microenterprise and Homebuyer Education programs; implementing new and improving current services to assist Buffalo's transitioning, at-risk individuals including former offenders, refugees, immigrants and human trafficking victims; improving school preparedness for Buffalo's at-risk youth through mentoring and after-school tutoring programs; furthering research for a foreclosure prevention project aimed at neighborhood stabilization; building support for services that assist homeless and low-income individuals; engaging volunteers to support these initiatives; and developing funds to increase long-term sustainable solutions for all of them.