

AmeriCorps VISTA  
New York State Program Directory



Corporation for National & Community Service  
New York State Office

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## Capital Region

### ***Siena College***

Project Director: Mathew Johnson  
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Total # approved slots: 30

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-  
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Email: [amy@cdcq.org](mailto:amy@cdcq.org)  
Total # Approved slots: 6

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- VISTA members will help to increase the availability of affordable fresh produce for inner city residents;
- (2) Community Gardens- 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- VISTA will help to develop this pilot project aimed at inner city youth.

## Central New York Region

### ***Franciscan Collaborative Ministries***

Project Director: Jonathan Logan

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Syracuse, NY 13208-

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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.

## Finger Lakes

### ***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-

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Total # Approved slots: 14

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.

## Western New York Region

### *The Service Collaborative of WNY*

Project Director: Lisa Binsley  
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Buffalo, NY 14210  
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Email: [lbinsley@TSCWNY.org](mailto:lbinsley@TSCWNY.org)  
Total # Approved slots: 20

The Service Collaborative of Western New York will partner with organizations across western New York. Members will work to increase capacity in non-profit organizations while empowering the community with tools for self-sufficiency. Aligning with three of the Priority Areas designated by CNCS, the focus will be on Economic Opportunity, Education and Healthy Futures. 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; building support for services that assist homeless individuals; engaging volunteers to support these initiatives; and developing funds to increase long-term sustainable solutions for all of them

### ***Serve New York/WNYAC***

Project Director: Lisa Binsley  
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Buffalo, NY 14210  
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Total # Approved slots: 20

Serve New York's organizational hub will be The Service Collaborative of Western New York and will partner with organizations across the state. The program will have AC\*VISTA members respectively placed in small regional clusters. Members will serve low-income youth and families within the impact areas of Education Advancement, as well as Adult Education, Employment, Health, Housing, and Civic Engagement for veterans, active duty military, and the families of veterans and deployed military personnel. The host sites will focus on: building the capacity of academic support programs specifically within Title 1 and underperforming schools; providing financial literacy services to at-risk youth while in school; increasing access to services for veterans and military families; providing education services to veterans pursuing high education; assisting veterans and military families in volunteer opportunities; and developing funds to increase sustainability both for host sites and for their programs.

## **Mid-Hudson Region**

### ***Maranatha Human Services***

Project Director: La'Emma Vanterpool  
35 Academy Street  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601  
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Total # of Approved slots: 3

With a primary goal of ensuring that young adults have the educational and career skills necessary for future success, Maranatha Human Services (MHS) has begun a new venture--the Shaping Empowered Teens (SET) Program and Health Cafe Social Enterprise. Youth enrolled in this initiative will gain direct, hands-on career experience through employment at the MHS-owned Health Cafe which will be located in downtown Poughkeepsie and will receive comprehensive training and support services. The four objectives of the SET Program include: 1) Providing youth with career experience, training, and exploration activities to assist them in identifying a viable career path; 2) Assisting youth in preparing for and enrolling in college by providing college counseling sessions and campus visits; 3) Promoting financial literacy and stability by providing money management trainings and help youth develop short and long-term financial goals; and 4) Training youth to become leaders in their community through leadership development workshops and service-learning projects. AmeriCorps\*VISTA members are assisting in creating and sustaining the SET Program and Health Cafe. Their primary roles are fundraising and donor development, volunteer management, and program/curriculum development.

## New York City Region

### ***Community Service Society***

Project Director: Deidre Ryan-Sporakis

105 East 22<sup>nd</sup> Street

New York, NY10010

Phone: (212) 614-5536

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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

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Fax: (212) 825-0267

Email: [rmiller@nyccah.org](mailto: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): 55

### **Project #2: National Project**

Project Supervisor: Amanda Cowgill

Phone: (212) 825-0028, Ext. 222

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 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.

## ***Up2Us***

Project Director: Nick Beckman

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New York, NY 10018

Phone: (212) 868-9510

Email: [nbeckman@up2us.org](mailto:nbeckman@up2us.org)

Total # Approved slots: 30

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.

## ***CACF - Project PACT***

Project Director: Vanessa Leung

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New York, NY 10004

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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.

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

Project Director: Matthew Mahoney

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Fax: (212) 543-3305

Email: [ExodusTutoring@aol.com](mailto: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.

### ***Upwardly Global***

Project Director: Sherazade Langlade

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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 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

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

Project Director: Rachelle Richards

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New York, NY 10018

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Email: rrichards@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.

### ***Union Settlement Association***

Project Director: Ari Briski

237 East 104<sup>th</sup> Street

New York, NY 10029-5404

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Fax:

Email: [abriski@unionsett.org](mailto:abriski@unionsett.org)

Total # Approved slots: 4

Union Settlement Association is one of the largest social service providers in East Harlem, offering comprehensive services to lift individuals and families out of poverty. Each VISTA member will work on a separate project, with the shared goal of eliminating the barriers to academic success for students of all ages in Title 1 schools. Both the College Readiness and Park East High School VISTAs will ultimately help students from New York City get into college or find living wage employment, a well-established road out of poverty. The College Readiness VISTA would also work to keep these individuals connected to, and invested in, East Harlem, encouraging them to share their successes. The Development VISTA will recruit volunteers to assist children at a crucial time, ensuring they develop a strong foundation of reading and math skills and do not fall behind academically, losing the opportunity to use education as a pathway out of poverty. Additionally by soliciting private and corporate sources for funding and in-kind supplies, the VISTA would bring resources to the East Harlem community that would enable students to achieve academic success. With leadership provided by the Technology VISTA, hundreds of East Harlem students would be able to bridge the digital divide, gaining the computer skills necessary to conduct research, apply to college, and much more. The VISTA would also create a curriculum that enables us to ensure similar rates of success after his/her year of service is completed.

### ***Advocates for Children***

Project Director: Sara Shin  
151 West 30<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10001  
Phone: (212) 822-9514  
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Email: [sshin@advocatesforchildren.org](mailto:sshin@advocatesforchildren.org)  
Total # Approved slots: 2

Advocates for Children has recently begun two programs with the goal of training low income parents to identify and overcome the barriers that prevent them from becoming active participants in their children's education. One program targets parents of children with disabilities and the other targets parents in immigrant communities; the VISTA project will support both of these efforts. Outcomes include developing outreach campaigns, developing and refining training curricula to help parents identify and solve problems in their schools and develop tools to assess the impact of both programs.

### ***Brooklyn Workforce Innovations (BWI)***

Project Director: Nathalie Hodge  
621 DeGraw Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11217  
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Email: [nhodge@bwiny.org](mailto:nhodge@bwiny.org)  
Total # Approved slots: 7

BWI's mission is to empower low and moderate income people by creating living wage employment opportunities and access to career paths. The VISTA project will support and expand existing training programs that will impact at least 450 New Yorkers by helping them develop marketable skills. Outcomes include developing an alumni program with a social media component to keep graduates in touch with BWI as well as providing mentors for new graduates, organizing events to expose students and graduates to prospective employers and developing in-kind and grant resources to support the program.

### ***The Osborne Association***

Project Director: Tamara Anderson  
809 Westchester Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10455  
Phone: (718) 707-2647  
Fax: (718) 707-3102  
Email: [tanderson@osborneny.org](mailto:tanderson@osborneny.org)  
Total # Approved slots: 1

In 2010, the Osborne Association launched the Green Career Center which is dedicated to helping formerly incarcerated men and women transition into jobs in the "green" sector by offering job readiness training, environmental education and job placement. The VISTA project will support this new program by developing tools to maintain communication with alumni. Outcomes include developing linkages to the "green" community, creating a program-specific newsletter and creating an interactive mapping system to track graduate placements to help measure the impact of the program.

### ***Women's Venture Fund***

Project Director, Maria Otero  
318 West 39<sup>th</sup> Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10018  
Phone: (212) 563-0499  
Fax: (212) 284-6951  
Email: [MOtero@wvf-ny.org](mailto:MOtero@wvf-ny.org)  
Total # Approved slots: 2

Two AmeriCorps VISTA members assigned to Women's Venture Fund (WVF) will work to further build the micro-credit program and expand the reach of marketing efforts. The VISTAs work will help low-income women become successful entrepreneurs by building the capacity of WVF to better support these women with updated/improved credit risk policies and procedures increase in cash/in-kind resources and by a targeted, more succinct marketing plan in place. The goal is to increase the skills and knowledge of the women participating in the program and overall, to help the women become economically self-sufficient.

### ***Children's Choice Family Services***

Jennifer Williams, Executive Director  
1009 Broadway, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Brooklyn, NY 11221-2405  
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Fax:  
Email: [ccfs10009@optimum.net](mailto:ccfs10009@optimum.net)  
Total # Approved slots: 4

The VISTA After School Mentoring Program would address the persistent poverty within the Bushwick community, and the poor educational opportunities offered to children within the neighborhood. The project will help address these issues by expanding the KidzLit Technology Lab, CSI After School, Robotics, Junior Achievement Our Families, and SPARK (obesity prevention) programs. This VISTA project will address these particular needs within the community and together programs will provide a network of educational and support services that can improve the lives of families and the life outcomes of the children in the community.

## Statewide

### ***American Red Cross of Greater New York***

Project Director: Lauren Putney  
1220 Washington Ave, Bldg. 22, Suite 101  
Albany, NY 12226-  
Phone: (518) 292-2436  
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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.

### ***Habitat for Humanity NYS***

Project Director: Mary Vivona  
911 East Main Street  
Endicott, NY 13760  
Phone: (607) 748-4138  
Email: [mvivona@habitatnys.org](mailto: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.

***New York Campus Compact***

Project Director: Brittany Campese

95 Brown Rd, Box 1006

Ithaca, NY 14850

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Fax: (607) 254-6397

Email: [bcampese@cornell.edu](mailto: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-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.