

Position Announcements

AMERICORPS* VISTA POSITIONS

About One Economy

One Economy Corporation, a global 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization based in Washington, DC, that maximizes the potential of technology to help low income people improve their lives and enter the economic mainstream. One Economy is working to connect low-income households to computers and Internet access, training and support, and comprehensive, online content to expand their opportunities to make more informed decisions and build assets.

Our website, www.beehive.org (the Beehive), is a virtual support network designed to move people into the economic mainstream. Beehive content is written specifically for a low-income audience, in Spanish and English, and at a 6th grade literacy level. The Beehive's information and interactive tools focus on the things that matter most to our audience: health, jobs, money, education, and family. The ultimate goal of the Beehive is to link low-income people to critical, local information, and resources so that they can take action to improve their lives.

We are currently recruiting for VISTA placements in multiple states. For details on specific locations, see contact info below.

Project Description

Today, our nation has the opportunity to apply the benefits of the Internet to solve social problems. Through commitment of local partners, One Economy is installing a Connected Communities program that will provide a sustainable solution to poverty by linking low-income individuals with the technological tools that can better their life. The main goal of Connected Communities is to collaborate with other community technology initiatives and organizations to build capacity and sustainability for a community digital inclusion plan. The VISTA members will serve as a technology ambassador, bringing technical assistance to the community, it's partner organizations, and low income individuals.

The VISTA member will work with the community development, youth organizations, and community outreach arms to implement a digital inclusion program by connecting families to technology; utilizing youth leadership strategies in communities; collecting content for the Beehive; and educating individuals and community organizations on the tools and resources available on the Beehive.

Responsibilities of this position

- **Community Outreach.** The VISTA member will conduct outreach initiatives to engage the larger community in technology issues. The VISTA member will work to create sustainable community links that can serve as a support system for program once it is in place and run fully by local volunteers.

- **Technology Assessment.** The VISTA member will work with community organizations to identify technology centers where partner families can do their pre-training course work and continue improving their computer know-how. He or she will work with affiliates to identify technology strengths and weaknesses in each community to determine the best plan for implementation.
- **Recruitment.** The VISTA member will spend time recruiting volunteers. Adding Techmentors to the volunteer structure will also broaden the university's reach into the community. TechMentors are agile with technology and generally younger in age. Once this volunteer team is assembled, the VISTA will recommend to the staff a volunteer willing to manage the project after the VISTA leaves.
- **Training.** The VISTA will educate existing staff and volunteers on One Economy program and its goals.
- **Evaluation.** Assist One Economy in evaluating the effectiveness of the program and the program's ability to engage low-income users in successfully engaging in technology and the Internet. The VISTA member will be assisting in the collection of this data.

In addition, the **Americorps*VISTA members** will fulfill all program goals which include the following but are not limited to these specific responsibilities:

- Make presentations to community groups, volunteers, homeowner families, and affiliate leadership.
- Recruit and train community volunteers to be TechMentors.
- Identify, recruit and train community technology centers to provide homeowner computer training
- Execute a community digital inclusion awareness campaign
- Educate and recruit low income people on digital inclusion and Beehive activities.
- Assist with homeowner technology training.
- Seek sustainable community partnerships.
- Locally promote and educate One Economy's web portal www.beehive.org .
- Assist affiliate in securing ongoing financial support for technology in their community.
- Provide ongoing support of TechMentors.
- Communicate regularly with the TechMentors and other volunteers involved in the program.
- Timely participation in the project's accompanying evaluation.

Requirements

- Technically literate
 - Experience with all Microsoft programs
 - Extensive knowledge of the Internet and how to use navigate it.
- Good verbal and written skills
- Good people skills, has the ability to work with many different types of people, affiliate leadership, community leaders, volunteers and homeowner families.
- Self starter
- A working knowledge of the needs and challenges of low income people would be an asset
- Some hands on experience with working with the underserved community
- Strong Leader able to motivate people

What is AmeriCorps*VISTA

AmeriCorps*VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) is one of two AmeriCorps programs run directly by the Corporation for National Service. It is a full-time, year-long program for men and women age 18 and older from all backgrounds. AmeriCorps*VISTA Members work with agencies (Sponsors) in communities across the United States to help further local efforts in alleviating poverty. The Sponsors are typically community-based organizations that have been approved by the Corporation and may be focused on literacy, homelessness, hunger, substance abuse, elderly, youth or other issues. AmeriCorps*VISTA Members do not provide direct service such as one-on-one tutoring, teaching, or counseling. Rather, they work to mobilize community resources to aid the Sponsor and strengthen the capacity of the community. Examples of activities include recruiting/coordinating local volunteers, soliciting donations, developing a new program, providing resources to a community, and raising public awareness about a particular issue that affects a low-income community. The Sponsor provides day-to-day supervision for the AmeriCorps*VISTA Member as well as a work plan that outlines goals and objectives for the year.

Compensation

AmeriCorps*VISTA Members receive a subsistence allowance of approximately \$10,000.00 for the entire year, paid in bi-weekly paychecks (approximately \$385 per paycheck). Members must budget the allowance to pay for their own food and housing. The allowance is subject to both Federal and State taxes and the amount is adjusted to reflect the cost of living in the specific area the AmeriCorps*VISTA is serving.

AmeriCorps*VISTA Members also can choose between a stipend at the end of the year that accrues at a rate of \$100.00 per month (\$1200.00 after a full year) or an education award which totals \$4725.00. This education award is a voucher, which is held in trust for seven years until the Member chooses to use it. It can be used to pay back qualified student loans or to pay for future education at an accredited institution.

Contact

Send resume and to Holly Kalemeris, Americorps*VISTA Leader, at hkalemeris@one-economy.com or submit an application online at <http://my.americorps.gov>

NO CALLS.