



Building community to end poverty

Get involved with AmeriCorps & VISTA at Solid Ground!

Solid Ground is hiring AmeriCorps/VISTA Members for the 2009-2010 year. There are three programs to select from, all working to fight poverty and racism.

Washington Reading Corps (Seattle and South King County teams): The Achievement Gap is a social justice issue. Research demonstrates that if a child cannot read well by the end of third grade his or her chances for academic success is significantly diminished. Through the Washington Reading Corps, AmeriCorps Members provide direct daily tutoring and full-time VISTA members help school communities to harness the talent and energies of parents and community members as volunteer tutors. Last school year WRC schools statewide recruited more than 11,000 volunteers who tutored over 25,000 students, contributing to impressive gains in statewide reading tests. WRC Members of all ages gain experience in direct tutoring, volunteer management, and strengthening community. WRC Members also develop their own leadership skills by participating in team trainings and state-wide Member Development Institutes, as well as by leading local service projects.

Martin Luther King VISTA Corps: Martin Luther King VISTAs are placed as full-time volunteers at nonprofit agencies in the Seattle/King County area. Members serve for one year as part of a national movement, Volunteers In Service to America, similar to a "domestic Peace Corps". Typically VISTAs serve at an agency to develop, implement and/or manage new projects. The MLK Corps has an anti-poverty focus, and while specific community partners and positions change from year to year, we work primarily in four areas:

- Housing and homelessness
- Technology access for low-income populations
- Family support (including domestic violence prevention)
- Employment and training

JustServe AmeriCorps: JustServe is a collaborative project between AmeriCorps, Solid Ground, the Seattle Police Department and other local Criminal Justice System agencies, local middle and high schools, nonprofits and faith-based organizations, to address and prevent violence in our community. JustServe focus areas include:

- Provide prevention and intervention to youth who are involved in, or are at risk of becoming involved in the Criminal Justice System.
- Provide crisis intervention and advocacy to victim/survivors of domestic violence.
- Provide resources and support to individuals transitioning back into the community after incarceration.
- Support positive alternatives to incarceration.
- Recruit and mobilize volunteers of all ages to get involved in violence prevention throughout Seattle/King County.

Benefits:

As an AmeriCorps or AmeriCorps VISTA Member, you will commit to one year of full-time service. In exchange, you will receive:

- **A living allowance** of \$950 – \$1,036 per month (depending upon the program), health insurance, monthly bus tickets, and childcare assistance (if income eligible).
- **Education award or stipend.** After successful completion of service, **AmeriCorps Members** receive an AmeriCorps Education Award of \$4,725. **VISTAs** receive an educational award of \$4,725 OR a \$1,200 cash stipend. Additionally, AmeriCorps members can put their student loans into forbearance (so they don't have to make payments) during their service (contact your lender for more specific information or to confirm your loan status during AmeriCorps or VISTA service).
- **Training,** including workshops on issues of interest to the community, leadership development, and skills development for the nonprofit or public sector.
- **Experience!** National Service Members gain great job skills and a strong network of contacts among schools and social service agencies in the area.

How to apply:

1) Visit <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/login.do>

2) Click on "Apply to Serve"

3) You'll need to know the program ID# for the program you'd like to apply to.

- **JustServe* AmeriCorps** — Provide prevention and intervention for youth at risk of violence and incarceration. Support victim/survivors of domestic violence. Provide resources and support to people transitioning out of incarceration. Mobilize community members of all ages to end violence. **Listing ID #: 3124**
- **MLK VISTA Corps** — Works with community and public agencies throughout King County on housing development and homelessness, welfare to work, low-income access to technology, and family support issues. **Listing ID #: 4383**
- **Washington Reading Corps** — Placements are in elementary schools in Seattle, Kent, Highline, and Tukwila School Districts to recruit and train community volunteers and to provide one-on-one and small group tutoring in an effort to increase reading and literacy skills. **Seattle WRC Listing ID #: 5006; South County WRC Listing ID#: 5007**

We also accept paper applications for AmeriCorps programs. VISTA applicants must complete an online application, and we can offer some assistance upon request. You may pick up paper applications at our offices at 464 12th Avenue South, Seattle WA 98122 (on the corner of 12th and Jefferson in Capitol Hill). To have one mailed to you, please call our hotline at 206.926.9000, or email americorpsinfo@solid-ground.org.

Start dates for these positions are September 2009, and end in July or August of 2010. If you're moving over 50 miles to your VISTA position, you are eligible for \$550 relocation allowance, as well as additional travel reimbursement depending on your situation.

For More Information:

Please call our Recruitment hotline at 206.926.9000, or email americorpsinfo@solid-ground.org. For more information about Solid Ground, visit www.solid-ground.org.