



Get Connected

Remember to check out the VISTA Corridor Recovery website and Facebook page! Members are strongly encouraged to submit content!

Mark Your Calendar...

- **Check Out the Downtown District Community Calendar**
<http://www.downtowncr.org/Events>
- **Check Out the Cultural Corridor Event Calendar**
<http://www.culturalcorridor.org/calendar.asp>
- **National Days of Service**
 - September 11 Day of Service and Remembrance 9/11**
<http://911dayofservice.org>
 - Make a Difference Day 10/22**
www.handsonnetwork.org/MakeADifferenceDay
 - Veteran's Day 11/11**
www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday
- **Upcoming 2011 Federal Holidays:**
 - Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day

ISSUE

01

September 2011

VISTA SHOUT OUT

this issue

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Current Team Members

- ◆ Angela
- ◆ Bill
- ◆ Molly
- ◆ Matt
- ◆ Colette
- ◆ John
- ◆ Steve
- ◆ George
- ◆ Ryan
- ◆ Josh
- ◆ Johnna
- ◆ David
- ◆ Chris
- ◆ Nate
- ◆ Shane
- ◆ Brad
- ◆ Kelli
- ◆ Marielle
- ◆ Travis
- ◆ Glendy
- ◆ Thomas
- ◆ Jared
- ◆ Angelina
- ◆ Kayann

PLEASE NOTE:

The next issue will include an e-mail list for all team members. If you have not updated your e-mail or would like a vistacorridorrecovery account please contact Julie Rochford as soon as possible.

WHERE ARE THEY?!?!?!?

You may be looking at the list of fellow VISTA members to the left and wondering exactly where all of these fantastic people are. So, where are members currently serving in Linn and Johnson Counties?

- ⇒ W.R.A.P.
- ⇒ Neighborhood Centers of Johnson County
- ⇒ Block By Block
- ⇒ Lundby Town Homes
- ⇒ United Way of East Central Iowa
- ⇒ Shelter House
- ⇒ Willis Dady Emergency Shelter
- ⇒ Mount Mercy University
- ⇒ Matthew 25 Ministry Hub
- ⇒ Jane Boyd Community House

EXCITING NEWS FROM CNCS

Have you heard the exciting news? VISTA members are getting an increase in living allowance to begin September 11, 2011. The purpose of the increase is to keep in compliance with minimum and average rates specified in the Domestic Volunteer Service Act (DVSA) as amended.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO YOU?

VISTA members' new living allowance will be a rate of approximately \$892 / month or a daily rate of approximately \$29.33

DO I HAVE TO DO ANYTHING?

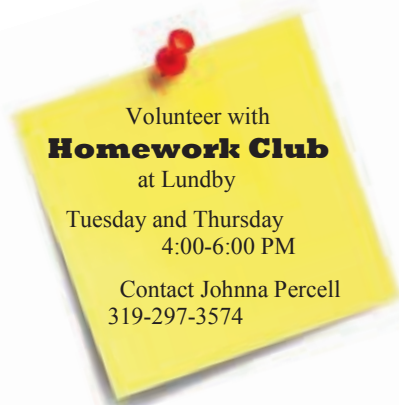
No, the increase in allowance will be automatically reflected in your automatic deposit on September 30, 2011.

WHAT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

Project Specialist, Bonnie Sorensen can answer questions regarding payroll. You may also contact Ms. Sorensen for a copy of your paystub.

Looking for additional opportunities to *Get Involved*? Check out the Volunteer Bulletin Board! Please submit events/projects in need of volunteers support.

Note: If activities occur during your regular VISTA hours, you must have site-supervisor permission to participate.



Volunteer Bulletin Board

VISTA Resource Library

Did you know that we have a great resource library available for all team members during their year of service?

DVDs currently available:

- 9 Traits of Highly Successful Work Teams
- Assertive Communication Skills for Professionals
- Taking Control of your Workday
- How to Deal with Negativity in the Workplace

Books currently available:

- Facebook Marketing
- Twitter Marketing
- Grant Writing
- DRIVE
- The American Way to Change
- Switch
- Word of Mouth Marketing
- Perfect Phrases for Writing Grant Proposals
- The Five Most Important Questions
- Collaborative Leadership
- The Team-Building Tool Kit
- Duct Tape Marketing
- Understanding Poverty
- The Volunteer Recruitment Book
- Blogging for Business

And many more...



CNCS POLICY SPOTLIGHT

Below is the CNCS Policy on Political Activities as found in the official VISTA Handbook.

LIMITATION ON POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

AmeriCorps VISTA members, as well as AmeriCorps VISTA programs and projects, are subject to certain restrictions related to their engagement in political activities. Such political activities are classified as either: (1) engaging in electoral activities; (2) engaging in lobbying; or (3) participating in demonstrations.

Engaging in Electoral Activities

AmeriCorps VISTA members may participate in electoral activities to the extent the activities are allowed under a federal law called the Hatch Act, 5 U.S.C. Chapter 73. The Hatch Act defines the rules and restrictions on political activities in which federal workers may engage. The Domestic Volunteer Service Act, at 42 U.S.C. § 5055, applies the Hatch Act to AmeriCorps VISTA members during their service.

The Hatch Act applies to all AmeriCorps VISTA members, whether they serve full-time or parttime, at all times during their service, including off duty hours. Permissible activities under the Hatch Act, unless prohibited by other statutory authority, apply to members when they are on authorized leave or are not perceived to be performing as an AmeriCorps VISTA member (e.g., while not

actually or perceived as performing service, or off duty service time).

Under the Hatch Act, during off duty service time, AmeriCorps VISTA members may engage in certain political activities, as follows:

- **May** be candidates for public office in nonpartisan elections
- **May** register and vote as they choose
- **May** assist in voter registration drives
- **May** express opinions about candidates and issues
- **May** contribute money to political organizations
- **May** attend political fundraising functions
- **May** attend and be active at political rallies and meetings
- **May** join and be an active member of a political party or club
- **May** sign nominating petitions
- **May** campaign for or against referendum questions, constitutional amendments, municipal ordinances
- **May** campaign for or against candidates in partisan elections
- **May** make campaign speeches for candidates in partisan elections
- **May** distribute campaign literature in partisan elections
- **May** hold office in political clubs or parties, including serving as a delegate to a convention

Under the Hatch Act, AmeriCorps VISTA members are prohibited from engaging in the following activities at all times during service, including off duty service time:

- **May not** use their official authority or influence, as an AmeriCorps VISTA member, to influence an election
- **May not** knowingly solicit or discourage the political activity of any individual or organization that has business before the Corporation for National and Community Service or the AmeriCorps VISTA program (e.g., an AmeriCorps VISTA sponsoring organization or project)
- **May not** engage in political activity while in service time as an AmeriCorps VISTA member (e.g., while on duty as an AmeriCorps VISTA member at a sponsoring organization or project)
- **May not** engage in political activity while in any office of the AmeriCorps VISTA program (e.g., while at the sponsoring organization or the project)
- **May not** engage in political activity while using a vehicle owned or leased by the AmeriCorps VISTA sponsoring organization or project
- **May not** be a candidate for public office in a partisan election



- **May not** wear political buttons while in service time as an AmeriCorps VISTA member (e.g., while on duty as an AmeriCorps VISTA member at a sponsoring organization or project)
- **May not** engage in political activity while wearing an article of clothing, badge, insignia, or other similar item that identifies the Corporation or the AmeriCorps VISTA program

Also, AmeriCorps VISTA members generally may not solicit, accept, or receive political contributions, with one rare exception: An AmeriCorps VISTA member may solicit a political contribution

from another individual if the request is for a contribution to the multicandidate political committee of a federal labor organization or a federal employee organization, to which both the AmeriCorps VISTA member and the individual belong. Such a solicitation is still prohibited, however, if the member is an AmeriCorps VISTA Leader and the individual is an AmeriCorps VISTA member.

AmeriCorps VISTA sponsoring organizations and projects may not use funds or personnel in a manner that supports or identifies the AmeriCorps VISTA program with partisan or nonpartisan election activities. Sponsoring organizations and projects also may not use funds or personnel in a manner that supports or results in

voter registration activities, or that provides transportation to the polls. Additionally, no AmeriCorps VISTA member or employee of a sponsoring organization may take any action with respect to a partisan or nonpartisan political activity that would result in the identification or apparent identification of the AmeriCorps VISTA program with such activity. The Hatch Act also prohibits AmeriCorps VISTA members from engaging in voter registration activities or providing transportation to the polls during VISTA service hours.

Make the Most of Your Year—ONLINE RESOURCES

VISTA Campus

<http://vistacampus.org/>

If you haven't taken time to visit VISTA Campus, you are missing out!

VISTA Campus is an excellent resource for you during your year of service and beyond.

Main topics include "Life as a VISTA," "The Work," and "Connect with VISTAs."

You will also find a calendar of interactive webinars and trainings available to you as a current member.

Take time to check it out today!



REMINDERS & RESOURCES

Attendance

Please remember that time-sheets are to be submitted bi-weekly to attendance@vistacorridorrecovery.org

Also, it is strongly encouraged that members submit requests for leave over the holidays as soon as possible. This will give your site supervisors and programs time to discuss and make arrangements as necessary. Do not purchase travel tickets until you have received approval.

Food Assistance

Have you taken time to apply for food assistance?

HOW DO I APPLY?

[ONLINE]

<https://secureapp.dhs.state.ia.us/oasis>

[CALL]

(877)-347-5678

Need additional RESOURCES?

Check out the Linn County Resource Guide for information on free meal sites and food pantries in the area.

[http://www.linncounty.org/department.asp?](http://www.linncounty.org/department.asp?Dept_Id=11&Page_Id=397)

[Dept_Id=11&Page_Id=397](http://www.linncounty.org/department.asp?Dept_Id=11&Page_Id=397)