



American Legion Auxiliary

In the Spirit of Service Not Self for Veterans, God and Country

American Legion Auxiliary Call to Service Corps VISTA Project

Building Volunteer Capacity to Alleviate Poverty among Veterans, Military Servicemembers, and Their Families

Project At-a-Glance

(Version 09/27/2011)

Purpose – Enhance the capacity of the American Legion Auxiliary to generate volunteer service targeted toward poverty alleviation by and for veterans, military service members, and their families.

Plan –The American Legion Auxiliary has received an assignment of federal AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) members for a three-year annually renewable project period to support the American Legion Auxiliary Call to Service Corps VISTA Project. Call to Service Corps members assigned to Auxiliary National Headquarters develop training, technical assistance, tools, and resources for use by Auxiliary state departments and local units for volunteer recruitment, retention, engagement, management, and program development. Call to Service Corps members assigned to Auxiliary state Departments implement volunteer development and community service activities.

Participating Departments – (as of 9/27/2011) New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Vermont.

Expected Project Impact

- Additional volunteers recruited to the regular Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service.
- New volunteers mobilized in poverty-related veteran or military community service projects.
- Veterans, servicemembers, or families living in or near-poverty receiving practical support.
- Additional cash donations raised and in-kind donations generated to support Auxiliary mission work.
- Auxiliary Support Tools series developed on volunteer management, service project implementation, and organization development topics.

Benefits to the American Legion Auxiliary

- Generates activities that support numerous goals and objectives of the Plan of Action.
- Raises visibility of the Auxiliary in the national service and veterans' affairs arenas.
- Helps the Auxiliary modernize so that it is relevant to both current and future generations of veterans, military service members, and their families.
- Strengthens unity among national headquarters and departments.

Relationship with Corporation for National and Community Service & AmeriCorps VISTA –

The American Legion Auxiliary Call to Service Corps VISTA Project is supported by the federal Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). AmeriCorps VISTA is a national service program for individuals interested in developing lasting solutions to poverty in America. VISTA members commit to one year of full-time national service. VISTA members receive a poverty-level living allowance from the federal government to assist them in meeting their basic needs.

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