

CTC VISTA Project

Community Technology Centers' Volunteers in Service to America

Combining Service & Technology for Community Empowerment

CTC VISTAs offer their skills, experience, and commitment to enable organizations to use technology to serve their communities because they believe that media, information, and communications technologies can be powerful tools for social change. They serve with a wide range of organizations that are developing community-focused technology projects and they work together to develop shared resources and to foster collaboration among organizations in the fields of community technology, community networking, technical assistance to non-profits, and community media.

CTC VISTAs are committed to building the capacity of both individual organizations and the community media and technology movement as a whole.



VISTA service is challenging and it offers rewards that go beyond the satisfaction that comes with helping people, overcoming adversity, and contributing to a movement. CTC VISTAs develop and grow important projects that might not otherwise exist. VISTA service offers a unique opportunity to take on a clearly defined project for a specific amount of time, to develop new skills, and to make a real impact. It can be interesting and rewarding work—work that is appreciated for both *what* was accomplished and *how* it was accomplished.

See www.ctcvista.org/vista_faqs for details.

Additional information online:

The CTC VISTA Project

www.ctcvista.org

AmeriCorps*VISTA

www.americorps.gov/vista/

CTCNet

www.ctcnet.org

The Association for Community Networking

www.afcn.org

Community Technology Review

www.comtechreview.org

Interested in having a CTC VISTA work with your organization?

Application guidelines and procedures:

www.ctcvista.org/guidelines

Interested in becoming a CTC VISTA?

Current openings & application procedures:

www.ctcvista.org/vista_faqs

Current participating organizations:

www.ctcvista.org/recruit



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www.ctcvista.org

The CTC VISTA Project places AmeriCorps*VISTA members with non-profit organizations across the country that use information and communications technologies to address the needs of low-income and at-risk communities.

We work with essentially four types of organizations:

- *Community media and technology centers* such as CTCs or cable access centers.
- *Grassroots organizations* that are using technology to facilitate community participation, empowerment, and action for social change.
- *Technology assistance organizations* who provide tools and services to small non-profits working with low-income communities.
- *Support and organizing bodies* which promote coordination, collaboration, and development among organizations in specific geographic areas or branches of the community technology field.

Participating organizations are required to have their VISTA do at least some work on one of the following types of projects:

- *Community Networking*: including infrastructure or service projects, such as community ISPs or wireless community networks, and information-focused projects such as community portals (websites connecting people with community resources and encourage civic participation).
- *Technology Assistance to Non-profits*: projects which develop tools or provide services which help small non-profits use technology to build their capacity.
- *Digital Media*: including projects which empower individuals and organizations to effectively communicate their values and advocate for their communities, and projects which engage youth in media-making as a means of providing technology training and media education.
- *Community Organizing*: projects that bring people together to act in common self-interest, in the pursuit of a common agenda, with populist goals that build upon the ideal of participatory democracy.



For non-profits exploring new ways to use media and technology to achieve their missions, a CTC VISTA can provide a focused year of assistance. VISTAs can make a **real impact**-- ranging from launching a new project, to helping organizations achieve sustainability and growth. A VISTA's work may focus specifically on tasks such as technology infrastructure and support, video production, and/or media literacy, as well as broader goals of fundraising, volunteer recruitment & retention, and community activism.

Plus, as a part of a nation-wide network of organizations, you and your VISTA can tap into the CTC VISTA Project's **collective knowledge and experience** for ideas and support. For small organizations that lack technology-trained staff, a CTC VISTA can make a big difference in the outcome of a project.

To learn more, visit www.ctcvista.org or contact Paul Hansen, Project Director, at paul.hansen@umb.edu or 617-287-7122.

The CTC VISTA Project is open to all CTCNet members in good standing. If you are not currently a CTCNet member, you can read about its benefits and join at www.ctcnet.org/membership.

The Application/Placement Process

(Below is a summary. The complete guidelines are online at www.ctcvista.org/guidelines)

- 1 *Submit your Intent to Apply form online.*
The Intent to Apply includes information on your organization, the project on which your VISTA would be working, and the job description which will be posted on our recruiting site once approved.
- 2 *Begin recruiting.* We will send you information on VISTA applicants that apply to the CTC VISTA Project via the AmeriCorps national recruiting system if they express an interest in and qualify for your position.
- 3 *Contact us when you select a candidate* to whom you would like to offer a position.
- 4 *Complete the application* and work with your candidate to submit all remaining paperwork.
- 5 VISTA candidates attend a pre-service orientation in Boston and then fly directly to the location of their service to begin working.

Timeline / Deadlines

We are currently recruiting for two start dates this: the first in *January 2007*, the second in *late August 2007*.

Program fees/costs for organizations:

\$2,500/VISTA for CTCs new to the project;
\$3,000/VISTA for non-CTC organizations and multi-site projects;

The above fees increase by \$500 after the first year of participation. Approximately \$1500 additional should be budgeted for VISTA development and support. See www.ctcvista.org/guidelines for details.