



Frequently Asked Questions

College Possible AmeriCorps State, National and VISTA Positions

What are AmeriCorps VISTA & AmeriCorps State/National?

AmeriCorps State/National was created in 1993. AmeriCorps State and National (along with VISTA and other programs) reside under the large “AmeriCorps” national service umbrella. Members provide direct program service.

VISTA began in the 1960s and stands for Volunteers In Service To America. VISTA members help build capacity in organizations and assist them in becoming stronger and better at what they do as a community organization. College Possible’s VISTAs develop professional skill sets in communications and development that are highly valued in the nonprofit community.

What is the relationship between College Possible and AmeriCorps? AmeriCorps State, National and VISTA are a part of the same national service organization (AmeriCorps) where individuals serve in community organizations on various issues: education, housing, technology, health industry and others. Because College Possible (formerly Admission Possible) receives federal AmeriCorps funding (through a grant process) to implement the program, the organization is considered an AmeriCorps program. For further clarification, please visit the AmeriCorps website at www.americorps.gov.

What is a living allowance? The AmeriCorps living allowance is the financial support provided to service members during their year of service. AmeriCorps provides about \$12,000 for AmeriCorps VISTA service (this amount varies by county of service)- VISTA service is full-time, 40 hours a week for 12 months. AmeriCorps State and National service members serve 1700 hours during a 10 month period and receive a living allowance of \$12,100.

What is the education award? A \$5,645 education award can be used to repay student loans or for future education expenses. Federal student loans may be deferred during the term of service; a 10 to 12 month commitment beginning in August 2015 is required, depending on position.

When do I receive the living allowance and when do I receive the education award? The AmeriCorps State and National living allowance is distributed every 2 weeks and the AmeriCorps VISTA living allowance is distributed 2 times per month. The education award (\$5,645) is given to the Member after his or her term of service.

Where will I be placed for service?

AmeriCorps High School Coaches are based in their designated high schools Monday through Thursday and spend Friday at the College Possible office for staff meetings and training.

High School Community Partnership Members are based at the College Possible office but spend significant time during the week in their designated high schools alongside high school staff, College Possible Coaches and students, Monday-Friday.

AmeriCorps College Coaches are based either at the College Possible office or a designated college campus, but spend time on college campuses connecting with College Possible students, Monday-Friday.

College Community Partnerships Members and all AmeriCorps VISTAs are based at the College Possible office, Monday-Friday.

For All Positions: Weekend events occur frequently, and Corps members are required to attend many of them.

Is there health coverage? Yes, health coverage is offered at no cost to the Members.

Am I able to have an additional (part-time) job? The rules and regulations of AmeriCorps VISTA state that a VISTA member may not hold another job during their term of service. AmeriCorps State/National does allow members to hold another job during their term of service. Outside commitments must not interfere with the obligations of an College Possible term of service.