Frequently Asked Questions

Where do MACC AmeriCorps*VISTA members serve?
MACC VISTA members serve at colleges and universities across the state of Massachusetts. Our sites include public and private, as well as two and four year institutions. MACC VISTAs are also partnered with a local school or education-based non-profit in order to build capacity of the host campus and community partner to sustain their partnership.

What does it mean to serve in a “partnership?”
As a MACC AmeriCorps*VISTA you serve as a direct liaison between a higher education institution (the host site) and the community partner (an education-based non-profit or K-12 school). Your main role will be to build the capacity between these two organizations with guidance from a mutually beneficial work plan, your supervisor and the MACC VISTA Leadership team. The ultimate goal is to create or strengthen the relationship between the campus and community partner, ensuring the partnership is sustainable and works towards alleviate poverty.

How many VISTAs are in the corps?
Approximately 29 volunteers serve as MACC AmeriCorps*VISTAs. The corps regularly comes together for trainings, overnight retreats and social outings. The corps often develops into a tight knit group that is engaged in resource sharing and networking.

Can I pick where I serve?
MACC, Inc. places VISTA members on campuses, based on the work plan for that specific campus-community partnership and the skills, interests and experiences of the VISTA member. We do take geographic preference into consideration when placing members.

How long is my VISTA service?
VISTA members serve for one year (12 months). Members can (and often do!) sign on for an additional years of service, up to three VISTA terms.

When does the year of service start?
The 2016-2017 MACC AmeriCorps*VISTA program will begin in August 2016.

What are the benefits?
MACC AmeriCorps*VISTA members receive a living allowance (roughly $1,000 a month before taxes) that is paid out bi-weekly. VISTAs are also eligible for student loan forbearance for qualified federally backed loans, health coverage (click here for more info), a relocation allowance (if moving more than 50 miles), as well as a $5,730 Educational Award or $1,500 cash stipend upon completion of service.

Can I get a part time job on the side?
Yes, you can hold part time employment as long as it does not interfere with your VISTA work and is not directly affiliated with your partnership. To learn more about the policy, click here.

How do I apply?
MACC, Inc. AmeriCorps*VISTA has a two part application process. Applicants are required to submit a resume, cover letter and the names and contact information of four references to maccvista@masscampuscompact.org. The cover letter should include why you decided to apply to be a MACC VISTA and why you are a good fit for the program. You will also need to complete the online AmeriCorps application, which can be found at www.my.americorps.gov and apply to the MACC AmeriCorps*VISTA Partnerships for Education program listing in the My AmeriCorps Portal.
What happens after I submit my application?
Someone from our staff will be in contact with you regarding the status of your application. If you are invited for a phone interview they will begin in early February and applications are accepted on a rolling basis. If you have any questions at any point in the application process, please contact maccvista@masscampuscompact.org.

I am moving from out of state and I have never even been to the city where I'll be working. What do I do?
MACC VISTA has plenty of resources to help new members adjust to living in Massachusetts. We can provide you resources around finding affordable housing and accessing public resources in the state. We also have an extensive alumni network that loves to welcome new VISTAs to the neighborhood, and can connect you with other incoming MACC VISTA members if you are looking for roommates. Talk to the VISTA Leaders to find out more about these options.

Will I need a car during my year of service?
The necessity of a car is dictated by the level of public transportation in the area and your ability to access your host site and community partner effectively. Typically in sites closer to the Boston area VISTAs use the MBTA while in sites further from metro areas, a car is crucial.

What kinds of training opportunities are available to me as a MACC AmeriCorps*VISTA?
Each year, the VISTA Leaders and Program Director work together to create a training curriculum that suits the needs of members. Members frequently recommend training topics and facilitate workshops in areas of expertise. In the past, trainings have included:

- Grant Writing
- Partnership Development
- Diversity Training and Social Justice Education
- Evaluation and Impact Assessment
- Sustainability Strategies
- Recruitment and Retention Practices
- Service Learning Development
- Team-Building
- Ropes Courses and Outdoor Initiatives
- Asset-Based Community Development
- Community Organizing
- College Access
- Data Collection
- Introduction to the Education System

What do MACC AmeriCorps*VISTA members do after their year of service?
Members go on to a variety of post-service opportunities, while others choose to stay on for a second (or third!) year of service. Past members have moved onto:

- Service-Learning Director, University of New Haven
- Director of Research and Instruction, Stanford University
- Director of Individual Giving, United Cerebral Palsy
- Specialist in Social Policy, Congressional Research Service
- Volunteer Coordinator, Hanover Habitat for Humanity
- Graduate Study in: Law, Public Policy, Medicine, Urban Planning, Education, American Studies, Higher Education Administration, Student Affairs, Social Work, Non-Profit Management, Social Psychology