

AmeriCorps*VISTA
New York State Program Directory



Corporation for National & Community Service
New York Field Office

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AmeriCorps*VISTA Programs Capital Region Program Listing

Siena College

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Siena College marries academics and service and seeks to empower poor communities, placing 30 VISTA members at non-profits throughout the Capital Region. Project activities of VISTA positions include: program development, volunteer recruitment, development of volunteer training and tracking systems, development of community partner relationships, and participation on a College wide team to build institutional capacity and expertise in volunteer training, provision, outcome measurements and program implementation in both curricular and co-curricular activities of The College. VISTA Fellows function as a team: they meet at least twice per month as a staff to report progress and brainstorm collaborative opportunities; build connecting projects between community partner agencies, between community partners and Siena College, and between community partners and community members.

AmeriCorps*VISTA Programs Mohawk Valley Region Program Listing

Schoharie Area Long Term Disaster Recovery

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Schoharie Area Long Term (SALT) Disaster Recovery, was formed in response to the devastation suffered by the Schoharie Valley communities after Hurricanes Irene and Lee in 2011. In their wake, the storms left communities distraught with homelessness, unemployment, and instability. This VISTA project will help rebuild the community, ultimately getting people back into their homes, bringing business back to the community, and revitalizing the human service and economic infrastructures. VISTAs will recruit and manage new volunteers, raise funds, and implement processes for volunteer management, donations management, fundraising, and events.



AmeriCorps*VISTA Programs
Central New York Region Program Listing

Franciscan Collaborative Ministries

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Franciscan Collaborative Ministries (FCM) is a comprehensive, multifaceted faith-based social service organization serving the North side of the City of Syracuse. Headquartered on the campus of the Franciscan Church of the Assumption, FCM's mission is to bring peace and reconciliation to the neighborhoods and people of Syracuse by serving the most neglected of its members—the underserved, the hungry, the elderly, searching teens and political refugees.

FCM's VISTA project will concentrate mainly on community and economic development by improving the economy of the North side. This will be accomplished by strengthening the existing locally-owned businesses, establishing a neighborhood workforce development program for unemployed and underemployed residents and developing social business ventures within FCM itself as a venue for employment and training opportunities as well as generating revenue to sustain FCM.

AmeriCorps*VISTA Programs
Finger Lakes Region Program Listing

Rochester Youth Year VISTA Program

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Rochester Center for Community Leadership at the University of Rochester developed the Rochester Youth Year program after recognizing the community's challenges in meeting the needs of youth in the area. The Rochester Youth Year program focuses on combating poverty and empowering the urban youth in Rochester by partnering with local colleges, non-profits and other community organizations. The colleges that make up this collaboration include the University of Rochester, Nazareth College, Roberts Wesleyan College, Rochester Institute of Technology, St. John Fisher College, SUNY Geneseo and SUNY Brockport. In partnership, programs and services are developed



based on youth education and literacy, healthy futures and economic opportunity needs. By expanding the capacity of these community-based organizations, more Rochester youth are supported and given the ability to become productive adults. Also, in partnership with the Rochester City School District, this VISTA project will place VISTA Members with turnaround schools to develop systems and structures to enable these schools to take a pro-active approach to supporting student engagement and improving school climate. This will help expand the organizational capacity of the school district to bring youth and families out of poverty by increasing the likelihood of high school completion. A VISTA Member will be placed at each community-based organization or school focusing on area youth needs. 13 VISTA Members will conduct community needs assessments, develop volunteer recruitment and management systems and identify sources of financial and in-kind support to advance youth programs. VISTA Members will be supported by the consortium of colleges in order to effectively implement and assess these youth initiatives. A VISTA Leader will provide support to the VISTA Members as well as coordinate their efforts to allow the VISTA Members to successfully accomplish their goals. In the end, this VISTA project will help organizations better meet the needs of the community and the impoverished youth of Rochester. Rochester had the 11th highest child poverty rate among the nation's largest urban areas. The effects of poverty are broad and varied and affect youth's ability to become productive adults. Youth experiencing poverty in Rochester lack access to resources that are vital to their development, including the presence of caring adults, safe places and opportunities for constructive use of time and a healthy start in life. Through the Rochester Youth Year VISTA project, VISTA Members will help enable community-based organizations to further their services by expanding projects, creating positive community relationships and long-term partnerships and increasing financial and in-kind support.

AmeriCorps*VISTA Programs Western New York Region Program Listing

The Service Collaborative of WNY - *Serve NY*

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The Service Collaboration of Western New York and will partner with organizations across New York. Members will work to increase capacity in non-profit organizations while empowering the community with tools for self-sufficiency. Aligning with three of the Priority Areas designated by CNCS, the focus will be on Economic Opportunity, Education, and Healthy Futures. VISTA members will build the infrastructure and capacity within non-profit organizations by developing asset-building practices within low-income communities, with a focus on recruiting more individuals to participate in financial literacy, microenterprise and Homebuyer Education programs; implementing new and improving current services to assist Buffalo's transitioning, at-risk individuals including former offenders, refugees, immigrants and human trafficking victims; improving school preparedness for Buffalo's at-risk youth through mentoring and after-school tutoring programs; building support for services that assist homeless individuals; engaging volunteers to support these initiatives; and developing funds to increase long-term sustainable solutions for all of them. To reduce New York's insidious poverty and several identified contributing factors, Serve New York also seeks to again mobilize AmeriCorps VISTA members to "serve New York" in two Corporation for National & Community Service (CNCS) Priority Areas: Education and Veterans and Military Families. Our members, in a multi-



site project that engages youth and veteran and military family focused organizations, will serve low-income youth and families within the impact areas of Educational Advancement, as well as Adult Education, Employment, Health, Housing, and Civic Engagement for veterans, active duty military, and the families of veterans and deployed military personnel. Our host sites will focus on: building the capacity of academic support programs specifically within Title 1 and underperforming schools; providing financial literacy services to at-risk youth while in school; increasing access to services for veterans and military families; providing educational services to veterans pursuing higher education; assisting veterans with employment and jobs skills training; reducing the number of homeless veterans in New York State; engaging veterans and military families in volunteer opportunities; and developing funds to increase sustainability both for host sites and for their programs.

AmeriCorps*VISTA Programs Southern Tier Region Program Listing

Rural Health Service Corps VISTA

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The Rural Health Network (RHNSCNY) has partnered with Tioga County Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Dr. Garabed A. Fattal Community Free Clinic, Cornell Cooperative Extension Chemung County, Lourdes Hospital and Whitney Point School District to address rural health needs by reducing barriers and improving access and use of health and human services through advocacy, communication and partnerships. VISTA members will assist this partnership initiative to: conduct grant writing and fundraising for Tioga County Neighbors Helping Neighbors to support mobility management and health care access programs for individuals without health insurance (including veterans and military families); develop a coordinated approach to prescription assistance for uninsured and underinsured adults in South Central NY with the Dr. Garabed A. Fattal Community Free Clinic; develop a community education curriculum through Lourdes Hospital to improve income management for low and fixed income families in Broome County; engage low income parents of children enrolled in the Whitney Point Central School District through the SHARE Project to increase family involvement in schooling as a means to increase children's success in school; and work with the Poverty Reduction Coalition in Chemung County by developing publicity and social marketing information to help inform low income individuals about housing and food affordability in the county.



AmeriCorps*VISTA Programs
Mid-Hudson Region Program Listing

Maranatha: SET Program and Health Café

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With a primary goal of ensuring that young adults have the educational and career skills necessary for future success, Maranatha Human Services (MHS) has begun a new venture--the Shaping Empowered Teens (SET) Program and Health Café Social Enterprise. Youth enrolled in this initiative will gain direct, hands-on career experience through employment at the MHS-owned Health Café which will be located in downtown Poughkeepsie and will receive comprehensive training and support services. The four objectives of the SET Program include: 1) Providing youth with career experience, training, and exploration activities to assist them in identifying a viable career path; 2) Assisting youth in preparing for and enrolling in college by providing college counseling sessions and campus visits; 3) Promoting financial literacy and stability by providing money management trainings and help youth develop short and long-term financial goals; and 4) Training youth to become leaders in their community through leadership development workshops and service-learning projects. AmeriCorps*VISTA members are assisting in creating and sustaining the SET Program and Health Café. Their primary roles are fundraising and donor development, volunteer management, and program/curriculum development.

AmeriCorps*VISTA Programs
New York City Region Program Listing

Advocates for Children

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AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteers work on behalf of children who are at greatest risk for school-based discrimination and/or academic failure. The VISTA project works to assist these children and their families and caretakers by expanding the Family Court Projects, working for Immigrant Student's Rights project, a foster care project and in development by increasing agency-wide funding and developing new programs.



Arab American Family Support Center

Ambreen Qureshi, Project Director

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Three AmeriCorps VISTA Members will help the Arab American Family Support Center (AAFSC) in program development, program evaluation and capacity building efforts in the following three program areas: Youth Program (after-school project and health literacy project); Adult Education and Literacy Program (job-readiness and training project); and Domestic Violence Program (financial literacy and women's economic empowerment project).

Baychester Middle School

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As a new public school, there are many systems that need to be implemented to support the mission and expansion of the school. The goal of the Baychester Middle School Development and Expansion Project is to support capacity building and to develop sustainable solutions for students and the organization. VISTA members will develop an orientation program for new students, caregivers and staff, expand existing before-school and after-school programs, develop community relationships and service-learning opportunities, coordinate high school and college visits for students and fundraise.

Brooklyn Legal Services

Gloria Ramon, Project Director

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This Project is one piece of a larger endeavor to preserve existing affordable housing and reduce foreclosures for low income residents. The VISTA project will help people move out of poverty and address the basic needs of people living in poverty by engaging and empowering them to be better informed and more actively involved in matters that affect their housing and overall quality of life. With more control over their own lives, residents will be better able to ensure that their needs are met and their housing maintained. The VISTA Project will complement existing activities by developing and implementing new strategies that will significantly increase our Brooklyn A's to address issues; provide outreach and education to inform residents of their rights; and address the obstacle of poverty by improving accessibility to decent, affordable house.



Brooklyn Workforce Innovations

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BWI's mission is to empower low and moderate income people by creating living wage employment opportunities and access to career paths. The VISTA project will support and expand existing training programs that will impact at least 450 New Yorkers by helping them develop marketable skills. Outcomes include developing an alumni program with a social media component to keep graduates in touch with BWI as well as providing mentors for new graduates, organizing events to expose students and graduates to prospective employers and developing in-kind and grant resources to support the program.

CACF - Project PACT

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Eight VISTA Members and 1 VISTA Leader will allow the Coalition for Asian Children and Families (CACF) and its partner organizations that make up Project PACT (Promoting Assets and Capacity Together) improve the effectiveness and sustainability of programs and services for low-income Asian Pacific American children and youth in New York City. VISTAs will do this through increasing fundraising capacity and improving program curricula. Financial resources are necessary to expand and continue programs and improving program quality will ensure that children and youth develop the necessary skills in order to become productive members of NYC. The Asian Pacific American community has a child poverty rate of 24 percent in NYC. Only .24 percent of the City's social service contract dollars benefited Asian Pacific American non-profit organizations and only .38 percent of the City's foundation grant dollars went to this same group. Due to these limited resources, it is essential to have a VISTA project focused on addressing poverty in these particular neighborhoods and increasing the capacity of the partnering organizations focused on this high-need community.



Center for Employment Opportunities

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The Center for Economic Opportunities is dedicated to providing immediate, effective and comprehensive employment services to men and women with recent criminal convictions. The VISTA project will work to strengthen the infrastructure of both the New York City and the Buffalo offices of CEO by developing volunteer programs in both places as well as strengthening the newly implemented vocational training program in the Buffalo office and analyzing the work processes in the NYC office.

Community Service Society of New York

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VISTA members will coordinate the development of a new project focusing on poverty issues relating to veterans and military families. The project will initially focus on the assessment of volunteer needs at sites throughout NYC, forming strong, ongoing community partnerships along the way. These VISTA members are expected to develop an extensive knowledge of the focus area of veterans and poverty, specifically in the areas of unemployment, housing issues and food insecurity. Additionally, a VISTA volunteer will serve in a capacity building role of the Financial Coaching Corps by expanding the project to the underserved borough of Staten Island. The VISTA team will engage in this work on many levels; building new strategic partnerships, strengthening community connections, developing critical resources for New Yorkers in need, recruiting and training dynamic new volunteers, creating data collection systems and designing meaningful program evaluation tools.

East River Development Alliance

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Four AmeriCorps VISTA Members will comprise an Outreach and Development Team, as part of East River Development Alliance's (ERDA) initiative to serve additional community households in low-income public housing neighborhoods it serves. The VISTA Members will focus their efforts on 4 main program areas: workforce development, financial education and counseling, youth development/college access and community revitalization. The project is two-fold: the VISTA Members will help lead peer-to-peer outreach with local volunteers, develop new partnerships with local community-based organizations and businesses and initiate a community advisory board to involve more community residents in the sustainability of the project. The VISTA Members will also cultivate new donors in the community through a "Donate Local Campaign" by holding cultivation events and identifying new partners and local businesses that can support ERDA and its programs.



Food Bank for New York City

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The Food Bank VISTA program has been designed around the premise that lasting change generally comes from local involvement. The Food Bank's VISTA Program will extend the reach of the Food Bank to fight hunger in New York City by implementing a train-the-trainer model to provide sustainability training to staff at selected Food Bank member agencies; building the capacity of member agencies across the five boroughs to deliver services to alleviate long term hunger; and creating innovative solutions to food poverty. Combined, these activities will deepen community connections and build an infrastructure for long term sustainability. The Food Bank VISTA Program will strengthen the coordinated response to end hunger across New York City. During Year 1, the VISTA members will provide 100 member agencies with sustainability training and engage community volunteers to help build their capacity.

Fordham Law School Feerick Center for Social Justice

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The LEEAP initiative will use senior attorney volunteers as a resource to expand and strengthen the capacity of existing programs, and when necessary to provide services to low-income clients in three critical areas: credit reporting counseling and assistance; legal assistance with regard to consumer debt issues; and support and assistance in connection with high school and college applications. VISTA members will create mechanisms to enhance and expand services in the 3 critical areas by recruiting legal services organizations and senior attorneys to partner with the Feerick Center; develop training curriculum and training plan for senior volunteer attorneys; develop mechanisms to collect data; recruit community based partners which will utilize the senior volunteer attorneys to provide education-related services and support to low-income New Yorkers; and development of mechanisms to monitor the results of the services provided by volunteer attorneys.

Grameen American

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Grameen America will build organizational capacity at each of NYC branch locations. VISTAs will be instrumental in four key areas: employee training, database modernization, online banking, and organizational expansion. Project goals are to integrate a new client management system, train employees to open electronic bank accounts for clients, and launch a staff training center and open new four branches.



Legal Outreach, Inc.

Heather Creed, Project Director
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Legal Outreach uses instruction in law as a catalyst for inspiring underserved, minority youth from poor neighborhoods in NYC to strive for academic excellence and higher education. This program has a proven success record. 100% of the graduates from their College Bound program have graduated from high school and matriculated at four-year colleges. The proposed capacity building project will develop an evaluation system to allow for further expansion of this program, including vulnerable groups such as children in Foster Care. VISTA members will design and implement a sustainable evaluation system for the organizations two major sets of programs: the Law-Related Educational program and the Academic Skill Development program. Additionally, VISTA members will design and implement a program for the recruitment of youth in foster care and the integration of these students into Legal Outreach's programs.

Neighborhood Housing Services of New York City

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Two AmeriCorps VISTA Members assigned with Neighborhood Housing Services of New York City will build the capacity of the Financial Capability program through outreach and development. The VISTA Members will create awareness in low-income communities hit hard by the mortgage meltdown and home foreclosure crisis throughout Queens, Kings and the Bronx. The VISTA Members will engage in community outreach to potential participants through marketing and outreach presentations; will create a marketing plan and financial education blog along with new marketing materials and will evaluate the effectiveness of these efforts.

New York City Coalition Against Hunger

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NYCCAH's Capacity-Building and Technical Assistance Project engages AmeriCorps VISTA members in effective anti-poverty services by providing on-site capacity building technical assistance to anti-poverty emergency food organizations throughout the five boroughs of New York City to help low-income New Yorkers move beyond the soup kitchen to reach greater economic stability. VISTA Members will work closely with their host agencies to develop administrative and programmatic infrastructure and to build capacity to meet both the short-term and long-term needs of the low-income New Yorkers served by these agencies. VISTA members' assignments include developing systems to recruit, manage and retain community volunteers, creating new funding streams for unfunded programs, and creating systems to help agencies to better engage and outreach to their local neighborhoods.



New York City Coalition Against Hunger - *Anti-Hunger and Opportunity Corps*

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Through an interagency partnership between the USDA Food and Nutrition Service and CNCS, VISTA members placed through NYCCAH's National Anti-Hunger and Opportunity Corps will work to increase participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in over 17 states, thereby expanding economic opportunity and ensuring healthy futures for Americans living in both rural and urban areas across the country. VISTA Members will increase the capacity of anti-hunger community organizations to provide comprehensive benefit assistance and outreach to low-income constituents particularly to seniors, working families, and Latino populations. Strategies to accomplish this goal include: convening community leaders and members to identify USDA program participation barriers and develop a comprehensive plan to increase participation; recruit, manage, and train community volunteers to conduct screening and application assistance and develop local, culturally competent USDA program outreach and application assistance materials and related training to community-based organizations; identify and apply for non-federal sources of funds to improve benefits access assistance and outreach activities, and leverage federal, state and local dollars to support local anti-hunger efforts; and increase access to nutritious food options by expanding outreach and programming to increase utilization of benefits at farmers markets and supporting local, community gardening and agriculture and nutrition education efforts.

Operation Exodus Inner City

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The overall goals of Exodus' programming are to build the volunteer-driven capacities of the After School Program, Saturday Mentoring Program, and the Summer Achievement Program through the following: volunteer recruitment; reorganization of existing recruitment and training materials and creation of new materials and processes; staff and volunteer retreats/planning meetings; and special expansion of the training program for the Youth Mentoring Project to specifically meet the needs of the Summer Achievement Program. To build the capacity of the current Educational Youth Service Programs at Operation Exodus Inner City (Exodus) through fundraising and to lay groundwork and begin long-range plans for replication of the Exodus programs into other sites and/or geographical locations.



Pathways to Housing

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Pathways to Housing (PTH) transforms lives by ending homelessness and supporting recovery for the most impoverished members of the community--individuals who are chronically homeless and who have one or more disabling conditions whether mental or physical. The PTH VISTA project will develop and implement a new program, Community Connections for Recovery and Employment (CCRE), a multi-pronged approach to helping PTH consumers to increase their self-sufficiency and to meet their self-identified employment readiness and training needs.

Reading Partners

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Reading Partners (RP) is a California-based non-profit that operates a national program that focuses on improving the reading skills of K-5 students in low income communities through a structured, research-validated curriculum. The VISTA project will build and strengthen their program in New York City. VISTAs will help to expand the number of schools and the number of children with literacy problems served by creating new reading centers, recruiting and training tutors and raising funds to support Reading Partners.

Sunset Park Health Council

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The VISTA project will address: the low-education attainment of Sunset Park youth - by building the capacity of a parent-led family engagement program - LaUnion's Parent Organizing Collaborative - to increase parent and student engagement and leadership resulting in better academic outcomes for Sunset Park youth; work with the Community Based Programs development team to help build the funding base through grants development, individual solicitations and special events to support family strengthening, workforce development and educational services for low-income families; and support the Sunset Park Promise Neighborhood by coordinating 8 committees dedicated to increasing childhood outcomes in areas of early childhood, academics, health and community and family supports.



The Osborne Association

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Since 1931, the Osborne Association has worked with people involved in the criminal justice system. Osborne's Green Career Center (GCC) was the first center in the nation dedicated to helping formerly incarcerated men and women transition to jobs in the green sector. This project supports the GCC participants and graduates to better access jobs in the green sector by engaging them in meaningful community service projects that give them a chance to apply what they have learned.

Uncommon Schools

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Uncommon Schools is a non-profit organization that starts and manages outstanding urban charter schools that close the achievement gap and prepare low income students to graduate from college. The VISTA project will increase the number of its charter schools serving low-income Brooklyn students and their families. Three VISTAs will be charged with launching greater programming, community outreach and increasing student admissions and reaching across all grades from K-12.

Union Settlement

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Union Settlement Association is one of the largest social service providers in East Harlem, offering comprehensive services to lift individuals and families out of poverty. Each VISTA Member will work on a separate project, with the shared goal of eliminating the barriers to academic success for students of all ages in Title 1 schools. Both the College Readiness and Park East High School VISTAs will ultimately help students from New York City get into college or find living wage employment, a well-established road out of poverty. The College Readiness VISTA would also keep these individuals connected to, and invested in, East Harlem, encouraging them to share successes. The Development VISTA will recruit volunteers to assist children at a crucial time, and ensure they do not fall behind academically, losing the opportunity to use education as a pathway out of poverty. With leadership provided by the Technology VISTA, hundreds of East Harlem students would be able to bridge the digital divide, gaining the computer skills necessary to conduct research, apply to college, and much more. The VISTA would also create a curriculum that enables us to ensure similar rates of success after his/her year of service is completed.



Up2Us

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Up2Us, a national coalition of 450+ sports-based youth development stakeholders, increases the impact of and access to sports as a tool for positive youth development. Because of its work, one day all youth, regardless of socio-economic background, will have the opportunity to be engaged by sports that teach them values and skills to achieve goals on the field, in school, and in life. Up2Us members are currently engaged in capacity-building efforts to expand their programs to serve the hundreds of youth waiting on the sidelines to participate. These capacity building efforts will help to ensure that every child in a low-income community has access to basic tools for growth and development through sports. Up2Us VISTA members aid in capacity building for Up2Us HQ and its members in two primary areas: 1) leveraging funds for program sustainability and expansion; and 2) mobilizing community, parent, and alumni volunteers for program expansion and increased interactions between youth and mentors.

Voices Unbroken

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Voices Unbroken is dedicated to providing under-heard youth with the tools and opportunity for creative self-expression. Through high-quality creative writing, Voices Unbroken reaches out to vulnerable youth in group homes, residential treatment facilities, jails, juvenile detention centers and various other alternative and transitional settings. Voices Unbroken offers participants the tools and opportunity they need and deserve to transition from disconnected to fully engaged. VISTA members will focus on organizational development for Voices Unbroken, exploring new funding sources, promoting the programs available, and developing internal systems, leaving the organization stronger and better equipped to serve more youth in crisis.



AmeriCorps*VISTA Programs Statewide Program Listing

Habitat for Humanity NYS

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Habitat for Humanity has the broad organizational goal to address the issue of poverty housing. For HFH, building safe, affordable housing in partnership with families in need and educating the community on issues regarding housing for families with limited means are core sponsor and program goals. HFH New York State was formed in 2005 to provide a centralization of resources and efforts for the 53 HFH affiliates within New York. The VISTA members at 7 affiliates around the state will develop new and capacity building programs to support volunteer recruitment, community education and marketing. HFH NYS will help affiliates develop a variety of new and capacity building programs including volunteer recruitment, community education and marketing. Those programs will be supported through; Developing a new mortgage processing system in accordance with new laws in New York; Energy Efficient Building Program development; Further developing green building programs; ReStore marketing; New partnership development with faith based and youth groups; Improved communication development (social media outlets).

New York Campus Compact

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14 VISTA Members and 1 VISTA Leader will serve low-income communities in NY to combat the effects of poverty through recruiting, training, supervision and evaluation functions. VISTAs will work with and provide resources for selected partners to build capacity to better serve its target population, while also researching, developing, implementing and institutionalizing service-learning courses, non-curricular volunteerism and long term mutually beneficial partnerships with community organizations. NY Campus Compact VISTAs will assist in the development of anti-poverty programming activities and the commitment of resources of participating NY college & university campuses in low-income communities. NYCC VISTA members will be helping individuals and communities out of poverty by providing a link between campus resources and the community. VISTA members will be recruiting, training and coordinating student volunteers to work in poverty-serving communities.

