



**UNITED WE FIGHT.
UNITED WE WIN.**

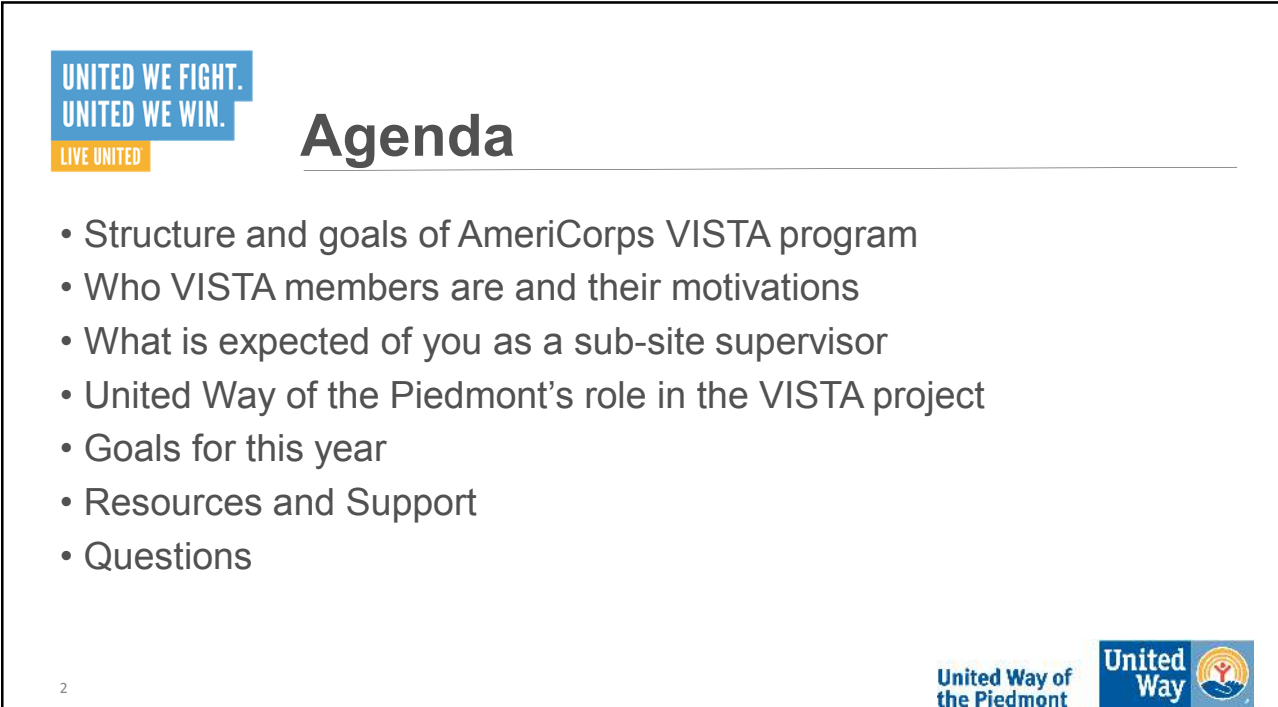
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Welcome to VISTA!

New Site Supervisor Training

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1




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Agenda

- Structure and goals of AmeriCorps VISTA program
- Who VISTA members are and their motivations
- What is expected of you as a sub-site supervisor
- United Way of the Piedmont's role in the VISTA project
- Goals for this year
- Resources and Support
- Questions

2

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AmeriCorps VISTA: Overview & Goals

3

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What is VISTA?

- **V**olunteers In **S**ervice To **A**merica
- National Service program
- Falls within AmeriCorps programming
- Volunteers serve one year in a capacity-building role at a nonprofit, government, or educational entity

4

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What are VISTA's goals?



VISTA builds capacity in nonprofit organizations and communities to help bring individuals and communities out of poverty.

Core Principles

- End poverty
- Empower communities
- Build capacity
- Create sustainable solutions

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VISTAs in the Piedmont

- United Way of the Piedmont has hosted the VISTA project for Spartanburg, Cherokee, & Union Counties since 2006
- Focus is on building capacity of nonprofits in UWP impact areas:
 - Education
 - Health – specifically Behavioral Health
 - Financial Stability
- UWP annually places 18 – 20 VISTA members at partner sites
- UWP also has 2 VISTA Leaders to help facilitate the program

6

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Who Are VISTAs?

- At least 18 years old; no upper age limit
- U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents
- Pass a criminal history review
- Meet knowledge, skill, and ability requirements set by the sponsoring organization
- Serve full-time
- Make a one year commitment

7



7



Demographics of VISTA

Nationally, VISTAs are...

- 81% female
- 82% born in 1982 or later
- 93% are experienced volunteers
- 68% have more than two years of volunteer experience
- 62% are local recruits
- 38% are national recruits

8



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Local Trends

Locally, VISTAs are...

- College graduates (generally hold a Bachelors)
- Graduate students
- Taking a gap year before applying to graduate school, medical school, or law school
- Highly driven and motivated
- Eager to gain work experience
- Confident in their abilities

9

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AmeriCorps VISTA: Activities & Benefits

10

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What do VISTAs do?

- VISTAs serve through indirect service
 - Don't work directly with clients
 - May do so occasionally for learning or emergencies, but not as a regular job duty
 - Work behind the scenes
- VISTAs work to build organizational capacity
 - Fundraising & grant writing
 - Marketing & event management
 - Volunteer recruitment & management
 - Program development & assessment
 - Data collection & analysis
 - Research

11



11



What *Don't* VISTAs do?

- Cannot do direct service
 - Except in emergencies, for educational purposes, & when it's a common expectation for all employees
- Are not administrative assistants or receptionists
- Cannot participate in political activities, including voter registration or transportation to polls
- May never have check-signing authority
- Cannot supervise other staff
 - May supervise volunteers & interns

12



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Community Projects

- VISTA team meets weekly at UWP for Community Project work
- Initially, meetings focus on community orientation, team building, and issue awareness
- VISTAs work with Behavioral Health & Financial Stability Taskforces to design their own projects to address community needs
- VISTAs work in teams
- Some project work may need to be completed outside of this time

13

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Member Benefits



- Living allowance - \$12,877
- Education award or end of service stipend
- Health benefits (not insurance)



- Professional development
- Childcare benefits
- Mileage reimbursement for service-related travel
- Monthly GIKC shopping



14

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Why Would Someone Serve?

- Seeking job experience
 - New graduate
 - Career changer
- Want to “test drive” a nonprofit career
- Taking a gap year
- Unsure about future
- Desire to give back
- Retired, but not “out”

15

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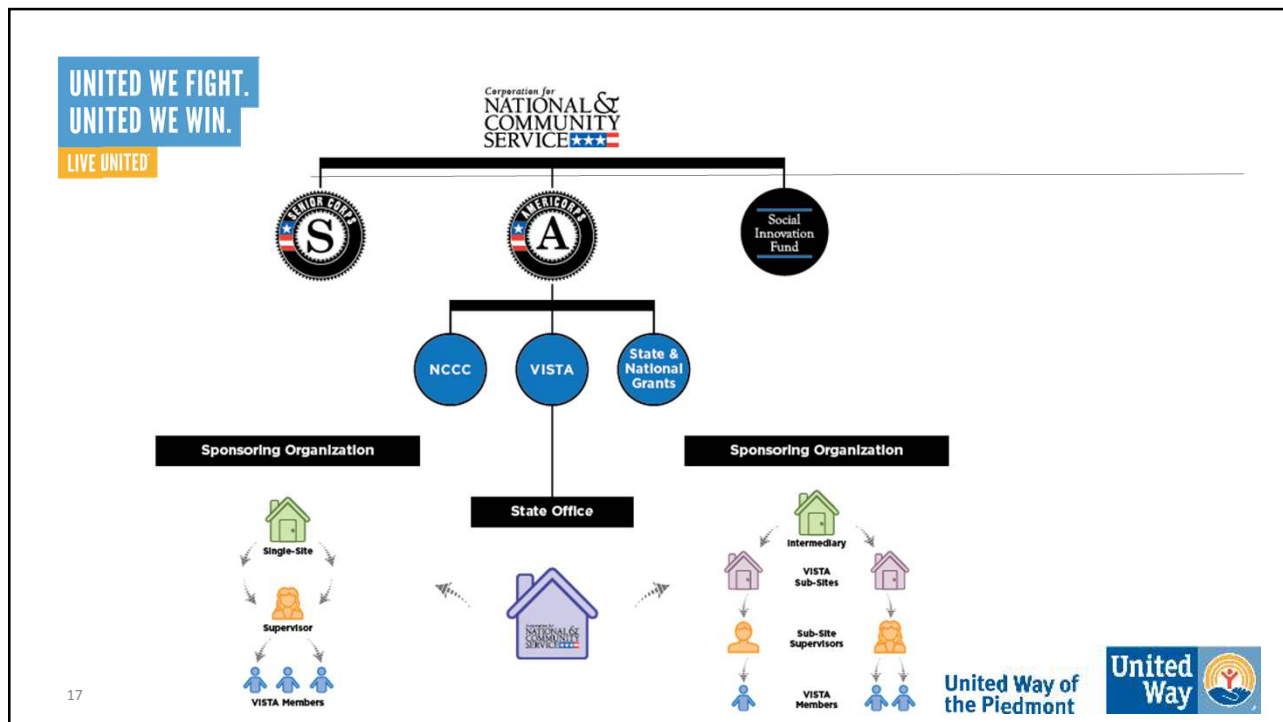
AmeriCorps VISTA: Structure

16

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16



17

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Wait... AmeriCorps or VISTA?

United Way of the Piedmont does host both an AmeriCorps State program and the VISTA program. The members do different things:

<u>AmeriCorps State</u>	<u>VISTA</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Stability Navigators • Work directly with clients • Serve part-time • UWP Staff: Dana Bertolino & Hannah Jarrett 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variety of roles & duties • Cannot work directly with clients • Serve full-time • UWP Staff: Heather Lothar & VISTA Leaders

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18