

# Oregon Housing and Community Services Department

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## Community Services Programs

Funding from ARRA

### For More Information

Kathleen Joy, Executive Director

Oregon Volunteers!

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### Program Overview

AmeriCorps provides opportunities for 75,000 Americans to give back in an intensive way to their communities and country each year. There are three main programs:

- AmeriCorps State and National, whose members serve with more than 2,900 national and local nonprofit and community groups;
- AmeriCorps VISTA, through which members serve full time fighting poverty; and
- AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps), a team based residential program for young adults 18-24 who carry out projects in public safety, the environment, youth development, and disaster relief and preparedness.

AmeriCorps is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the nation's largest grant maker in support of service and volunteering.

The Corporation engages four million Americans in service to their communities each year through Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, VISTA, NCCC and Learn and Serve America programs.

In Oregon this year, 849 full and part-time AmeriCorps members of all ages and backgrounds are serving communities across the state through local nonprofits, schools, local governments, religious organizations and other groups. They are tutoring children, coordinating volunteer programs, providing risk prevention presentations, removing nonnative species, performing trail and stream bank restorations and accomplishing other goals to improve our communities.

### ARRA Funding

ARRA provides additional resources nationally for Community Services programs totaling \$201 million "to put approximately 16,000 additional AmeriCorps members to work doing national service, meeting needs of vulnerable populations and communities during the recession." \$160 million of this amount will fund AmeriCorps programs directly. \$40 million will fund education for AmeriCorps members, and \$1 million will be for the Corporation's Inspector General.

For Oregon, this represents a formula allocation of \$366,326 and a competitive award of \$406,749 for AmeriCorps programs totally \$773,075; and \$1,410,000 for AmeriCorps VISTA. (ARRA VISTA funding does not flow through OHCS).

This funding will provide funding for 51 additional AmeriCorps members and 47 VISTA volunteers.

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### Eligibility

Funding is limited to AmeriCorps programs currently funded during the 2008-09 cycle.

### Other Requirements/Criteria

AmeriCorps participants will work with non-profit organizations in communities across the state. AmeriCorps member activities will include financial planning, home foreclosure and housing assistance, housing rehabilitation and access, volunteer generation and management, and food security. VISTA members will work in asset-building and micro-enterprise development, capacity building in native and low income communities, college readiness and college student engagement in communities.

### Implementation Process/Steps

The Oregon Volunteers Commission will oversee the allocation to various AmeriCorps programs. The Corporation for National and Community Service state office will oversee the allocation of the VISTA positions.

*Last updated 8/10/09*

OHCS is the state housing finance agency, providing financial and program support to create and preserve opportunities for quality, affordable housing for lower income Oregonians. The agency also administers federal and state antipoverty, homeless and energy assistance community service programs.



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