



# COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## ADMISSION POSSIBLE AmeriCorps VISTA & AmeriCorps State Positions

### What are AmeriCorps VISTA & AmeriCorps State?

**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. Admission Possible's VISTAs develop professional skill sets in communications and development that are highly valued in the nonprofit community.

**AmeriCorps State** was created in 1993. AmeriCorps State joined VISTA and both (along with other programs) reside under the large "AmeriCorps" national service umbrella. Members provide direct program service.

### What is the relationship between Admission Possible and AmeriCorps?

Both AmeriCorps VISTA and AmeriCorps State 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 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.org](http://www.americorps.org).

### 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 \$11,000 for AmeriCorps VISTA service (approximately 1800 hours over 12 months) and AmeriCorps\*State service (1700 hours over 10-12 months, depending on position).

### What is the education award?

A \$4,725 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 month (September 2010-June 2011) or 12 month (August 2010-August 2011 or September 2010-September 2011) commitment is required (depending on position).

### When do I receive the living allowance and when do I receive the education award?

The AmeriCorps State living allowance is distributed every 2 weeks and the AmeriCorps VISTA living allowance is distributed 2 times per month. The education award (nearly \$4,725) is given to the Member after his or her term of service (after 10 or 12 months, depending on position).

### 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 Admission Possible office for staff meetings and training.

**Workshop/Volunteer AmeriCorps Members** are based at the Admission Possible office but spend significant time during the week in their designated high schools alongside high school staff, Admission Possible Coaches and students, Monday-Friday.

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

**Events & Consortium AmeriCorps Members, and Communications & Development VISTAs** are based at the Admission 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 does allow members to hold another job during their term of service. Outside commitments must not interfere with the obligations of an Admission Possible term of service.



*AmeriCorps is committed to engaging individuals without regard to disability, gender, race, religion or sexual orientation.*