

City of Newburgh

Press Release

83 Broadway, Newburgh, N.Y. 12550
(845) 569-7354 – (845) 569-7370

for immediate release
October 18, 2007

City of Newburgh Seeking Neighborhood Ambassadors Through AmeriCorps* VISTA Program

Newburgh Neighborhood Ambassador Program: Community Organizing, Capacity Building, Grassroots Action

The City of Newburgh is seeking to identify eight candidates to serve as AmeriCorps*VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) volunteers to support the Newburgh Neighborhood Ambassador Program. The Newburgh Neighborhood Ambassador Program is a newly established initiative through which VISTA volunteers will engage stakeholders in developing neighborhood-specific Revitalization Action Plans in Newburgh's most troubled sectors. VISTA volunteers will utilize these plans as a basis for collaboration with neighborhood leaders and city government to develop and establish new programs, raise funds, and create neighborhood change. City of Newburgh residents are strongly encouraged to apply.

VISTA volunteers in the City of Newburgh will help address the following themes/specialties:

1. Quality of Life: Housing and Environmental Issues (two (2) positions available)
2. Employment and Small Business
3. Justice
4. Media and Education
5. Community Organizing (two (2) positions available)
6. Research and Fund Development

This is a full time, paid internship opportunity. The Team will work under the direct supervision of the City of Newburgh's Community Development Director.

Eligibility Requirements

- You must be at least 18 years old, but there is no upper age limit.
- A four year degree from an accredited college or three years of work experience.
- Current college students are eligible, but you must be available to serve full-time for one year and delay your academic schedule around your work responsibilities.
- The AmeriCorps*VISTA application process requires a criminal history background check.

Benefits

VISTA volunteers receive a living allowance, direct deposited every two weeks, health coverage and 10 personal and 10 sick leave days. Additionally, all VISTAs receive training and development opportunities including a Pre-Service Orientation and an onsite orientation. Based on the circumstances and/or wishes of the individual, a VISTA may receive some additional benefits including a relocation allowance of up to \$550 for moving expenses and child care allotment of up to \$400 per child, per month. VISTAs can elect to have life insurance and are covered by workers compensation for service related injuries. Some VISTAs will also benefit from income exclusion to continue public assistance they were

receiving before joining VISTA. Finally, some VISTAs may be eligible for tax benefits such as the Earned Income Credit. VISTAs can choose to receive either the Education Award (\$4,725) or an End-of-Service stipend of \$1,200. Student-loan forbearance or deferment, and non-competitive eligibility for permanent federal employment may also be provided.

In order to apply:

Send your resume with a letter of interest, indicating the theme/specialty you are seeking, and highlight experiences/education which would make you qualified for that position. Materials should be submitted as soon as possible to Lourdes Zapata-Perez, Community Development Director, City of Newburgh, 83 Broadway, Newburgh, NY 12550, via fax to (845) 569-9700, or email to lperez@cityofnewburgh-ny.gov. A three day training sponsored by AmeriCorps*VISTA is required for all accepted applicants. All conference costs will be covered by AmeriCorps*VISTA. For more information visit www.cityofnewburgh-ny.gov.