



## **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

### **MPHA'S AMERICORP \*VOLUNTEERS IN SERVICE TO AMERICA (VISTA) PROGRAM**

The MPHA has a history of resident participation efforts involving working with residents on various committees, contracting with resident council/organizations, and self-sufficiency opportunities including employment.

One of the employment opportunities provided to residents is the MPHA's AMERICORP \* VOLUNTEERS IN SERVICE TO AMERICA (VISTA) program. A few key points regarding MPHA's Americorp\*VISTA program include:

- ✚ MPHA's Americorp\*VISTA program is a partnership between MPHA and the Corporation for National Service (CNS) (CNS administers various Federal volunteer programs including the Americorp\*VISTA program).
- ✚ MPHA's VISTA program is administered by the Resident Initiatives Department and was first initiated in 1995 as a demonstration project and entailed hiring VISTA Workers-Volunteers to work as Community Workers in designated MPHA high-rises.
- ✚ During the demonstration project, the VISTA Worker-Volunteer positions were funded 100% by the Corporation for National Service.
- ✚ An unique aspect of the VISTA program is that these Volunteer positions are paid positions whereby the Volunteers receive a monthly stipend for their services. The current stipend is around \$883/month and the VISTA Workers-Volunteers also receive other benefits (e.g. medical insurance, training opportunities, educational awards/allowance etc.).
- ✚ Since the transition from the "demonstration project", the VISTA Worker-Volunteer positions have been funded through a cost share agreement between MPHA and the Corporation for National Service.
- ✚ The cost-share agreement entails MPHA paying @\$10,728 per VISTA Worker-Volunteer to offset the cost of the position. These funds are obligated thru the Capital Fund-Management Improvements Budget
- ✚ This expense is viewed as cost-effective with outcomes and benefits that far exceed the @\$10,728 expense (per position). More specifically the VISTA program epitomizes MPHA's mission relative to resident self-sufficiency; resident employment opportunities; and direct services to residents and resident councils.
- ✚ There are currently six (6) VISTA Worker-Volunteer positions which compliment the work of various MPHA departments and resident councils; and which include working

titles of Resource Room Coordinator, Community Worker, and Community Outreach Worker.

*ASSIGNMENTS:*

**Four (4)** of volunteers work as Community Workers-- working within specific MPHA departments; and with the Minneapolis Highrise Representative Council (MHRC), Resident Councils in designated high-rise buildings and the Minneapolis Scattered Site Resident Council (MSSRC).

**One (1)** volunteer works as the Resource Room Coordinator providing various information regarding housing, employment, and other services.

**One (1)** volunteer works as a Community Outreach Worker providing services in conjunction with the implementation of the HOPE VI Community and Supportive Services Plan related to MPHA's newly developed Heritage Commons at Ponds Edge

For more information about MPHA's VISTA Program, please contact Evelyn LaRue, Director of Resident Initiatives (telephone 612/342-1414) or visit MPHA's website [www.mphaonline.org](http://www.mphaonline.org). More information regarding the Corporation for National Service-AmeriCorp\*VISTA program can be obtained via the internet at <http://www.mncns.org>.