

## **KEY POINTS REGARDING VISTA BENEFITS**

### **VISTA Standard Benefits:**

- a.) Indiana Living Allowance is \$972.00 per month. Paid every two weeks via direct deposit.
- b.) Is taxable. Federal taxes are withheld, though state and local taxes, social security are not.
- c.) Is not considered income for purposes of unemployment compensation.
- d.) My two current VISTA members applied for Food Stamps- your living allowance is not considered income. They both receive \$201.00 per month in food stamps.

### **VISTA Health Coverage Key Points:**

- a.) VISTA members receive health coverage under the AmeriCorps Health Benefits Program
- b.) VISTA pays \$5 co-pay for each visit to a medical office; \$25 for an emergency room visit
- c.) Prescription drugs are covered (new and existing)
- d.) Certain emergency dental and vision

### **VISTA Leave of Absence Key Points:**

- a.) Personal days off= 10 days
- b.) Medical days off= 10 days for illness, injury, or medical appointments

### **VISTA relocation and Settling In Key Points:**

#### **1.) Settling In Allowance:**

- a. Is intended to cover initial settling in expenses (rental application fees, utility deposits, etc.)
- b. CANNOT exceed \$550.00
- c. Is paid as a lump sum in first living allowance

#### **2.) Baggage Reimbursement:**

- a. Reimbursement for shipping personal belongings between home of record and project site and the beginning and end of service. The new resident must be at least 100 miles from home.
- b. Based on mileage between home and service site. It is \$25 per 100 miles, maximum of \$500.

#### **3.) Travel Relocation Reimbursement:**

- a. Will pay for mileage to get to Pre Service Orientation

#### **4.) Optional Life Insurance:**

- a. VISTA has the option to purchase life insurance.
- b. The premium is \$2.07 per pay period

#### **5.) Child Care Benefit Key Points:**

- a. Your VISTA may be eligible for a child care benefit of up to \$400 per month per child.
- b. Qualifying children must be under 13.

#### **6.) End of Service Benefits:**

- a. \$5,550 for successfully completing a full year of service.

- b. Can only be used to pay tuition, college costs and related expenses
- c. Your VISTA can choose an end of the year stipend (instead of ed. Award) in the amount of \$1,500.

**7.) Student Loan forbearance and Deferment Comparison:**

- a. Loan interest continues to accrue, but when year of service is completed, the National Service Trust will pay interest.
- b. Deferment- economic hardship

**8.) Non- Competitive Eligibility Key Points:**

- a. Once year of service is completed, earns one year of non-competitive eligibility status from the day completed VISTA.
- b. Enables a VISTA who meets the minimal qualifications for a federal job to be hired by a federal agency without going through a formal review process and without having to compete with the general public.