

STAFF REPORT

City of Lancaster

NB 1
6/11/13
MVB

DATE: June 11, 2013

TO: Mayor Parris and City Council Members

FROM: Kelvin Tainatongo, Assistant to the City Manager
Luis Garibay, Sr. Projects Coordinator

SUBJECT: **Establish new partnership with the National Community Service Corporation to develop community-wide volunteer program**

Recommendation:

Approve Memorandum of Agreement establishing a new partnership with the National Community Service Corporation

Fiscal Impact:

None

Background:

The City of Lancaster is looking to create a new partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) to develop a community-wide volunteer program in the Antelope Valley. The CNCS is a federal agency that engages more than 4 million Americans in service through various programs including Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and the Social Innovation Fund. Through the AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) program, individuals make a year-long, full-time commitment to serve at a nonprofit organization or local government agency, working to fight illiteracy, improve health services, create businesses, strengthen community groups, and much more. Currently, about 6,500 VISTAs are placed each year in more than 1,200 projects in low-income communities around the country.

Staff is proposing that the city become a VISTA sponsor and host up to four (4) VISTA members in Lancaster. For the next year, these VISTAs would assist the city with the research, development and implementation of a community-wide volunteer program. Working in conjunction with our non-profit community, VISTAs would also help identify available resources that can be used to provide additional services. If this program is successful, the City hopes to expand the program and recruit additional VISTAs to serve directly with local non-profits.

Attachment:

Memorandum of Agreement