

STAFF REPORT

City of Lancaster

NB 1
07/14/15
MVB

Date: July 14, 2015

To: Mayor Parris and City Council Members

From: Kelvin Tainatongo, Assistant to the City Manager

Subject: **Continue partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service to host AmeriCorp Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) members**

Recommendation:

Approve Memorandum of Agreement between the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) and the City of Lancaster.

Fiscal Impact:

Incidental costs to support VISTA program are included in the 2015-16 budget. The VISTA members have raised \$60,000 from sponsors to fund the Health & Wellness Council and their first initiative, the Mayor's Health Academy program.

Background:

The City of Lancaster desires to continue its partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) to support the city's community-wide volunteer program and to facilitate a new health and wellness program in conjunction with the Lancaster Wellness Homes. 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.

Staff is recommending that the city once again serve as a VISTA sponsor and host up to five (5) VISTA members in Lancaster. Over the next year, VISTAs would assist the city with the day-to-day management of OneLINC, the Antelope Valley's premier volunteer program that was launched in March 2014. VISTA members would also work with our non-profit and Health care provider community to implement a new health and wellness program. This new program will explore ways to better connect residents with health services and help educate the community on the benefits of health and wellness.

KT

Attachment:

Memorandum of Agreement