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***Mayor Fulop Announces Jersey City's AmeriCorps VISTA Program is Now Accepting Applications for Community Revitalization Projects***

***Team Members Receive Living Expenses, Benefits and Education Stipend***

**JERSEY CITY – Mayor Steven M. Fulop** announced today that the City is now accepting applications for the **2015-2016 Jersey City AmeriCorps VISTA Program** as the Fulop administration continues its commitment to volunteerism and community service while enhancing services for residents.

Brought to Jersey City by Mayor Fulop, JC VISTA is a federally-funded volunteer project that addresses the needs of low-income residents and is the City's first municipal VISTA program. Team members will serve for a one-year period on projects to advance economic development, youth development and community revitalization.

“Volunteerism and community service play a key role in improving our city,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “Becoming a JC VISTA member is a great way to give back to the community and provide greater opportunities and an improved quality of life for residents, but perhaps the greatest benefit is the reward one feels from serving others.”

Jersey City's team of VISTAs will perform interdepartmental support through various divisions of city government. Their projects will focus on anti-poverty initiatives through the Resident Response Center (RRC), the Mayor's Quality of Life Task Force (MQLTF) and the Division of Community Development (DCD) and will also engage employers to better connect residents with job opportunities, as well as expanding employment and enrichment opportunities for youth.

VISTA volunteers will help create, manage and sustain systems for collecting data through focus groups, surveys, interviews, legislative reviews, research, analysis, and other activities. Their work will largely involve outreach to key community stakeholders, including non-profit leaders, advocates, clergy, businesses, faith-based leaders, and other key components of anti-poverty programs in the community.

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Additionally, volunteers will be actively communicating with local businesses, small and large, to encourage buy-in and investment in the local workforce by supporting training for current and future labor force needs and playing an active role in job placement. VISTA volunteers will be critical to establishing these connections with community partners from various sectors, helping to facilitate the connection between the needs of low-income residents, the prescriptions employed to address those needs, and the goals and objectives for individuals in poverty and the program as a whole.

JC VISTA is currently seeking applicants interested in positions within the following divisions:

- The Jersey City Resident Response Center
- The Mayor's Quality of Life Task Force
- The Jersey City Hudson Workforce Partnership
- Jersey City Office of Diversity and Inclusion
- Jersey City Division of Community Development-Youth Services
- Jersey City Cities of Service Office

It is preferred that candidates have a Bachelor's degree in Communications, Marketing, Social Work, Sociology, Public Policy, or Political Science. Candidates must be team oriented, organized, and flexible. Prior experience in organizing community outreach programs is preferred, however it is not required.

JC VISTA members will receive an annual living allowance of \$13,296 before taxes. They will also be given the opportunity to enroll in the VISTA Health Benefits Program. After completing one full year of service, JC VISTA members can choose to receive an Education Award of \$5,730 or an End of Service Stipend of \$1,500.

Applications are currently being accepted at the Jersey City Resident Response Center for the June, July and August commissions and will remain open until positions are filled.

To apply or for more information on JC VISTA please visit: <http://www.jerseycitynj.gov/JCVistaProgram/>

#### **ABOUT JC VISTA:**

JC VISTA is a federally-funded volunteer project established by Mayor Steven M. Fulop that addresses the needs of low income residents by expanding economic opportunity, engaging youth and strengthening communities. JC VISTA is part of the AmeriCorps VISTA, a nationwide program whose corps volunteer full-time for a year at nonprofit organizations or local government agencies to carry out programs that fight poverty.

**All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Steven M. Fulop at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.**