UP2US SPORTS SUMMER VISTA PROGRAM FAQ

1. Can organizations provide additional compensation to the Up2Us Sports Summer VISTA?
You cannot pay your Up2Us Sports Summer VISTA more with cash. You can give your Up2Us Sports Summer VISTAs other incentives like: rent stipend, food gift cards, MTA pass, gas cards, internet/cell phone support. However, any checks can’t be made directly to them, they must be made to the landlord, internet company, etc.

2. Can a previous employee work as a Up2Us Sports Summer VISTA?
Traditionally, through the VISTA program, we do not allow Up2Us Sports Summer VISTAs to replace previous employees. Due to the pandemic we are allowing organizations to use the VISTA opportunity to support previous employees. Please be aware of unemployment policies in your state. Once the contract term ends, Up2Us Sports Summer VISTAs are not able to apply for unemployment. A current employee can’t apply for the VISTA position.

3. Can an organization share an Up2Us Sports Summer VISTA?
A Up2Us Sports Summer VISTA can work at various locations within an umbrella organization (YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, etc). If there are two sites who can mutually agree to splitting a Up2Us Sports Summer VISTAs time, we can work with those two sites to come up with a plan. When you apply, indicate both sites and your plan for implementation.
4. How does the living allowance work?
The living allowance is based on the poverty line of the county your organization is located in. You can use this document to determine the day rate for your county. To determine the full nine-week rate, multiple the day rate by 61. The living allowance is provided by CNCS bi-weekly via direct deposit. Even if you do not pay rent, you still qualify to receive the allowance.
https://www.vistacampus.gov/sites/vistacampus/files/LivingAllowanceRatesByCounty7-7-2019_0.pdf

5. What are the hour requirements?
Up2Us Sports Summer VISTAs should work in a full-time capacity. They should average around 40 hours a week. The absolute minimum hours they can work is 30 hours per week. We do not track hours - this program is based on the honor system of adhering to the guidelines of the program.

6. Can my Up2Us Sports Summer VISTA work in person?
Your Up2Us Sports Summer VISTA is able to work “in-person” as different states begin to open up. You must ensure that your organization is following all the guidelines that are outlined in your city and state. Up2Us Sports Summer VISTAs are also able to do direct service, which includes coaching. As cities open and you transition to in-person work please submit a plan to keep staff safe and healthy.

7. What is the background check process?
CNCS will run a NSOPW (National Sex Offender Public Website) background check for the summer associates. This is a sex offender and violent crime background check.

8. What duties can the Up2Us Sports Summer VISTA perform?
Each Up2Us Sports Summer VISTA has a VISTA Assignment Description (VAD), which outlines what projects the Up2Us Sports Summer VISTA will work on during their term. We have one universal VAD that all organizations will use to guide their Up2Us Sports Summer VISTA. You can review the VAD here. The four main buckets are programming, development, marketing and community engagement. The Up2Us Summer VISTA can work within one or all of the buckets.

9. Do candidates need to provide references when applying?
A complete application includes two references. References will be notified via email to respond to a list of questions. A letter of recommendation is not required. Teachers and professors, supervisors, coaches, and mentors are valid references, while co-workers, friends, and family members are not.