



**Avondale Education & Community Engagement Initiative**  
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**Avondale Education & Community Engagement Initiative**  
**Avondale, Arizona**

Program Year 2017-2018

**Federal Legislative District(s) 3 and 19**

**PROGRAM FAST FACTS**

**Congressional District(s): 3**  
**State Legislative District(s): 19**  
**Service Area by County/City: Avondale**  
**Project Federal Share: \$86,658**  
**Project Local Match: \$23,350**  
**Community Volunteers Recruited: 246**  
**Volunteer Hours Served: 3,349**  
**Value of Volunteer Hours: \$74,938**  
\*2013 Independent Sector Rate for the Value of a Volunteer Hour in Arizona is \$22.52

**Community Need**

The volunteer recruitment area and project will be citywide, but the primary target beneficiary area includes the neighborhoods of Historic Avondale, Cashion and Las Ligas. The high concentration of poverty coupled with low performing schools makes these neighborhoods the target area. The median household income in the target area is 50% lower than the median income citywide.

**National Priority Area: Education - School Readiness**

- Volunteers will contribute over 1,200 hours of service

**National Priority Area: Economic Opportunity - Housing**

- Generate volunteers and other resources to improve housing conditions for low income residents

**National Priority Area: Economic Opportunity – Employment**

- Develop a volunteer base and program model for a teen workforce training program

**Program Activities**

The Avondale Education and Community Engagement Initiative (AECE) is a community-wide project which will develop a comprehensive volunteer program and lay the groundwork for a collective impact program. VISTA Members will: Recruit volunteers to support the schools; Encourage parents to engage in their children's education; Support healthy and affordable homes; Harness volunteers to improve the housing of low-income residents; Connect low-income residents to technology and educational resources through the libraries; Support the volunteer needs of non-profit organizations that serve the low-income community; Educate vulnerable populations on consumer scams, predatory lending and other crime prevention topics.

**Program Impact**

Our team of AmeriCorps VISTA members have developed numerous partnerships that now serve as the foundation for our Avondale Education and Community Engagement Initiative (AECE). These new partnerships include a collaboration with Estrella Mountain Community College to offer a crime scene technician program; a partnership with the Boys & Girls Club to offer STEM focused summer enrichment programming for youth; the creation of our new Volunteer Avondale portal and numerous grants and sponsorships that support volunteer projects across the community including: Global Youth Service Day, Make A Difference Day and frequent Avondale Tool Box neighborhood beautification projects.



## Cont. Program Name

### Mission

Enhancing the quality of life in Avondale by improving and strengthening neighborhoods, fostering self-reliance and instilling pride

### Vision

What sets Avondale apart is that we firmly believe that achievement comes about through our collective success as a community, in support of one another. Avondale provides the foundation for all of us to achieve our respective goals and aspirations.

### History

The Neighborhood & Family Services Department was created in 2006 to support and nurture the development of families and the neighborhoods. Our goal is to enhance the quality of life and sense of community experienced by residents and families in Avondale's many neighborhoods. We're excited about the potential AmeriCorps VISTA members bring to develop the Avondale Education and Community Engagement Initiative and fight poverty in our community.

### Partnerships

The City of Avondale, local non-profit organizations and area school districts are working together to meet the needs of the community. These are some of our partners working to provide critical services and support for families in need.

- Care1st Health Plan of Arizona
- First Things First
- Kids at Hope
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro
- Avondale Elementary School District
- Littleton Elementary School District
- Pendergast Elementary School District
- Valley of the Sun United Way
- St. Mary's Food Bank
- Agua Fria Food Bank
- Southwest Valley Literacy
- Teen Outreach Pregnancy Services
- Helping Families in Need
- Adelante Healthcare
- Estrella Mountain Community College
- Arizona@Work

### OTHER

The City of Avondale provides a housing stipend of \$300 per month to its VISTA members.

