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CEDC IS AWARDED THREE SUMMER AMERICORPS VISTAS OPPORTUNITIES

Recruitment of Summer Associates is Under Way

Ventura, CA – The Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation (CEDC) announces that it has been awarded the opportunity to host three VISTAS (Volunteer in Service to America) Summer Associates. The Summer Associates will be based at CEDC's offices from June 24 through September 2, and will work to enhance CEDC's current VISTA projects. CEDC was awarded three VISTA members to serve from September 2009 until September 2010. The three new Summer Associates will be selected by June 1 and, once selected, will work alongside the other three VISTA members already based at CEDC.

Two of the Summer Associates will be assisting in foreclosure prevention work and the third will be assisting CEDC's Community Building and Neighborhood Revitalization staff in community stabilization efforts in the Fillmore and Piru areas.

"We are pleased to have been awarded three more AmeriCorps VISTA members for the summer to assist in the work that our other three VISTAs have been doing since last September," says Rodney Fernandez, CEDC's Executive Director. "The volunteers will play a vital role in the development of strategies and programs that will assist local community members to increase their financial awareness and enable them to find resources of which they might not have been aware, such as foreclosure prevention assistance."

The AmeriCorps VISTA program was founded in 1964 by President John F. Kennedy and is a prestigious national service program designed specifically to fight poverty. VISTA members commit to serve at a nonprofit organization or a local government agency with the goal of creating or expanding programs designed to bring individuals and communities out of poverty. The mission of AmeriCorps VISTA has not changed since mandated by Congress in 1964, "*AmeriCorps VISTA builds permanent infrastructure in non-profit organizations to help them more effectively bring individuals and communities out of poverty.*" For more than 40 years, members have actively served in low-income areas by mobilizing people, businesses and organizations with the goal of creating sustainable healthy communities. AmeriCorps VISTAs members leverage human, financial, and material resources to increase the capacity of thousands of low-income areas across the country to address challenges and improve their lives and communities.

The VISTA Summer Associate program is a short-term service opportunity. The Summer Associate program enhances an existing VISTA project by providing individuals that will participate for 8 to 10 weeks, alongside year-round VISTAs, in an intensive level of summer service. During service.

As a Summer Associate, contributions have an actual and credible impact on those being served. The Project Supervisor provides Summer Associates with a work plan which will detail the specific project and contribution. In addition to making a credible effort to help people and communities escape poverty, Summer Associates receive benefits and support during and after successful completion of summer service.

As a Summer Associate, members are eligible to receive:

- A \$1,132 Segal AmeriCorps Education Award or \$125/month end of service cash stipend
- On-site orientation and training
- A living allowance to cover necessities during service
- AmeriCorps eCommunity and Alumni Network participation

AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Associates are eligible to receive a \$1,132 Segal AmeriCorps Education Award. The non-transferable award may be used at a qualifying educational institution (Title IV schools) or used to repay federal government backed student loans. This award counts as one of two education awards, that by law, a person can receive for AmeriCorps service in a lifetime.

For more information about the AmeriCorps VISTA program, please visit www.americorps.gov. For information about the opportunities available at CEDC, please contact Andrea Martinez, Executive Assistant, at: 805/659-3791 x. 121, or e-mail: amartinez@cabrilloedc.org.

CEDC is a private non-profit affordable housing and community development corporation that provides comprehensive housing services, through a community building approach, in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, and the Santa Maria area. Since its incorporation in 1981, CEDC has built or rehabilitated more than 1,374 units of affordable for-sale and multi-family rental homes, manages 714 affordable rental units, and has helped more than 400 families into homeownership through education, counseling, and lending services. CEDC is a chartered member of NeighborWorks®, a national network of more than 230 community development and affordable housing organizations. This year marks CEDC's 29th year of operation.

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