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## **CEDC IS AWARDED THREE AMERICORPS VISTA MEMBER VOLUNTEER POSITIONS FOR 2009-2010**

**Ventura, California**—The Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation (CEDC) announced that it has received approval to host three AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteer in Service to America) members for the volunteer year period 2009-2010. A total of 67 NeighborWorks® America organizations in 35 states throughout the country were also awarded the opportunity to host VISTA members after a competitive grant process was completed.

The AmeriCorps VISTA program was founded in 1965 by President John F. Kennedy and is a prestigious national service program designed specifically to fight poverty. VISTA members commit to serve full-time for a year 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. Each of the three individuals who will be chosen as VISTA members at CEDC will provide assistance for one of following program areas: foreclosure prevention, homeownership education and counseling programs; community stabilization efforts in the city of Fillmore and in the Piru area; and financial fitness education campaign development for youth and adults living in CEDC's affordable rental developments and in the surrounding neighborhoods.

“We are honored to have been chosen as a host organization for three AmeriCorps VISTA members,” 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 individuals and families in raising their financial awareness and enabling them to find other resources of which they might not otherwise have been aware. Volunteer service has always been of critical importance in Ventura County, but it recently became a hot topic during the last national election. The year-long volunteer opportunities available at CEDC will give in-depth volunteer time to three individuals who will add a new dimension of growth to vital programs at CEDC.”

VISTA members receive the following benefits for their volunteer year of service: a living allowance; an education award or end of service stipend; student loan forbearance and loan deferment; health coverage; child care; relocation allowance; personal leave time; medical leave time; training and other benefits.

Individuals interested in becoming a VISTA member should visit the website at: [www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov) and head to the “AmeriCorps VISTA” area. CEDC plans to fill VISTA member positions by the end of July. If people need assistance accessing the CEDC member

positions online or have additional questions, they may contact Andrea Martinez, Executive Assistant at CEDC, at: 805/659-3791 ext. 121.

CEDC is a private non-profit community development corporation that provides comprehensive housing services, through a community building approach, in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. Since its incorporation in 1981, CEDC has built more than 1,000 units of affordable for-sale and multi-family rental housing, manages 440 affordable rental units, and has helped more than 250 families into homeownership through education, counseling, and lending services. CEDC is a chartered member of NeighborWorks®, a national network of more than 220 community development and affordable housing organizations. This year marks CEDC's 28<sup>th</sup> year of operation.

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