

832 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

Requests for Volunteers to serve on projects in Iowa have also grown rapidly. A year ago, Iowa Project Sponsors were asking for 73 VISTA Volunteers to serve on five projects. Today they are asking for 131 Volunteers to be assigned to fifteen projects.

VISTA IN IOWA

VISTA Volunteers are working in the Woodward State School and Hospital, Iowa's first mental health project.

Patient-students are being helped to return to community life in their work within the hospital and outside in the community.

Within the hospital, the Volunteers are developing and conducting a recreational project.

In the community, the Volunteers will work with the patients to reintroduce them to tasks like shopping and using public transportation. The Volunteers work with local people—merchants and citizens' groups—to encourage them to accept and help former patients and assimilate them into the community. The VISTAs also help families and foster families in training and care for the mentally retarded.

In cooperation with Welfare Department social workers, VISTA Volunteers assigned to the Homemakers Health Service, Inc., in Centerville help families avail themselves of services for which they are eligible. VISTA Volunteers also encourage and help people find jobs.

The Volunteers are serving in outreach programs with public health nurses, programs designed to educate the poor in methods of improving health and sanitation and home management. Tutorial programs, counseling sessions and extending the services of 4-H Clubs are projects undertaken by VISTA Volunteers to stimulate local leadership within the community.

VISTA IN DES MOINES

There are 14 VISTA Volunteers assigned to the Polk County Community Action Council in Des Moines—Iowa's first urban project.

Living and working with the poor in different parts of the city, they are affiliated with Head Start groups throughout Des Moines. By working in Head Start classes, the Volunteers have gotten to know families and have become aware of the area's problems.

VOLUNTEERS FROM 7TH DISTRICT

Florence Wagner, 59, now serving for a second year in VISTA, is with the Community Action Fund in Bradenton, Florida. She spent her first year in Alaska where she served as a community nurse.

PROFILE OF VOLUNTEERS IN IOWA

In the last two years, 37 Volunteers from across the nation have served in Iowa. The 29 VISTAs presently working in the state hail from 11 states in the union, from California to Massachusetts.

The youngest VISTA Volunteer in Iowa is 18; the oldest is 37.

Volunteers in the state were trained for their assignments at seven different institutions conducting VISTA training programs.

PROFILE OF VOLUNTEERS FROM IOWA

Since the inception of VISTA, 72 Iowans have served as Volunteers—29 are currently in service.

Those 29 now in service represent 20 different hometowns. As VISTA Volunteers they are serving in 18 states—from Alaska to New York, including Hawaii and the District of Columbia.

Volunteers from Iowa range in age from 18 to 67. Of those now in service, six have re-enrolled for a second year in VISTA or extended their VISTA service beyond a year.

Fifty-six VISTA Volunteers have attended colleges in the state.

RECRUITMENT ACTIVITIES IN IOWA

VISTA recruiting teams have visited five of Iowa's colleges and universities, and have conducted successful campaigns in two of its cities—Des Moines and Davenport.