

VISTA Associate Program

Now Taking Applications

Joli Morgan, the state coordinator for the Alaska VISTA Volunteer Associate Program, announced that applications are now being accepted for the 1969-70 VISTA Associate program.

The Anchorage VISTA office is presently conducting a state wide informational campaign to acquaint residents of Alaska with the VISTA Associate program. The main part of this campaign is a large VISTA poster with a photograph of Raymond Paneak, of Anaktuvuk Pass. (Mr. Paneak is presently a VISTA Volunteer in his village of Anaktuvuk Pass.)

The purpose of this poster (VISTA Volunteer—He Serves His Village) is to not only let people in villages know that they can apply to be VISTA Volunteers, but to encourage those persons who have left their villages to return to their villages and work for the good of the community.

The VISTA Associate program is designed to provide an opportunity for Eskimo, Indian, and Aleut people to work in their own villages and communities as VISTA Volunteers.

The VISTA Associate program is an eight month program that runs from Sept. 15, 1969 to May 15, 1970. The Native Volunteer's summer is left free so that he or she can seek summer employment.

VISTA Volunteers are paid \$42.25 every two weeks, plus a \$50.00 stipend each month that is put into a savings account and paid to the volunteer at the end of the eight months of service.

The VISTA Associate program should not be considered a job, but as a chance to become more meaningful involved in local affairs.

The major requirements for becoming a VISTA Volunteer Associate are a sincere concern for the community, the respect of the Volunteer's fellow community members, and a firm idea of the goals that the community is striving towards. There are no educational requirements.

Each person selected as a VISTA Volunteer will attend a two week VISTA orientation conference in Anchorage beginning Sept. 15.

During this conference each VISTA Volunteer will write a community plan that will outline the areas that the Volunteer will work in during his or her eight months of VISTA service.

This community plan will reflect the needs and wishes of the Volunteer's village. During these eight months there will be two 5 day conferences in Anchorage in which the Volunteers will rework their community plans and contact the various agencies necessary for the fulfillment of the Volunteer's community plan.

Through the VISTA orientation conference, the two-in ser-

vice workshop conferences, and visits by the VISTA STAFF to each Volunteer's village the Alaska VISTA Volunteer Associate program seeks to provide an individual development program that will foster a greater awareness of the alternative that a village faces, plus the confidence and ability to find solutions to the many problems that the changing times have brought to rural Alaska.

This year the VISTA Associate program will have openings for 40 Native Volunteers. This represents a 60 per cent increase over last years VISTA Associate program. At the same time the number of Volunteers from the lower 49 will be reduced from 125 to 85 this year.

If you are interested in being a VISTA VOLUNTEER in your village, or if you know of a person who would make a good VISTA VOLUNTEER you may write to:

Mr. Joli Morgan, Coordinator, Alaska VISTA Volunteer Associate program, Box 1957, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.