



Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Jim Gray  
Mayor

TO: MAYOR JIM GRAY  
URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL

FROM: KEVIN ATKINS  
CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

**KRA/um**

DATE: June 29, 2015

RE: APPROVE AGREEMENT WITH PLANTORY TO HIRE AMERICORPS VOLUNTEERS IN SERVICE TO AMERICA (VISTA) POSITION FOR BLUEGRASS FARM TO TABLE

Council authorization is requested for the Mayor to execute an agreement with the Plantory to hire an AmeriCorps Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) position for Bluegrass Farm to Table at a cost not to exceed \$4,500. The Mayor's Office of Economic Development intends to hire an AmeriCorps Vista position to assist with the Bluegrass Farm to Table Program for one year (approximately August 1 2015, July 31, 2016). The Plantory will use their grant to cost share with each of the non-profits and programs that intend to hire a VISTA employee. The budgetary impact in FY16 for Lexington Fayette Urban County Government will be \$4500.

The Plantory hosts an innovative and energizing coworking hub that fosters collaboration and nurtures growth for positive, passionate, and community-minded businesses and nonprofit organizations in the Lexington-area. The Plantory recently received a 3-year AmeriCorps VISTA grant to be used to support the sustainable growth and collaboration of 14 organizations from different nonprofit sectors in Lexington by providing these organizations with a full time (40 hours/week) position. AmeriCorps VISTA members make a year-long, full-time commitment to serve on a specific project at a nonprofit organization or public agency. They focus their efforts to build the organizational, administrative, and financial capacity of organizations that fight illiteracy, improve health services, foster economic development, and otherwise assist low-income communities.

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