

EMPIRE STATE POVERTY REDUCTION INITIATIVE (ESPRI)  
EMPIRE CORPS VISTA **NEWSLETTER**

March 2018

## *On Leslie Velasquez, our Bronx VISTA*

Leslie Velasquez is from the San Francisco Bay area of California and is currently serving at the Children's Aid Society in the Bronx. She is involved with multiple aspects of ESPRI, including creating formal requests and strategic plans. Recently, Leslie drafted a request for proposal for the ESPRI project in her city, and is currently developing another draft of a plan to adopt an online resource mapping tool to fit the Children Aid Society's needs. She is also working to establish an employment network for the local low-income community by connecting stakeholders and residents. Leslie sees her projects as enhancing the capacity of the agency to serve its residents, and to make resources accessible to all. Leslie is thankful for the leadership and management opportunities she had during her time as a VISTA, particularly in the areas of project support and strategic planning. Her advice to incoming VISTAs is to communicate with their supervisors as much as possible and, "to learn as much as you can by taking on projects that become available to you."



Leslie Velasquez in her native California

### ***Congratulations Hempstead and Troy!***

Hempstead's United Way of Long Island and Troy's Commission on Economic Opportunity for the Greater Capital Region, Inc. (CEO) have recently onboarded new VISTA members Tracee Harvey and Sa'Dasia Wheeler. Both members started service on February 26<sup>th</sup> after completing the February 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> VISTA Pre-service Orientation (PSO) in Charlotte, North Carolina. Please welcome the new members during group calls over the next couple of weeks. Congratulations once again!