

AmeriCorps VISTA

Governor Cuomo announced his Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative in his 2016 State of the State address. NYS Department of State is pleased to be working in partnership with the sixteen city sites in this anti-poverty initiative. Read on to learn about what's happening in Newburgh, NY.

Newburgh ESPRI VISTA Javier Gomez



Javier began his service in June. He has been working under the supervision of Rae Leiner, Director of Anti-Poverty Initiative at the United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region. He is working to support the efforts of the Newburgh ESPRI task force. Last month, Javier planned and launched a community report-out event. At this event, he shared the results of the resident listening session and the vision of the ESPRI initiative. The Newburgh task force reports that Javier is a great addition to their team and to the work of ESPRI.



Javier grew up in Wappinger Falls, NY, which is only half an hour away from Newburgh. He graduated in May with a degree in Political Science from Marist College, which is where he developed a strong interest for community and economic development. He sees ESPRI as an opportunity to learn more about community building and to use his skills to make a meaningful impact. Javier has been working to develop sustainable resident engagement strategies which will be modeled and expanded upon by local nonprofit organizations.

ESPRI VISTA Leader Sarah Ferritto



Sarah Ferritto joined the Department of Community Services team as our AmeriCorps VISTA Leader for Empire Corps (ESPRI). Sarah comes to the program after spending two years as a VISTA member in the project areas of youth programming and resource mapping. In her new role, she will assist with recruitment and provide support to our current ESPRI members. Sarah looks forward to guiding the VISTAs through their year of service. Feel free to contact Sarah at 518-474-7729 or sarah.ferritto@dos.ny.gov if you have questions or just to say 'Hello!'

I am an AmeriCorps member, and I will get things done.