

Important Cultural Aspects and Community Resources

List the important cultural aspects that VISTAs need to know and the community resources that can help teach them:

Cultural Information:	Who? What? How?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What values, practices, relationships, and rituals are important? What people, places, resources, attitudes, knowledge, and behaviors are held in sacred ways? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the community describe, name, and define itself? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How respect is defined and practiced? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the “non-negotiables” of the community? (For every community, there are usually rules that govern one’s conduct regarding relationships and different kinds of resources that are very important to respect and not violate.) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the history of the community—social, spiritual, political, economic, diversity, major successes, major conflicts and struggles, cross-cultural experiences? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the major groups, sectors, and relationships groups have with one another? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the structure of the community? How does the community organize itself? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who are the formal and informal leaders - who are viewed as “spokes-people” and the “elder voices” or keepers of wisdom and knowledge? 	

Important Cultural Aspects and Community Resources (cont.)

Cultural Information:	Who? What? How?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the traditions of service, (how helping others and “volunteering” is understood and lived out within and across this new community)? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the rhythm of a day, week, season, year, and important cycles? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who has the credibility within the community and why. How does one achieve credibility with this group? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does the community consider being its strengths, assets and legacies? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What have been the significant cross-cultural, cross-group experiences for the group or community? What impact might they have on future relationships? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What has the community identified as its priority needs and challenges? 	