Become an AmeriCorps VISTA for Community & Economic Development

Applications will be evaluated on a rolling basis. Please reach out directly to the program contact listed.

Applications Due: December 13th, 2019

Take advantage of an opportunity to serve your community and country while gaining valuable skills and connections. The U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration (EDA) currently has an AmeriCorps VISTA program with the Corporation for National Community Service (CNCS) and local partner Economic Development Districts (EDDs). Under this combined program, EDA-designated Economic Development Districts (EDDs) receive VISTA Members for a one-year term to extend their mission of leading locally based, regionally driven economic development planning. Each VISTA assists their assigned region to provide economic development capacity building services to economically distressed, rural communities. The position will provide an opportunity to work closely with local communities, regional organizations & Federal agencies while receiving training in economic development.

**BENEFITS**

Serve your country and improve the quality of life for economically distressed communities. Invaluable hands-on economic development experience.

**During Service**
- The position provides a $958/month living stipend.
- The volunteer position includes health care, childcare, training, relocation expenses, and liability insurance.

**After Service**
- **Education Stipend** - After a successful year of service, VISTAs can choose to receive either a $1,800 stipend or a $6,095 Segal AmeriCorps Education Award.
- **Non-Competitive Eligibility (NCE) Status** - Once a VISTA successfully completes service that VISTA will receive one year of non-competitive eligibility for employment in the federal government. This special hiring status enables the former VISTA to apply for federal jobs with the advantage of not having to go through the standard public competitive selection process. That means that you can be appointed to federal positions that may or may not be available to the public. NCE does not guarantee a federal job, but it does provide a valuable opportunity!

Join us [Wednesday, October 16th at 3:00 pm CST](#) or [Friday, November 16th, at 3:00 pm CST](#) for an info EDA VISTA Corps EDA Informational Webinar to learn more about the positions.
Texas Association of Regional Councils

Title: Austin Regional Economic Development VISTA Leader

Description: Help build and support of team of VISTA Members engaged in economic development capacity building in rural, economically distressed communities through the Southwest Region.

Point of Contact: Sally Waley
Tel. (512) 381-8141/ SWaley@eda.gov

MERAMEC Regional Planning Commission

Title: Denver Regional Economic Development VISTA Leader

Description: Help build and support of team of VISTA Members engaged in economic development capacity building in rural, economically distressed communities through the Northwest Region.

Point of Contact: Stacey Webb
Tel. (334) 844-5364 / swebb@eda.gov

Acadiana Planning Commission

Title: Environmental Justice Community Organizer

Description: Help build environmental justice capacity in both rural and urban, predominately minority, and impoverished communities by identifying needs and resources and develop community-based relationships.

Point of Contact: Chad LaComb
Tel. (337) 806-9370 / CLacomb@planacadiana.org
Alamo Area Council of Governments

**Title:** Economic Development Weatherization VISTA - San Antonio

**Description:** Help build capacity in rural, economically distressed communities through the identification of weatherization assistance applicants needing basic home repairs.

**Point of Contact:** Claudia Mora
Tel. (210) 918-1284 / CMora@aacog.com

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Bear River Association of Governments

**Title:** Assistant Bear River Utah- Economic Development VISTA

**Description:** Preserve cultural practices and historical traditions while building economic development capacity in rural, economically distressed communities in Northern Utah and Southeastern Idaho.

**Point of Contact:** Brian Carver
Tel. (435) 713-1420 / BrianC@brag.utah.gov

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Capital Region Planning Commission

**Title:** Baton Rouge Economic Development Assistant

**Description:** Help to implement the Economic Development Strategy for the Baton Rouge area and by furthering the work of the Louisiana Supply Chain Transportation Council.

**Point of Contact:** Courtney Maciasz
Tel. (225) 383-5203 x218 / CMaciasz@crpcla.org
**Deep East Texas Council of Governments**

**Title:** Economic Development Assistant – Jasper, TX

**Description:** Help economically distressed rural communities in the Forest Region of Southeast Texas by identifying community needs and secure resources to create community development strategies.

**Point of Contact:** Bob Bashaw  
Tel. (409) 384-5704 x 5302 / Bob.Bashaw@detcog.org

**East Texas Council of Governments**

**Title:** Agent for Economic Development VISTA – Kilgore, TX

**Description:** Develop and improve regional economic development efforts by identifying solutions that will assist, revitalize and restore communities within the East Texas region.

**Point of Contact:** Julie Burnfield  
Tel. (903) 218-6436 / Julie.Burnfield@etcog.org

**Flints Hills Regional Council**

**Title:** Economic Development Coordinator – Ogden, KS

**Description:** Help rural communities succeed with economic development in the beautiful, ecologically unique Flint Hills of Kansas, located by K-State and Ft. Riley. The region’s communities are active and ready!

**Point of Contact:** Janna Williams  
Tel. (405) 612-4062 / Jwilliams@flinthillsregion.org
Gulf Coast Economic Development Districts

**Title:** Houston Economic Development VISTA - Opportunity Zone

**Description:** Leverage private capital, develop viable projects and create jobs in low-income communities impacted by Hurricane Harvey. Job will be located in Houston, Texas but will cover 13 counties within the Houston-Galveston region.

**Point of Contact:** Cheryl Mergo  
Tel. (713) 993-4520 / cheryl.mergo@h-gac.com

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Kisatchie Delta Regional Planning and Development Districts

**Title:** Alexandria Community Coordinator - Central Louisiana

**Description:** Build capacities and collaboration with and amongst governing jurisdictions and stakeholders of the Central Louisiana region with special emphasis on water/wastewater as well as watershed and flooding issues. This position allows the VISTA to interact with a variety of organizations, entities and citizens throughout the region.

**Point of Contact:** Samuel Carriere  
Tel. (318) 487-5454 / kdelta4@kricket.net

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Lake of the Ozarks Council of Governments

**Title:** Ambassador for Volunteer Development - Camdenton, MO

**Description:** Develop volunteer support with a focus on implementation of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. Create a framework for Volunteer recruitment, engagement, recognition & retention.

**Point of Contact:** Linda Conner  
Tel. (573) 346-5692 / linda.conner@loclg.org
Montana Business Assistance Center

**Title:** Business & Economic Development Coordinator (MT)

**Description:** Work closely with school systems in Lewis & Clark, Broadwater, and Meagher counties to identify career pathways and develop training initiatives to upskill existing workforce.

**Point of Contact:** Brian Obert  
Tel. (406) 465-0619 / bobert@mbac.biz

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Nebraska Regional Officials Council/Southeast Economic Development District

**Title:** NROC (Nebraska Regional Officials Council) VISTA

**Description:** This project will build capacity in Nebraska’s state association which will strengthen development district’s activities and role in the state and build long-term sustainability with NROC.

**Point of Contact:** Tom Bliss  
Tel. (402) 475-2560 / tbliss@sendd.org

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North Central New Mexico Economic Development District

**Title:** Community and Economic Change Agent Santa Fe

**Description:** Based in Santa Fe, NM, you’ll profile communities and economic sectors in Northern New Mexico and engage public and private sector leaders to develop a regional blueprint for economic growth.

**Point of Contact:** Eric Ghahate  
Tel. (505) 395-2676 / EricG@ncnmedd.com
Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District

**Title:** Northwest Arkansas Rural Community Grant Coordinator

**Description:** Help build economic development capacity in rural communities in nine counties across Northwest Arkansas through grant writing and grant administration, with a specific focus on the USDA-RD Community Facilities grant program.

**Point of Contact:** Jeremy Ragland, VISTA Supervisor  
Tel. (870) 741-5407/ JRagland@nwaedd.org

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Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission

**Title:** Economic Development VISTA – Poplar Bluff, MO

**Description:** This project will build capacity in economically distressed rural communities in the Ozark Foothills of Missouri, defined as Butler, Carter, Reynolds, Ripley, and Wayne Counties. Disaster recovery and resiliency planning technical assistance will be provided to communities within these counties with a goal of improving quality of life for the residents.

**Point of Contact:** Crystal Jones  
Tel. (573) 785-6402 / crystal@ofrpc.org

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Rio Grande Council of Governments

**Title:** Alpine, TX Community Advocate

**Description:** The VISTA will serve as a conduit for students throughout Far West Texas who are in need of career guidance and workforce information. The position will be based in Alpine, Texas. VISTA will also assist with identifying economic needs of the community.

**Point of Contact:** Annette Gutierrez  
Tel. (915) 533-0998/ Annetteg@riocog.org

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San Luis Valley Development Resources Group

**Title:** Area Economic Development Assistant - Alamosa, CO  
**Description:** Assist in the development of regional economic strategy and community outreach program.  
**Point of Contact:** Hew Hallock  
Tel. (719) 589-6099 / HHallock@slydrg.org

South Plains Association of Governments

**Title:** Allied Economic Development Services Coordinator - Lubbock, TX  
**Description:** Enhancing economic development in rural, economically distressed communities through the development of strategies and then connecting available economic development services to those communities.  
**Point of Contact:** Kelly Davila  
Tel. (806) 762-8721 / KDavila@spag.org

Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments

**Title:** Economic Development Coordinator - Price, UT  
**Description:** Help build economic development capacity in rural, economically distressed communities through the identification of needs, resources, and development strategies.  
**Point of Contact:** Geri Gamber  
Tel. (435) 613-0037 / GGamber@seualg.utah.gov
Southwest Arkansas Planning and Development District

**Title:** Economic Development Strategy Coordinator Southwest Arkansas

**Description:** Develop of a communications/outreach plan centered on community, economic, and workforce development covering a 12-county service area for the state and federal programs operated by a planning district in Southwest Arkansas.

**Point of Contact:** Renee Dycus  
Tel. (870) 234-4030/ Renee.Dycus@arkansas.gov

Southwest Missouri Council of Governments

**Title:** Disaster Resiliency VISTA for Southwest Missouri

**Description:** Help create a more resilient region by assisting communities in developing streamlined disaster response; working face-to-face with local, regional, and state leaders to improve communities’ recovery and resiliency.

**Point of Contact:** Megan Clark  
Tel. (417) 836-6901/ meganclark@missouristate.edu

South Western Oklahoma Development Authority

**Title:** Assistant SW OK Economic Development VISTA

**Description:** Join our SWODA family and help us work with community partners to improve economic prosperity in Southwest Oklahoma through research and outreach efforts.

**Point of Contact:** Michael Ryburn  
Tel. (580) 562-4882/ Michael@swoda.org
Southwest New Mexico Council of Governments

**Title:** Fort Bayard, NM Project Manager

**Description:** Help in the development and restoration of a historic National Fort by creating economic opportunities and infrastructure needs.

**Point of Contact:** Emily Gojkovich  
Tel. (575) 956-1294/ [Emily@swnmco.org](mailto:Emily@swnmco.org)

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