



SerVermont VISTA 2016-2017 Program Site List

Updated 3/31/16



SerVermont VISTA Leader

1 VISTA Leader, Montpelier *OPEN*

****Applicants must have previously served at least one year as a VISTA, AmeriCorps member or in the Peace Corps to be eligible to serve as a VISTA Leader.****

The VISTA Leader serves at SerVermont and assists the Program Director with administering the VISTA program. This leadership position engages the member in building capacity for the entire statewide program. The VISTA serves as a resource for other team members, and knows how to trouble shoot issues and find resources. The Leader coordinates member events and trainings, creates program communications like a newsletter and social media, and assists with the compilation of data from reports and member timesheets. Individuals must have served one term as an AmeriCorps member, VISTA, or in the Peace Corps to be eligible to serve as a VISTA Leader.

Alliance for Community Transformation

1 VISTA, Bennington *OPEN*

The Alliance for Community Transformations is a grassroots community health coalition. We focus on collaboration and youth programming to create measurable change in Bennington, Vermont. The ACT VISTA will work with all members of the community but focus on youth empowerment and substance abuse prevention, breaking the cycle of poverty by preventing a new generation of addiction. The VISTA will build capacity by developing funding sources, coordinating a communications committee, and managing volunteers.

Bennington County Regional Commission

1 VISTA, Bennington *OPEN*

The Bennington County Regional Commission works with and on behalf of local and regional municipalities fulfilling its mission to build resilient communities by fostering economic prosperity, assessing local resources and promoting a high quality of life for residents within the region. The VISTA will further prior initiatives and establish new, innovative programs that promote affordable and local food, alternative transportation, and downtown revitalization. The VISTA will play a key role in developing successful and sustainable programs that will have a real impact on community health, well-being and economic stability of the BCRC region, fostering an enjoyable place for all to live for people of all ages, abilities and incomes.

Agency for Human Services Field Services

**4 VISTAs, Barre, Bennington,
Burlington, and Hartford *4 OPEN***

The Agency of Human Services seeks to improve the health and well-being of Vermonters today and tomorrow and to protect those who cannot protect themselves. There are four VISTA positions, each with the goal to collect data about the homeless population in Vermont, specifically, the causes of homelessness. VISTAs will also collect longitudinal data about people who have participated in some key programs instituted by AHS to alleviate homelessness. The data collection mechanisms devised by the VISTAs will be instituted as ongoing practice and will inform program development at the Agency and local levels. VISTA volunteers will also work on increasing flexible community funds to enhance housing and sustainability for community members. Each VISTA volunteer will cover a region of the state, so there will be statewide coverage. We anticipate the positions will be located in the Barre, Burlington, Bennington and Hartford offices.

The Art House

1 VISTA, Craftsbury *OPEN*

The Art house is a non-profit organization dedicated to the exploration of creativity through hands-on exposure to the spectrum of the arts. They strive to engage young people in the arts and enable them to develop the skills to succeed in the future and escape the cycle of poverty. The VISTA member will help build capacity for their *It Starts in the Studio* program, an after school opportunity for girls age 15-18 that teaches responsibility, communication skills and connects participants with successful women working in creativity industries as mentors. The VISTA will conduct outreach to low-income families, create a communication plan and recruitment strategy, and research program best practices.

Committee on Temporary Shelter

1 VISTA, Burlington *OPEN*

The Committee on Temporary Shelter (COTS) provides emergency shelter, support services, prevention assistance, and housing for people who are homeless or marginally housed in Vermont. The VISTA member will work closely with the Director of Development and Communications to advance and expand COTS' social/new media strategy and implementation plan. By increasing awareness of COTS programs and services, the VISTA member will be strengthening community support of the organization. With increased support, COTS will be better able to provide shelter, case management services, housing, and prevention assistance for individuals and families at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

Community Capital of Vermont

I VISTA, Barre *OPEN*

CCVT makes loans to help lower income entrepreneurs start or grow their business. The primary project for the VISTA is to help us develop and implement an outcome survey: How many of our borrowers have been successful? How many jobs have been created or retained? Do these jobs provide a livable wage? Has business ownership led to the generation of wealth? The outcome survey will be developed with support the FIELDS Program at the Aspen Institute. Using the results of the outcome survey, VISTA will help identify our strengths and weaknesses and develop, with board and staff members, strategies for increasing our impact. The VISTA will engage in other capacity-building efforts including fundraising and developing partnerships that match his or her interests.

Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation

I VISTA, Springfield *OPEN*

The position works on enhancing partnerships for a new state park located on the estate of the late Edgar May, first Assistant Director of VISTA. The focus is on providing nature-based learning to low-income youth and recreation opportunities, particularly to the young and elders. A pilot summer education camp will be run by the Springfield School District with assistance from VSP, the Springfield Family Center, Edgar May Health & Rec Center, and donations from local entities. The VISTA will examine the results of the first-year pilot summer camp, refine the curriculum, assist in long range planning, recruit volunteers and apply for and follow up on grant applications. This program and the new park, based in and focused on Springfield, will provide alternatives to youth who otherwise would not have access to the natural environment in a structured and positive setting. We are strengthening the future of a town that has lost nearly all of its 20,000 industrial manufacturing jobs in the last 30 years.

Highgate Public Library

I VISTA, Highgate Center *OPEN*

The mission of the Highgate Public Library is to provide the information, education, programs and technology to help our community live, learn and grow- and to promote healthy lifestyles along the way. The VISTA will focus on: increasing the participation and completion rates in all programs, increasing the library's capacity to reach youth and elderly populations, develop and implement systems to better track participant data, and expand on the volunteer opportunities for the library programs. The VISTA will also seek new opportunities for library community outreach to underserved populations creating a database of opportunities and a network of community connections.

The Community Sailing Center STEM Education Initiative

I VISTA, Burlington *OPEN*

The CSC provides recreation and education programs to connect community members and visitors to Lake Champlain. Using non-motorized boats, participants learn valuable life lessons that instill a sense of ownership for Vermont's most valuable natural resources- Lake Champlain. The VISTA will be responsible for developing and implementing STEM and volunteer programs. These programs are pivotal to CSC efforts to alleviate poverty. The STEM programs partner with local schools to serve low-income youth by delivering skills for the workforce and academic success. The volunteer program will expand capacity at the CSC by engaging volunteers in meaningful projects to advance the CSC mission while transforming each volunteer into a lifelong steward of the lake.

Department of Mental Health

I VISTA, Montpelier *OPEN*

VT Dept. of Mental Health is the lead agency for the Homeless Management Information Project and is developing a new system to ensure complete, accurate, and timely reporting to funders of Homeless Projects and to link data collected to efforts that seek to reduce and end homelessness in Vermont. The VISTA will work with division staff to develop the system and document outcomes for individuals served in order to increase funding for homeless programs and efficiency with service providers across the state.

John Graham Shelter

I VISTA, Vergennes *OPEN*

The John Graham Shelter addresses Addison County's need for emergency shelter and housing by providing shelter and transitional housing along with a broad array of outreach, services, counseling and case management to homeless families and individuals. The VISTA members will help with a full range of duties, including fundraising, grant writing, cultivating donors, public relations, volunteer coordination, coordinating mentor programs and developing and improving databases.

Middlebury College

I VISTA, Middlebury *OPEN*

Community Engagement at Middlebury College prepares students for lives of meaning and impact through service, scholarship and citizenship. Our programs work to strengthen communities and contribute to the public good. This VISTA member would work to weave together our co-curricular poverty programs in a more cohesive and intentional manner and deepen our collaboration with participating community partners. A VISTA focusing on building a more solid infrastructure will help increase our capacity to help meet local needs, deepen the impact of our efforts, identify opportunities for growth and development and establish a sustainable program.

Pathways Vermont

I VISTA, Burlington *OPEN*

Pathways Vermont's mission is to transform the lives of people experiencing mental health and other life challenges by supporting self-directed roads to recovery and wellness in an atmosphere of dignity, respect, choice and hope. The VISTA will energize the local community to become involved in the organization's mission in the following ways: (1) Increasing opportunities for invested community members to become involved in our work by developing a volunteer recruitment and management program; (2) Identifying and developing partnerships with local businesses who are able to provide in-kind support; (3) Raising the community profile of Pathways Vermont by participating in community outreach planning and implementation.

Senior Solutions

I VISTA, Springfield *OPEN*

Senior Solutions is a Area Agency on Aging that provides services and supports to older adults and caregivers in their homes and local communities that help them remain as independent as possible, prevent poverty and achieve an optimum quality of life. The VISTA will help build a strong volunteer program, create defined roles for volunteers and assure training, support and supervision. They will also recruit volunteers to strengthen nutrition programs, serve homebound elders, and create volunteer opportunities for older adults. Volunteers will expand our capacity to disseminate information, answer questions and make referrals. The VISTA will help develop and disseminate creative messages using multiple forms of media to provide information for and about older adults and aging issues. The VISTA will also help us expand our impact by finding and pursuing new funding sources.

Northwest Regional Planning Commission

I VISTA, St. Albans *OPEN*

The VISTA member's service will have a multi-faceted approach to alleviating poverty through a diversity of projects that will have an impact on future regional planning efforts. These projects include: implementing the Northwest Regional Plan by developing indicators assessing the impact of the plan on poverty alleviation, economic development, housing, and community health issues; supporting staff in writing municipal plans with a particular focus on issues related to economic development, housing, community health and poverty; assisting staff write a Regional Housing Needs Assessment; providing outreach and assistance in communications in the region for all NRPC projects; and attending and participating in the Hunger Council of Franklin and Grand Isle Counties meetings and events.

Rutland Area Farm and Food Link

2 VISTAS, Rutland *2 OPEN*

The mission of RAFFL is to support local agriculture and the local communities by strengthening the relationship between farmers and consumers through education, collaboration and capacity building. One VISTA member will help build/increase our Glean Team program's volunteer base, thereby increasing our ability to "glean" nutritional food for low-income residents and developing a long-term database of assistance. The other VISTA position will develop program improvements and implement an outreach strategy to help connect people with lower incomes to our programs including creating a program to accept SNAP benefits at our online farmers' market and developing cooking education that targets community members with limited kitchen facilities.

Southwestern Vermont Health Care

I VISTA, Bennington *OPEN*

The AmeriCorps VISTA at SVHC will improve community health, alleviate poverty, and inspire change in Southwestern Vermont. Working with hospital staff and community partners, the VISTA will develop unique programs that address the social determinants of health and prevent disease. Specific projects include: expanding the Health Care Share, a program that provides access to fresh produce for patients in need; coordinating SVHC's employee home ownership initiative; developing after-school mentoring programs that encourage healthy living and youth empowerment; improving the Community Help Desk, which connects underserved residents with community programs and social services; and promoting economic development by organizing town-wide events and supporting a community micro-grant program.

Two Rivers- Ottauquechee Regional Commission

I VISTA, Woodstock *OPEN*

Two Rivers-Ottawuechee Regional Commission's primary goals are to advocate for the needs our member towns and to articulate a vision for building a thriving regional economy while enhancing the region's quality of life. We work to strengthen local economies, protect natural resources, provide housing and transportation choices and achieve compact settlement. This VISTA would serve as a conduit to lower-income individuals in the 30 town TRORC area, especially for the roughly 7,000 persons living below the poverty line. This position's focus is to work on increasing the supply of housing that is safe, efficient, and affordable and increasing transportation options for low-income families living in rural areas.

Vermont Works for Women

I VISTA, Winooski *OPEN*

Vermont Works for Women (VWW) transforms lives through innovative job training and experiential education. VWW works to address the needs of women in Vermont to earn a livable wage and to succeed despite numerous personal, educational and economic barriers to employment. The Communications VISTA member will utilize communications, digital media, and outreach activities to highlight the progress and successes of the women/girls we work with, as well as to increase knowledge of and participation in our wide range of programming efforts. The Recruitment VISTA will help alleviate poverty through recruitment and volunteer coordination related to job training, employability (soft-skills training), educational, and career exploration/exposure programming for women and girls.

The Farm at Vermont Youth Conservation Corps

3 VISTAs, Richmond *OPEN*

The Food & Farm Program is an integral element of the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC). The program teaches youth about the source of food, how it is grown, and the value of a healthy lifestyle while providing food free of charge to those who need it most. VISTA members coordinate and support all aspects of production, preparation, and distribution of food to Vermont families through the Health Care Share. The compelling nature and public health potential of the HCS exists in its innovative, interdisciplinary approach to food security. Members are placed at the junction of youth development and food access, where public health, education and sustainable agriculture intersect. VISTAs can expect to focus on one of the following roles: Recruitment, Volunteer Management, Systems and Operations, Education and Outreach, or Food Access.

Vermont Legal Aid

I VISTA, Burlington *OPEN*

Vermont Legal Aid is where low-income individuals and families turn when they face a civil legal problem that threatens their rights, shelter, job, health or well-being. Community Legal Education (CLE) promotes the principle of equal access to justice by recognizing that legal awareness and education is a crucial component of creating a just legal system that is responsive to people living in poverty. The VISTA will support VLA's mission by building organizational capacity to develop and sustain a Community Legal Education Project. The VISTA will conduct comprehensive research on Community Legal Education projects, techniques and philosophy; train staff members on CLE; and help develop and carry out accessible legal education outreach materials and events.

Vermont Youth Conservation Corps

I VISTA, Richmond *OPEN*

As a position dedicated to capacity-building for the organization, this VISTA supports the VYCC's service to at-risk youth and food-insecure families through two major projects. The VISTA will support expansion of the Health Care Share. We are delivering in four regions, with plans to partner with all Vermont medical centers by 2019. The Member will work with medical center partners to convene food teams in each community. This will ensure the sustainability of the program by helping partnering medical centers secure funds. The Member will also support VYCC's new effort to measure the short and long term impact of programs by coordinating collection of data from Corps Members and alumni. S/he will assist with data analysis, reporting of outcomes and use of data to make program improvements.

2015-2016 SerVermont VISTA Host Site Map

