



# SerVermont VISTA Project

## 2017-2018 Position Descriptions



[servermont.vermont.gov](http://servermont.vermont.gov)

### Agency for Human Services

#### **2 VISTAs, Waterbury \*2 OPEN\***

Serve with the Agency of Human Services to ensure that all Vermonters achieve their potential in thriving communities. VISTAs will develop and manage communication, promotion, and support for AHS Community Profiles of Health and Well-being. These profiles will help AHS district offices and community partners to use data and information in order to plan for collective impact and to measure the impact of collaboration. The VISTAs will support AHS to communicate and promote use of the tool and develop a sustainable system for communicating with communities about usefulness and relevance of the profiles to improve outcomes, in a way that meets the needs of community partners, coalitions, and collective impact efforts.

### Agency for Human Services Field Services

#### **2 VISTAs, Barre and Morrisville \*2 OPEN\***

Reduce homelessness, improve food security, and increase access to employment and benefits programs, helping to alleviate poverty for low-income individuals from Central Vermont. VISTAs will assist local service partners in the region more tightly braid their efforts, improve coordination, and collaboration, and optimize the use of resources to increase capacity in the community. Ultimately, the VISTA will lead the effort for local organizations to build a common agenda that brings together strengths from many arenas to solve pressing problems in the area. They will also develop and implement an accessible evaluation tool that measures the effectiveness of quality improvement initiatives.

### Alliance for Community Transformation

#### **1 VISTA, Bennington \*OPEN\***

Serve with the Alliance for Community Transformations (ACT) amid the scenic Green Mountains of Vermont to develop your grant writing skills and prevent substance abuse amongst youth. ACT's mission is to empower, mobilize, and inspire communities to act in collaboration towards delaying first time substance use and preventing substance abuse among youth, reducing its use across all ages, and promoting greater wellness and long-term health. The VISTA will build capacity for ACT through resource development and public relations. The ideal candidate will be a strong writer, have excellent research skills, have a flair for social media (especially Facebook), and enjoy meeting new people.

### Bennington County Regional Commission

#### **1 VISTA, Bennington \*OPEN\***

Serve among the Green Mountains of Southwestern Vermont to build strong, resilient, and sustainable communities. The BCRC mission is accomplished through direct planning and community development assistance to town and village governments, through preparation and implementation of regional plans, and through relationships with local and regional organizations. The VISTA will implement projects included in the Food System Action Plan, collaborate with network partners of the BCRC to expand workforce development initiatives, and help promote and expand plans related to downtown mixed-use development projects assisting local government, community agencies, private businesses, and individuals to develop a shared vision of future development.

### Capstone Community Action

#### **4 VISTAs, Barre \*OPEN\***

Join us to build your resume while working to alleviate poverty and make a real difference in the community in beautiful Central Vermont! Capstone Community Action provides comprehensive services to help people achieve economic well-being with dignity and develops partnerships to strengthen Vermont communities. Our commitment is to alleviate the suffering caused by poverty, to work with individuals and families to move out of poverty, and to advocate for economic justice for all Vermonters. There are **FOUR** positions available with Capstone Community Action.

1. Develop outreach and education for community partners on issues such as asset building and wealth inequality, conduct program evaluation for Economic Development programs, and help create the VT Assets and Opportunity Network
2. Develop outreach materials and help create a cross-agency network to build community capacity to address the opioid crisis and the impacts of trauma on communities and develop systems for referrals across Capstone departments
3. Develop a procedural manual to better track outcomes for program participants and assist with assessing community needs, program evaluation, and strategic planning
4. Develop a system to recruit, screen, train, and manage volunteers and build capacity for the Capstone Food Shelf

**Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity—Financial Futures**

**I VISTA, Burlington \*OPEN\***

Empower people to prosperity! Support Vermonters to meet their financial and small business goals. Financial Futures (FFP) is a program of CVOEO that works with low income individuals and families on financial capability and empowerment. FFP offers participants support and training in a variety of personal financial areas, with a particular focus on credit, budgeting, debt management, financial goal setting, asset building and small business counseling. The VISTA provides critical capacity building program to boost efforts to reach low income families with needed services. Member duties fall into three key areas: Volunteer coordination, marketing, and outreach.

**Committee on Temporary Shelter**

**I 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\***

Description coming soon!

**The Community Sailing Center**

**I VISTA, Burlington \*OPEN\***

Our mantra is Lake Access. Life Lessons. For all! We use sailboats, canoes, paddle boards, and kayaks- to teach life skills, science education and outdoor recreation on Lake Champlain. The VISTA will be responsible for developing and implementing STEM and volunteer programs as well as program support, specifically to the Signature Programs: Floating Classrooms, Leader Ship, Women In Wind, and Adaptive Watersports Program. The STEM and Signature Programs serve low-income youth delivering skills for the workforce and academic success. Programs are implemented outdoors, in winter classrooms, and on the water. The VISTA is not required to know how to sail, but knowledge of the sport or appreciation for water recreation is great.

**Department of Mental Health**

**I VISTA, Montpelier \*OPEN\***

Work with State Department of Mental Health on individual and provider data and outcomes in fast paced research and statistics department. Study return on investment approaches and system outcome measures for individual success and program improvement. The VISTA member will work with DMH staff, Community MH staff, peers, and homeless service providers. The VISTA will connect with agency providers of services and funders. These connections will form the basis of an analysis over the course of the year that will culminate in a report that will inform internal program leadership.

**Groundworks Collaborative**

**I VISTA, Brattleboro \*OPEN\***

Groundworks Collaborative provides ongoing support to families and individuals facing a full continuum of housing and food insecurities in the greater Brattleboro area. We envision a community in which every person has their basic needs met, including a safe and dignified place to call home. The goal of the VISTA at Groundworks Collaborative is to learn and understand our data system, streamlining its use, and finding solutions on managing the amount of data collected and how to then use said data to tell our story. Our goal is to ensure that all of our programs are effective and efficient in order to best serve all that may be in need of our services, and to create the highest impact possible in reducing hunger and homelessness, among any other identified needs.

**Highgate Public Library**

**I VISTA, Highgate Center \*OPEN\***

The Highgate Library strives to provide unique and innovative programs, as well as the support services necessary to build a resilient community and to help families break the cycle of poverty. We provide and support diverse, lifelong learning opportunities in an inclusive, imaginative and welcoming environment. This position will focus on developing, planning and implementing fundraising events, increasing volunteer opportunities, building upon and strengthening community outreach, assisting with grant writing and research, as well as designing and implementing programs to enhance current offerings for underserved populations within the community

**Home Share Now**

**I VISTA, Barre \*OPEN\***

Bring your interest in persuasive writing, design, social networking, research, and nonprofit management to Home Share Now -- help us secure housing for aging Vermonters and the financially insecure. Home Share Now directly contributes to safe aging, independence, improved health, financial solvency, prevention of homelessness, and affordable housing by tapping into our greatest resource: other people. You will get your fill of persuasive writing (both grants and marketing), ad design, social networking, donor research, and nonprofit management. While this position will dabble in a variety of tasks, the majority of activities will be in the realms of development, fundraising, and marketing.

### 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 member will assist 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 seeks leadership for Middlebury College's Privilege & Poverty initiative, combining curricular & co-curricular opportunities with community partners to address issues of poverty. We prepare students for lives of meaning and impact through service, scholarship, and citizenship. In the fourth and final year of this project we seek a VISTA to work with Community Engagement and our faculty affiliate to continue to develop co-curricular and curricular poverty-related programs, while also deepening our collaboration with participating community partners. The VISTA will also create a sustainability plan to solidify an infrastructure that will help us continue to meet local needs.

### Northwest Regional Planning Commission

**I VISTA, St. Albans \*OPEN\***

NRPC is an organization concerned with alleviating poverty by assisting municipalities to address housing, economic development, and community health issues in northwest Vermont. NRPC conducts regional planning programs including land use, transportation, emergency management, brownfields, housing and economic development programs. The VISTA member's service will include: developing indicators assessing the impact of the plan on poverty alleviation and related issues; supporting staff to write municipal plans with a focus on economic, housing, and hunger issues; providing outreach and assistance in communications for NRPC projects and collaborating with partner organizations.

### Parks Place

**I VISTA, Bellows Falls \*OPEN\***

Parks Place mission is to open doors to opportunities by connecting people and resources in the Greater Falls community. The services provided at Parks Place include: children and youth, community development, education, employment and training, housing and shelter, income assistance, Lead Safe & Healthy Homes, medical and mental health, and substance abuse among others. This VISTA will be responsible for creating and maintaining databases, strategize about new and creative ways to manage and report data, and assist in streamlining our volunteer process.

### Rutland Area Farm and Food Link

**I VISTA, Rutland \*OPEN\***

Help us build a farm and food sector in the Rutland region of Vermont that benefits all residents. RAFFL is committed to making our programs more inclusive. The AmeriCorps VISTA will help connect people across the economic spectrum with our work. This position will be instrumental in supporting communications, outreach, volunteer involvement, and fundraising. Examples of program improvements include creating a program to accept SNAP benefits at our online farmers' market and developing cooking education that targets community members with limited kitchen facilities. The VISTA member will help decrease food insecurity and alleviate poverty in the Rutland region by addressing structural barriers to local food and implementing an inclusive outreach strategy.

### 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. 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.

### SerVermont VISTA Leader

**I VISTA Leader, Montpelier \*OPEN\***

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

The VISTA Leader serves at SerVermont and assists the Program Director with running the VISTA program. This leadership position engages the member in building capacity for the entire statewide program. The Leader serves as a resource, coach, and mentor for team members. They will coordinate member events and trainings, create program communications like a newsletter and social media, and assist with the compilation of data from reports. Members are also encouraged to create their own projects to benefit the team!

### Southwestern Vermont Health Care

**I VISTA, Bennington \*OPEN\***

Lead community projects to address the social determinants of health and poverty. Make positive impact while gaining experience for your resume! VISTAs will work in collaboration with a dynamic healthcare executive to develop community programs that have real impact on the social determinants of health and poverty. The root causes of poverty are varied and individual. VISTAs are encouraged to link their passion to program implementation. Prior VISTAs developed and launched projects such as teen peer-to-peer videos, farm-to-patient program, healthy living photo contest, diabetes and COPD themed texting service, oral hygiene education, launch of an entrepreneurial hub, and many more.

### United Way of Windham County

**1 VISTA, Brattleboro \*OPEN\***

United Way of Windham County creates HOPE by investing in health, opportunity, prosperity, and education initiatives to improve the lives of all who live or work in Windham County. The mission of the United Way of Windham County is to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of the community. The VISTA member will build capacity by developing financial resources, deepening relationships with community partners, and increasing outreach efforts to grow programs that alleviate poverty like the Kids in Coats Fund, VITA tax assistance services, and the Summer Food Service Program.

### U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants

**2 VISTAs, Colchester \*OPEN\***

Help refugees rebuild their lives and livelihoods as they become new Vermonters. Engage community members, businesses, and organizations in supporting refugee resettlement! The USCRI and Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program opens doors for uprooted people, helping the world's most vulnerable rebuild their lives. The VISTA will help with: building community partnerships through outreach, volunteer recruitment, and fundraising; identifying and promoting opportunities (within both VRRP and the broader community) to better support refugee well-being and self-sufficiency; and expanding and refining the scope of English Language Learning and employment services through program development.

### 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. We 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.

### Vermont Legal Aid

**1 VISTA, Burlington \*OPEN\***

We strive to advance fairness and justice in the civil legal system, address the social and economic interests of clients, and confront the underlying causes of poverty, discrimination and inequality. VLA is where individuals and families can turn when they face a civil legal problem that threatens their rights, shelter, job, health or well-being. The VISTA will support VLA's mission by building organizational capacity to develop and sustain a Community Legal Education Project. Community Legal Education 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 responsive to people living in poverty.

### Vermont Youth Conservation Corps

**1 VISTA, Richmond \*OPEN\***

VYCC teaches personal responsibility to youth by engaging small teams in high-priority conservation and agricultural projects. Our work is guided by the belief that every young person deserves the chance to work hard and to make meaningful contributions. We believe that youth need structured and well-led opportunities to practice leadership, teamwork, and professional skills. Each year, corps members and volunteers produce a season's worth of fresh, organic vegetables and chicken for over 400 food-insecure Vermonters through our innovative Health Care Share initiative. The VISTA Member will support expansion of the Health Care Share, support VYCC's new efforts to measure the short and long term impact of programs, and support fundraising and alumni engagement efforts.

### The Farm at Vermont Youth Conservation Corps

**2 VISTAs, Richmond \*OPEN\***

Description coming soon!





# 2017-2018 SerVermont VISTA Host Site Map



**Colchester:**  
US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (2)

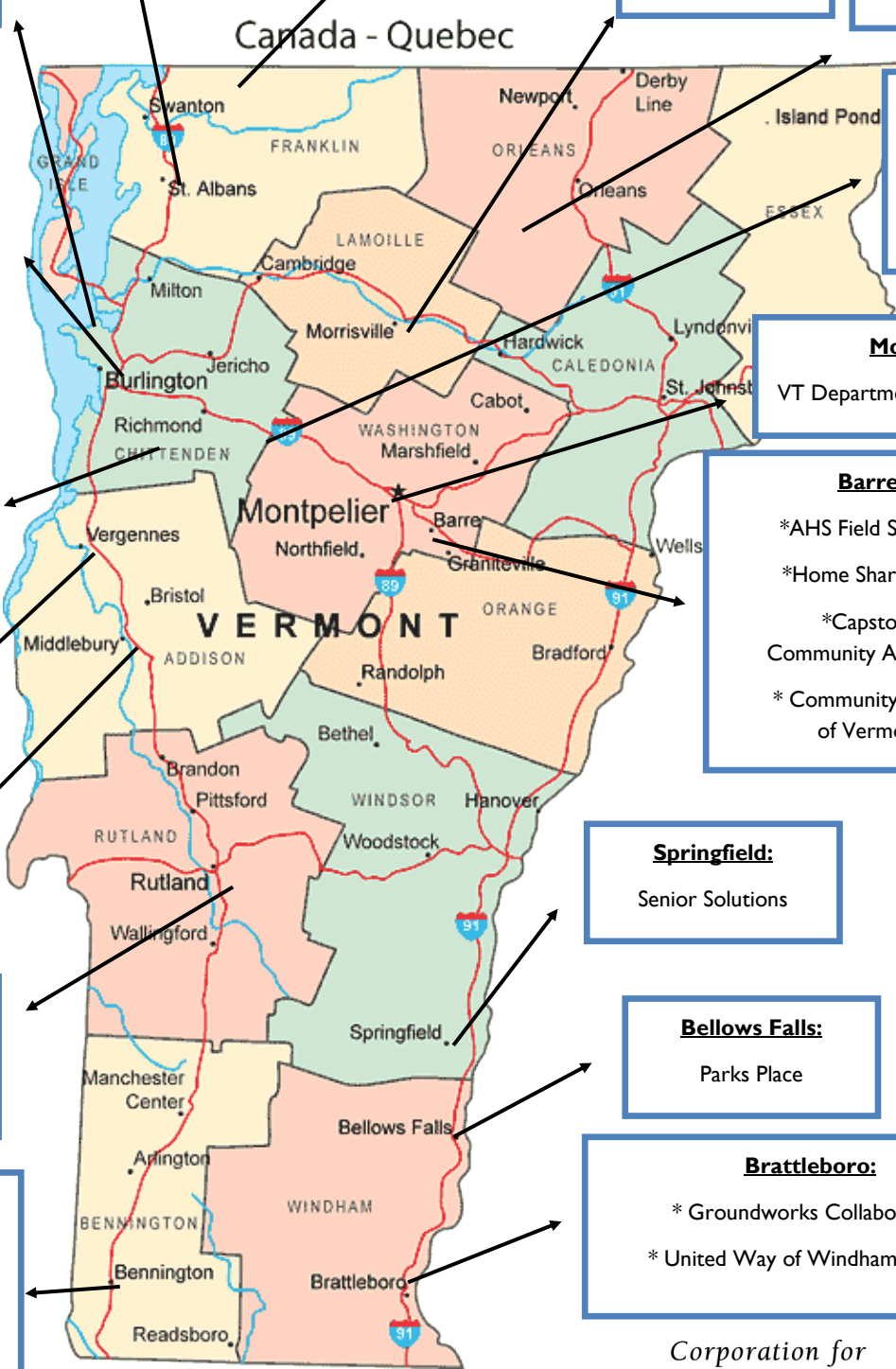
**St. Albans:**  
Northwest Regional Planning Commission

**Highgate Center:**  
Highgate Public Library

**Morrisville**  
AHS Field Services

**Craftsbury**  
The Art House

**Burlington:**  
\* Committee on Temporary Shelter  
\* Community Sailing Center STEM Initiative  
\* CVOEO Financial Futures  
\* Vermont Legal Aid



**Waterbury:**  
\*AHS Central Office (2)  
\*SerVermont

**Montpelier:**  
VT Department of Mental Health

**Richmond:**  
Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (3)

**Barre:**  
\*AHS Field Services  
\*Home Share Now  
\*Capstone Community Action (4)  
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**Vergennes:**  
John Graham Shelter

**Middlebury:**  
Middlebury College

**Springfield:**  
Senior Solutions

**Rutland:**  
Rutland Area Farm & Food Link

**Bellows Falls:**  
Parks Place

**Bennington:**  
\* Bennington County Regional Commission  
\* Southwestern Vermont Health Care  
\*Alliance for Community Transformation

**Brattleboro:**  
\* Groundworks Collaborative  
\* United Way of Windham County

