

# Applicant Introduction

{ Prevention Resource Center  
AmeriCorps VISTA Project



- ⌘ The PRC is guided by the Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)
  - ⌘ Currently the ICC has 5 goals and benchmarks
    - ⌘ Reduce child abuse and neglect by promoting child safety and healthy family functioning.
    - ⌘ Reduce youth use of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs by promoting alternate activities and healthy lifestyles.
    - ⌘ Reduce youth violence and crime by promoting the safety of all citizens.
    - ⌘ Reduce school dropout by increasing the percentage of high school students who successfully transition from school to work, postsecondary education, training and/or military.
    - ⌘ Reduce teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases by promoting the concept that sexual activity, pregnancy and child rearing are serious responsibilities.

# The Prevention Resource Center



⌘ The PRC VISTA Project assists Montana communities in creating and sustaining conditions that reduce risk, as well as promote the safety, personal responsibility, and well-being of our youth. Twenty to thirty VISTAs are placed throughout Montana each year.

⌘ The mission of the PRC and ICC is to create and sustain a coordinated, comprehensive system of prevention services in the state of Montana.

# Our Mission

## ⌘ Education

- ⌘ Dropout prevention including teen pregnancy, youth violence, and substance abuse

## ⌘ Healthy Futures

- ⌘ Food Security
- ⌘ Reduce Child Abuse
- ⌘ Connect Montanans to health care

## ⌘ Veteran's and Military Families

# Focus Areas

- ⌘ VISTA is a full- time one year commitment
- ⌘ VISTA is a national service program designed to fight poverty through indirect service projects
- ⌘ VISTA members work to create capacity in a non-profit or government agency

# What you should know



- ⌘ Living allowance of \$973 (before taxes)
- ⌘ Choice of Segal Education Award (\$5,730) *or* Cash Stipend (\$1,500)
- ⌘ Student loan forbearance (approval dependent on individual financial institution)
- ⌘ Basic health assistance (this is not insurance)
- ⌘ Child care assistance
- ⌘ Choice of life insurance (\$4/month)
- ⌘ Trainings: Pre-Service Orientation and Community Building Institute
- ⌘ \$550 Relocation allowance (if relocating more than 50 miles)
- ⌘ Travel and Shipping Reimbursement
- ⌘ End of Service Benefit: Non-Competitive Eligibility for Federal jobs

# Benefits



⌘ The Criminal History Checks are conducted to support the safety of our service participants, sponsors and local communities.

⌘ All VISTA applicants must undergo both a database search on the Department of Justice's National Sex Offender Registry and the nationwide criminal history check through the FBI's Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System.

# Criminal History Checks



**Federal Funder**  
(Corporation for National & Community Service)



**VISTA Project**  
(Prevention Resource Center)



**VISTA Host Site**  
(i.e. YWCA, Park High School, etc.)



**AmeriCorps  
VISTA Member**

In this position, an **AmeriCorps VISTA Member** is considered a federal resource from the **Corporation for National & Community Service** who is serving under the **Prevention Resource Center** at the **VISTA Host Site** to alleviate poverty in Montana.

# VISTA Organization Chart

## ↳ A Healthy Futures site:

- ↳ National Community Building Institute Missoula
  - ↳ Volunteer Coordinator
    - ↳ \$50,950 cash raised
    - ↳ \$9,318 in in-kind donations
    - ↳ 141 new volunteers
    - ↳ 3,680 new clients served

## ↳ An Education site:

- ↳ Park High School
  - ↳ Livingston Graduation Matters Initiative
    - ↳ \$10,000 cash raised
    - ↳ \$5,000 in in-kind donations
    - ↳ 51 new volunteers
    - ↳ 25 new clients served

# PRC Accomplishments

- ⌘ B.E.A.R. Mentoring Program (Hamilton)
- ⌘ Belgrade Public Schools (Belgrade)
- ⌘ Big Brothers Big Sisters Park County (Livingston)
- ⌘ Boys & Girls Club of Deer Lodge County (Anaconda)
- ⌘ Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Cheyenne Nation (Lame Deer)
- ⌘ HOPA Mountain - StoryMakers Program (Bozeman)
- ⌘ Jefferson Valley Community Foundation (Whitehall)
- ⌘ Livingston Graduation Matters (Livingston)
- ⌘ Second Season (Lame Deer)

**Available January 2015**  
**Education VISTA Positions**

## ☞ **Reduce Child Abuse**

- ☞ Center for Children & Families (Billings)
- ☞ Dept. of Justice-Office of Child & Family Ombudsman (Missoula)
- ☞ Family Support Network (Billings)
- ☞ Montana Children's Trust Fund (Helena)
- ☞ Sunburst Community Service Foundation (Eureka)

## ☞ **Food Security**

- ☞ Exploration Works (Helena)
- ☞ Opportunity Link (Havre)

## ☞ **Connect Montanans to Healthcare**

- ☞ Red Feather Development Group (Bozeman)

**Available January 2015**

**Healthy Futures VISTA Positions**

- ⌘ Montana is the fourth largest State in the Nation with a land area of more than 145,552 square miles.
- ⌘ The population of Montana topped 1 million in 2012.
- ⌘ In 2010, the largest city in Montana (Billings) had about 104,170 people.
- ⌘ There are 56 counties in MT and 45 are considered frontier counties (less than 7 persons per square mile).
- ⌘ The state has the largest freshwater lake west of the Mississippi, Flathead Lake.
- ⌘ The coldest temperature ever recorded in Montana was 70 degrees below zero at Roger's Pass north of Helena on January 20, 1954. This is a national record for the lower 48 states.
- ⌘ There are 2.5 times as many cows as people in MT.

# MT Facts



- ⌘ Pre-Service Orientation (PSO)
  - ⌘ January 27-29, 2015 (Helena, MT)
- ⌘ Service Term
  - ⌘ January 30, 2015 – January 29, 2016
- ⌘ VISTA Candidate Call
  - ⌘ TBD

# Important Dates

⌘ **Can you live at the poverty level?** (\$973/month =approx. \$447.86 bi-weekly)

- ⌘ Approximate housing costs.
- ⌘ Plan a budget.

⌘ **How will it be living in \_\_\_\_\_ community?**

- ⌘ Research the community's culture & type (rural, college town, etc.).
- ⌘ Research what the community has to offer.
- ⌘ Research Public Transportation (How accessible will it be for you?).
- ⌘ Can you live in this community for a year?

⌘ **What type of support network do you need?**

- ⌘ How do you relieve stress? Will you be able to do these activities in Montana while living at the poverty level?
- ⌘ How close do you need to live to your family/close friends to feel connected & supported by them?
- ⌘ What will happen if you run into budgeting issues?

Topics to Consider Before  
Becoming a VISTA...

## Statements of Understanding

*Any statement that needs more clarification can be discussed at the start of the interview.*

I understand that a VISTA does **indirect** service (i.e. finding resources & volunteers to build a house) as compared to **direct** service (i.e. hammering nails to build a house).

- Yes.
- Kind of, I would like more clarification.
- No, I need more information.

I understand that my individual financial institution(s) may not accept my forbearance request for my year of national service.

- Yes.
- Kind of, I would like more clarification.
- No, I need more information.

I understand that the living allowance is \$973 per month (before taxes) and I will not be able to have another job during my term of service as a VISTA.

- Yes.
- Kind of, I would like more clarification.
- No, I need more information.

**Questions:** There will also be a question section at the end of the interview.

# Statements of Understanding