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

Our Mission

- 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.

Focus Areas

- **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**

- 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 ($5,775) ***or*** Cash Stipend ($1,500)
- Student loan forbearance (approval dependent on individual financial institution)
- Basic health Coverage/Allowance (this is not insurance)
- Leave: 10 Personal & 10 Sick Days and Holiday Leave (holidays dependent on host site)
- 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 (if relocating more than 50 miles)
- End of Service Benefit: Non-Competitive Eligibility for Federal jobs

Benefits

Fight Poverty with PASSION

Criminal History Checks

- 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.

Federal Funder
(Corporation for National & Community Service)

VISTA Project
(Prevention Resource Center)

Service Site Logo

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

PRC Accomplishments

- **A Healthy Futures site:**
  - Flathead CASA for Kids
    - Volunteer & staff training project
      - $22,000 cash raised
      - $1,200 in in-kind donations
      - 20 new volunteers recruited
      - 64 new clients served
- **An Education site:**
  - Center for Restorative Youth Justice
    - Community Impact Circle implementation
      - $650 cash raised
      - $150 in in-kind donations
      - 44 new volunteers
      - 399 new clients served

- B.E.A.R. Mentoring Program (Hamilton)
- Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Cheyenne (Lame Deer)
- Park County Community Foundation (Livingston)

Available January 2016 Education VISTA Positions

- **Reduce Child Abuse**
  - Department of Justice Office of the Child Ombudsman (Helena)
  - Family Support Network (Billings)
- **Food Security**
  - Helena Food Share (Helena)
- **Connect Montanans to Healthcare and/or Prevention Programs**
  - Area V Agency on Aging (Butte)
  - Red Feather Development Group (Bozeman)
  - Sunburst Community Service Foundation (Kalispell)
  - YWCA of Helena (Helena)

Available January 2016 Healthy Futures VISTA Positions

MT Facts

- 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.

Important Dates

- Pre-Service Orientation (PSO)
  - January 26-28, 2016 (Helena, MT)
- Service Term
  - January 29, 2016 – January 27, 2017
- VISTA Candidate Call
  - TBD – January 2016, 2 pm MDT

- **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 can seek part-time employment outside of my VISTA project with PRC approval.	☐ 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