

Nebraska VISTA Projects

The Corporation for National & Community Service is the largest grant making organization for service and volunteerism in the country. An agency of the federal government, the Corporation provides opportunities for Americans of all ages and backgrounds to serve their communities and country through three programs: Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and the Social Innovation Fund.

AmeriCorps VISTA is a national program whose mission is to strengthen and supplement efforts to eliminate poverty by providing meaningful and constructive volunteer service in agencies, institutions and situations where the application of human talent and dedication may assist in the solution of poverty and poverty related problems. VISTA members work to generate the commitment of private sector resources, to encourage volunteer service at the local level and to strengthen local agencies and organizations.

Food Bank for the Heartland – Expanding the Ability to End Hunger in Nebraska

10525 J Street

Omaha, NE 68127-1021

Website: <http://www.omahafoodbank.org/>

Phone: (402) 905-4817

Program Supervisor: Ms. Amy Wackerhagen, Director of Agency Relations

E-mail: Awackerhagen@FoodBankHeartland.org

| Member Service Years | | | REACH |
|----------------------|------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Standard | Cost-Share | Summer Associates | |
| 3 | 1 | 0 | Statewide |

The Food Bank for the Heartland, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, project is to ensure a competent food distribution channel exists in every county in Nebraska. Nearly 22% of Nebraskans reported having to choose between medical care, utilities, transportation, mortgage payments and food during 2011. (USDA, 2012) VISTA members will assist to establish an efficient distribution network for emergency and supplement food in the state; expand local capacity to eliminate hunger by identifying what currently exists and by supplying resources needed to better support pantries and meal providers; increase the number of volunteers working on hunger issues across the state.

Focus Area: Healthy Futures

Outcome:

By 2015, any person living in the State of Nebraska who is food insecure can access emergency food within 20 miles of his or her home through a statewide partnership of pantries, meal providers and food banks. In doing so residents of Nebraska will be better able complete their education, apply for and retain good paying jobs, and have lower health care costs. These outcomes help reduce poverty on an individual and a community-wide basis.

City of South Sioux City – VISTA project

1615 1st Avenue

South Sioux City, NE 68776-2236

Website: <http://www.southsiouxcity.org/>

Phone: (402) 494-7591

Program Supervisor: Ms. Tami Bailey, Grants Administrator

E-mail: tbailey@southsiouxcity.org

| Member Service Years | | | REACH |
|----------------------|------------|-------------------|-------|
| Standard | Cost-Share | Summer Associates | |
| 3 | 0 | 0 | Local |

In an effort to provide that quality of life for all residents, the City of South Sioux City's seeks to improve its capacity to adequately serve its residents and provide opportunities for those in need to overcome barriers that have led to their economic disadvantage. This project will be enlisted to assist the City and it's partner's in building the communities capacity to provide programs, resources and links to opportunities for those residents living within the City who are unemployed, underemployed, without adequate housing and lacking the necessary education and skills that would enable them to secure gainful employment.

Focus Area: Economic Opportunity – Housing and Work Force Development

Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska – LFS VISTA

124 S. 42th Street Ste. 402

Omaha, NE 68105

Website: <http://www.lfsneb.org/>

Phone: (402) 536-3502

Program Supervisor: Mr. Fa’iz Rab, AmeriCorps Program Manager

E-mail: frab@lfsneb.org

| Member Service Years | | | REACH |
|----------------------|------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Standard Leader | Cost-Share | Summer Associates | |
| 1 | 5 | 0 | Statewide |

Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc. (LFS) is a faith-based, not-for-profit, multi-service human care agency based in Nebraska. LFS impacts over 35,000 people a year in 27 locations from as far west as North Platte, Nebraska, to Council Bluffs, Iowa. The LFS VISTA project will work with three specific programs with in Lutheran Family Services; the North Omaha Center for Healthy Families®, the International Center of the Heartland, and the At Ease® program, seeking to build and strengthen their capacity by measuring impact of current programs, evaluating needs, developing targeted programming; and developing outreach methods to expand within the community.

Focus Area: Economic Opportunity, Education and Veterans and Military Families

Provider's Network, Inc. – Capacity Building Project

5625 O Street, Suite 114

Lincoln, NE 68510-2104

Website: www.pnicacfp.com

Phone: (402) 464-4335

Program Supervisor: Ms. Gaylene Barstow, Executive Director

E-mail: gbarstow@pnicacfo.com

| Member Service Years | | | REACH |
|----------------------|------------|-------------------|-------|
| Standard | Cost-Share | Summer Associates | |
| 2 | 0 | 0 | Local |

The Provider's Network, Inc. (PNI) is a 501(c)3 organization that provides nutrition education, child development and business management training to child care providers in Nebraska. Provider's Network, Inc. has served as a comprehensive resource, offering service, support and training for family child care providers in Nebraska. The Capacity Building Project will strengthen the capacity of the Providers network to assist childcare providers, including refugee/immigrant providers, with business training, case management, assistance with licensing requirements, and a support network to operate a successful business allowing families and providers to maintain their native culture as they learn to live in their new culture. The VISTA project will assist in developing the curriculum to offer these services to more providers in a format that works for the specific population and their educational level; help develop policies and procedure manuals to ensure services are provided consistently in all areas of the state, and work with existing child care and refugee organizations to assist and promote development of quality child care providers.

Focus Area: Economic Opportunity

Blue Valley Community Action Inc. – Veteran Support Corps

620 5th Street, PO Box 273

Fairbury, NE 68352-2624

Website: www.bvca.net

Phone: 402-729-6510

Program Supervisor: Angela Harroun

Email: aharroun@bvca.net

| Member Service Years | | | REACH |
|----------------------|------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Standard | Cost-Share | Summer Associates | |
| 6 | 0 | 0 | Multi-state |

The proposed VISTA project aligns with the Veteran and Military Families focus area. The VISTA project will build the capacity of at least 5 existing successful low-income serving programs to expand targeting low-income Veterans as beneficiaries and expects to move rural low-income Veterans toward self sufficiency. Six VISTA Members will contribute to the goals of the project by building the capacity at least 5 of the following programs to serve Veterans: Emergency Services, Education, Food and Nutrition, Training/Employment, Budget Counseling, Transportation, Housing, Winterization, Health Care over the course of three years. Veterans and Veterans families will be a focus and target for services. At least 75% of the Veterans served will report that they are "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the services provided to them as a result of this VISTA project. At least 3 of the agencies providing services will report that as a result of this VISTA project they are more effective at providing services to Veterans and Veterans Families.

Focus Area: Veterans & Military Families

Blue Valley Community Action Inc. – Rural Youth Development

620 5th Street, PO Box 273, Fairbury, NE 68352-2624

Phone: 402-729-6510

Program Supervisor: Collena Laschanzky

Email: claschanzky@bvca.net

| Member Service Years | | | REACH |
|----------------------|------------|-------------------|-------|
| Standard | Cost-Share | Summer Associates | |
| 4 | 0 | 0 | Local |

The proposed VISTA project aligns with the Education and Economic Opportunity focus areas. The VISTA project will build the volunteer capacity to at least 70 new volunteers recruited and managed and new resources in 40 Developmental Assets prevention and academic success targeting families and K-12 students as beneficiaries. Four VISTA Members will contribute to the goals of the project by building the capacity of the following programs to serve families and youth: Education, Asset Building, Prevention Training, Afterschool Programming, Training/Employment, and Literacy Education over the course of two years.

The immediate aim of these programs is an increase in student academic performance and the increased opportunities to pursue post-secondary education that accompany it. BVCA aims to leverage the increased access to post-secondary education as an anti-poverty measure. The United States Department of Labor reports that post-secondary education is directly correlative to employment rates and median weekly earnings (Current Population Survey, U.D. Bureau of Labor Statistics).

Focus Area: Education and Economic Opportunity

National VISTA Projects with sites in Nebraska

College Possible – College Possible National Expansion – 2 MSY’s

450 N Syndicate Street, Ste. 325, Saint Paul, MN 55104-4122

Site: College Possible Omaha

900 S. 74th Plaza, Suite 403, Omaha, NE 68114

Website: <http://www.collegepossible.org/omaha>

Afterschool Alliance – Sustainable National & State Afterschool Programs & Networks– 1 MSY

1616 H St NW, Suite 820, Washington, DC 20006-4917

Site: Nebraska Children and Families Foundation – the VISTA is in Lincoln

7201 Mercy Road, Suite #106, Omaha NE 68116

Website: <http://www.nebraskachildren.org/>

Habitat for Humanity International Multi-State – 1 MSY

270 Peachtree Street NW, Suite 1300, Atlanta, GA 30303-1246

Site: Habitat for Humanity of Omaha

2204 Ames Ave., Omaha NE 68110

Website: <http://www.habitatomaha.org/default.asp>

US FIRST Foundation – FIRST AmeriCorps VISTA Program – 1 MSY

200 Bedford Street, Manchester, NH 03101-1132

Site: University of Nebraska

1115 N 16th Street, Lincoln, NE 68588