



Nebraska Thrives AmeriCorps* VISTA

Serve Your Country in the Heartland!



DISABILITY PREPAREDNESS SPECIALIST

Assignment Description

The Nebraska Thrives VISTA program exists to expand the capacity of Nebraskans to increase their quality of life by maximizing citizen involvement in the disaster preparedness and community service needs and increasing the efficiency & effectiveness of entities addressing these needs. Special emphasis is placed on engaging low-income residents with a particular focus on western Nebraska – an under-served region which features significant poverty and declining aging populations. In accord with Corporation for National & Community strategic priorities, efforts will be made to capitalize upon enhancing volunteerism and volunteer management capacity as solutions with particular effort placed on engaging youth and “baby boomers”. In strong collaboration with the Nebraska Volunteer Foundation, VISTAs will also seek resources to provide community-identified solutions through volunteer-based and national service initiatives.

The Disability Preparedness Assistant VISTA will focus on:

1. connecting impoverished, underserved and un-reached individuals affected by disability to resources and opportunities in Nebraska; and
2. increasing the scope and membership of Nebraskans with disabilities involved in disaster preparedness & response and other community service.

Programming is carried out through regional collaborations and information-gathering and sharing activities throughout Nebraska. Partners include regional Citizen Corps Councils, local emergency managers, entities providing assistance to those with disabilities, and the Commission’s Disability Preparedness Team.

The Disability Preparedness VISTA member will unite Nebraska’s impoverished, underserved and un-reached individuals affected by disabilities with resources, connections and opportunities that will empower them to be more informed, interested and involved with disaster preparedness & response and community service activities in their region. Success in accomplishing this goal will be measured through surveys.

Responsibilities

- Develop partnerships with community-based disability organizations and businesses throughout Nebraska
- Work with the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission Disability Officer, Disability Outreach Specialist, and Citizen Corps Officer to develop and implement strategies for reaching individuals with disabilities throughout Nebraska
- Create materials to promote available disability preparedness and community involvement opportunities and resources
- Promote disability preparedness and community involvement resources and opportunities at local and regional meetings and events

- Collaborate with regional organizations and Citizen Corps Councils to promote disaster preparedness and response trainings for entities related to disability field
- Assist with volunteer recruitment for NVSC-sponsored disaster preparedness and community service activities including CERT training

Qualifications

- Valid driver's license. The VISTA member will need a car for this assignment. VISTA member will be reimbursed \$.485 per mile for work related travel, or be provided a state vehicle from the Nebraska state fleet
- Bachelors Degree preferred
- Strong verbal and written communication skills, including public speaking
- Work well with a diverse group of community partners, volunteers, and the NVSC staff
- Excellent organizational skills and attention to detail
- Ability to work independently and take chances
- Ability to develop and execute long-term plans with minimal guidance
- Adaptability to perform a variety of duties and meet deadlines
- Research skills, including ability to identify and utilize the Internet and library resources
- Ability to do layout and copy for promotions
- Basic computer skills, including Microsoft Office programs; experience with design programs such as Illustrator or Quark preferred
- Working knowledge of disability etiquette, including "person-first language" preferred

Hours

- 40 hours/week, Mon.-Fri. Evenings and weekends as needed.
- 12-month term of service for AmeriCorps*VISTA members.

Benefits

- A taxable living subsistence allowance of \$9,996 per year.
- May be eligible to receive either a taxable \$4,725 education award or end-of-service taxable stipend of \$1,200 upon successful service
- 10 days of vacation time and 10 days of sick time (in addition to holidays)
- Limited health benefits
- May qualify for Student Loan Forbearance
- May qualify for payment of accrued interest on Student Loans upon successful service
- May qualify for Food Stamps or other social services
- May qualify for childcare allowance
- May qualify for relocation expense reimbursement
- Training/Professional Development Support *

* Corporation for National & Community Service will reimburse up to \$500 per year to a VISTA member for training related directly to their assignment that will enhance their skills, knowledge and abilities.)