



# Nebraska Thrives AmeriCorps\* VISTA

*Serve Your Country in the Heartland!*



## DISASTER 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 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 emphasis on western Nebraska – an underserved region which features significant poverty and declining aging populations. In accord with Corporation for National & Community Service 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 Disaster Preparedness Assistant VISTA member will focus on:

1. facilitating Citizen Corps Councils to connect with individuals in special populations (disabled persons, non-English speakers, low income individuals and others with special needs) in disaster preparedness;
2. increasing the participation of individuals from special populations working with Citizen Corps Councils in disaster preparedness activities; and
3. strengthening the infrastructure of local Citizen Corps Councils to achieve the above.

Programming is carried out through regional collaborations, information-gathering and sharing activities throughout Nebraska. Partners include Individuals in special population groups; regional Citizen Corps Councils; local Emergency Managers; local Public Health officials; the staff of the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission; and other community-based and governmental entities.

The Disaster Preparedness Assistant VISTA member will increase the capacity of Nebraska’s service community to serve individuals in special populations and to involve those individuals in disaster preparedness activities. Success in accomplishing this goal will be measured through surveys.

### Responsibilities

- Develop partnerships with Citizen Corps Councils; Public Health Departments; and community-based organizations throughout Nebraska
- Work with the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission Citizen Corps Officer to develop and implement protocols for partnering with Citizen Corps Councils, Public Health Departments, and community based organizations throughout Nebraska
- Create materials necessary to advance these partnerships throughout Nebraska
- Research successful means of partnering with special populations in Disaster Preparedness
- Tailor best practices in working with special populations to assist Disaster Preparedness partners throughout Nebraska

- Conduct trainings informing audiences about needs and gifts of special populations in Disaster Preparedness.

### **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
- Experience instructing adults 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

### **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.)