

AmeriCorps VISTA Community Outreach Specialist

**Are you committed to having a positive impact on the people in Mississippi?**

A **VISTA Community Outreach Specialist** volunteer will help MS nonprofits enhance and increase their capacity to serve their communities.

**Program Description:** The Mississippi Alliance of Nonprofits and Philanthropy’s mission is to serve, build capacity, and foster collaboration in Mississippi’s nonprofit and philanthropic communities. The MS Poverty Reduction Through Needs Assessment/Asset Mapping VISTA project seeks to identify, assess, and build the capacity of nonprofit organizations serving the needs of communities throughout the 82 counties in Mississippi, helping the nonprofit and philanthropic sector benefit un-served and under-served individuals, families, and children to bring them out of poverty, increase their education levels, enhance their economic well-being and stability, and ultimately strengthen the communities in which they live. **Eight** (8) VISTA volunteers contribute to the goals of the project over the course of **one to three years** by conducting surveys, telephone interviews, and site visits with nonprofit and community organizations to gather data about needs, identify gaps and challenges, and document available resources (assets); researching best practices to eliminate and/or alleviate poverty; and conducting community conversations related to best practices.

**VISTA Duties:** You will help Mississippi nonprofits and philanthropies to enhance their collective impact on the quality of life of MS residents. You will collaborate closely with regional Volunteer & Nonprofit Hubs of the MS Commission for Volunteer Service. You must be committed, compassionate, and excited about the nonprofit sector and work diligently to offer quality, focused, and integrated support and services that enhance nonprofit and philanthropic organizations serving local communities. Aspects of the work will include: **(1)** Conduct Needs Assessments and Asset Mapping to determine community and nonprofit organization needs across Mississippi; **(2)** Verify and update an on-line database of nonprofits and funders working to strengthen and improve outcomes in communities across the state; **(3)** Convene community conversations related to best-practices research; and **(4)** Attend professional developments courses offered by The Alliance to increase your knowledge/understanding of the nonprofit sector.

**Program Benefits:** Training, Living Allowance, Travel Expenses, Choice of Education Award or End of Service Stipend, Health Coverage, Child Care Assistance if eligible

**Terms:**

VISTA is a **full-time volunteer** commitment

Permits working at another job during off hours

Permits attendance at school during off hours

Car necessary

Successfully complete a criminal background check



**Skills required:**

* Computer skills including Microsoft Office Applications, the internet, and social media
* Communications, including writing, editing, and public speaking
* Experience in identifying Human Service needs
* Non-profit experience
* Effective time management
* Organized and detail-oriented

**Characteristics desired:**

* Works well with people from a variety of backgrounds
* Takes initiative
* Motivated
* Flexible
* Enthusiastic
* Self-confident

**Sites/Geography:** Counties covered by the MS Network HUBs for Volunteers and Nonprofits

* Tupelo (1) covering North(east)
* Columbus (1) covering Golden Triangle
* Gulfport (1) covering Gulf Coast

HUB sites

* Hattiesburg (1) covering SE/Pinebelt and Southwest
* Meridian (1) covering East
* Greenville (1) covering Delta

(NOTE:Northwest and Central HUB counties are already covered by current VISTA Members.)

**Work Schedule:** Full-Time volunteer, starting **May 9, 2022** through **May 8, 2023**

**Accepting Applications:** From **01/01/2022** to 06/30/2022



**AmeriCorps VISTA**

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“AmeriCorps VISTA is the national service program designed specifically to fight poverty.”

AmeriCorps VISTA members focus on building sustainable programs. They strengthen and support organizations by building infrastructure, expanding community partnerships, and securing long-term resources rather than through the provision of direct services.

**Benefits:**

In exchange for 12 months of service, AmeriCorps VISTA members will be eligible to receive--

1. A living stipend of **$15,312** (pre-tax) dispersed bi-weekly over the 12- month service term\*
2. Loan forbearance or deferment during the 12-month service term for qualified student loans\*
3. Upon completion of service, VISTAs may choose to receive EITHER: 1) an education award of **$6,495** (Pell Grant amount 2021-22) to be used to pay back qualified student loans or pay future tuition; OR 2) a **$1,800** (pre-tax) end-of-year cash stipend\*
4. Free healthcare coverage (vision and pre-existing conditions not included; dental coverage is limited to emergencies)
5. A childcare subsidy
6. Vacation time: 10 personal days, 10 sick days, and any holidays off that your service site honors
7. Skills development for non-profit or public sector career
8. Reimbursed mileage/hotel/meals for service-related travel
9. 1 year of non-competitive eligibility for federal jobs
10. So much more!

\*Please note that the living stipend, education award, and interest repayment (of interest accrued during loan forbearance) are all considered taxable income.

# Members remain available for service, without regard to regular working hours, at all times during the member’s service, except for periods of approved leave.

Outside employment and/or education must be part-time, not conflict with project or service hours, nor conflict with any applicable law or AmeriCorps VISTA program requirements or policies. Supervisor’s approval of the member to work or attend classes is required.

**If you are interested and qualified for this volunteer opportunity to help the people in Mississippi, start your application process:**

Go to <http://my.americorps.gov>