

Hartford THRIVE! – AmeriCorps VISTA

How much good can you do in one year? Find out with a year of service with Hartford THRIVE!

Currently, the Hartford THRIVE! AmeriCorps VISTA project is seeking eight VISTAs and a VISTA Leader to join Hartford THRIVE! for a year of service to the Hartford Community to begin in August 2017. VISTA service with Hartford THRIVE! is a perfect opportunity to gain professional development and experience in the non-profit sector.

Thrive means to grow and develop powerfully. The vision of the Hartford THRIVE! project is to live in a community where every member has access to resources that allows them to thrive. Picture a tree in full bloom. If you denied that tree access to water, soil, and sunlight you would have jeopardized its ability to grow to its full potential. Similarly, we think that every person needs access to three basic things to bloom: food, housing, and economic security.

At Hartford THRIVE! AmeriCorps VISTA members at 4 non profits all build and expand programs that create access to one of these three vital nutrients.

Benefits of serving with Hartford THRIVE!:

- Receive a stipend of \$452 every two weeks before taxes;
- Upon successful completion of service, choice of receiving an Segal AmeriCorps Education award of \$5,815 or \$1,500 monetary stipend;
- Professional Development;
- Training in the nonprofit field;
- Opportunity to build job skills, talents and network;
- And an unforgettable year of changing the Hartford Community and World!

Open VISTA Leader position:

One VISTA Leader will help facilitate success of the project by supporting Hands On Hartford's Project Supervisor, partner host site supervisors and all 8 VISTAs during their year of service. VISTA Leader will work collaboratively with project site staff to design and plan orientations for new VISTA members, plan trainings and seek additional resources to aid VISTA members' professional development and ensure that each VISTA member is supported in his/her program goals. In order to serve as a VISTA Leader, you must have completed a year of service with AmeriCorps. VISTA Leader works at Hands On Hartford site.

Open VISTA positions:

One SOAR VISTA will serve at Journey Home to expand the SOAR program, a national best practice model that assists individuals experiencing homelessness with applying for SSI & SSDI benefits from Social Security. The SOAR VISTA will bring together leaders in the community to expand SOAR program, facilitate trainings to community organizations, develop a client outreach referral & tracking system, form relationships with healthcare providers to improve SOAR process, collaborate with Community Care Team, implement strategies to identify clients to receive SOAR services, search for funding streams, and more.

One Employment Training VISTA will help design, implement and improve the Hartford Homeless Shelter and Employment System with the goal of increasing the rate at which individuals experiencing homelessness are able to obtain jobs and increase their income.

One Financial Stability VISTA will serve at The Village to strengthen its Family Financial Stability Initiative, which is comprised of the Family Financial Center and the regional Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. VISTA will focus on building multiple components of integrated service delivery: integrating additional services into VITA, building out Center offerings by developing and testing a lending circle, and developing a recruitment pipeline to support all center programs and services.

One Youth Money School VISTA will serve at Connecticut Association of Human Services. The Youth Money School VISTA works within low income communities to help youth form better money habits, ultimately increasing financial knowledge, confidence, and ability. The VISTA will coordinate the Hartford Youth Money School Initiative including partner, volunteer and participant recruitment and engagement.

One Job Training and Employment VISTA will serve at Hands On Hartford to expand and strengthen the Employment and Training Initiatives at Hands On Hartford Programs. VISTA will assist in the development of training opportunities applicable

for staff and clients who face barriers to employment. VISTA will assess and work on strengthening these initiatives and develop out the next steps in the Hands On Hartford job training programs.

One Food Access VISTA will serve at Hands On Hartford to build the capacity of the Community Pantry, Weekend Backpack Nutrition and Neighborhood Service Programs via the coordination of volunteers to develop and nurture food resources, donations (both in-kind and monetary) as well as any applicable economic security services.

One Food Access & Faces of Homelessness VISTA will serve at Hands On Hartford and build capacity of Community Meals soup kitchen via the continued development & nurturing of food resources, donations (both in-kind and monetary) as well as any applicable services for Community Meals clients. VISTA will also spend 25% of his/her time supporting Faces of Homelessness (FOH) Speakers Bureau members as they increasingly fulfill leadership roles in the project, as well as collaborating with FOH Co-Coordinator to plan & implement events & trainings for speakers.

One Community Engagement VISTA will serve at Hands On Hartford to strengthen capacity to provide service immersions/Alternative Spring Breaks/Dash for a Difference volunteer events as a way of deepening volunteer's involvement and commitment to addressing hunger, homelessness and other community needs. VISTA will also research and implement necessary steps to earn a Service Enterprise National Certification from Points of Light.

Program Benefits: Stipend of \$452 every two weeks before taxes, Relocation Allowance if eligible, Childcare assistance if eligible, Choice of Education award of \$5,815 or \$1,500 monetary End of Service Stipend upon successful completion of service, Training, Health Coverage (For details about AmeriCorps VISTA healthcare benefits, please visit <http://www.vistacampus.gov/healthcare>)

Service Areas:

Community Outreach, Homelessness, Community and Economic Development, Entrepreneur/Business, Housing, Hunger

Skills:

Communications, Community Organization, Team Work, Public Speaking, Business/Entrepreneur, Social Services, Recruitment, Fund raising/Grant Writing, General Skills

Education:

Bachelor's Degree

Start/ End Date: July 31, 2017 to August 8, 2018

Application Deadline: Please have all applications submitted through the link below by May 22, 2017

To apply: Please apply for a specific position through the AmeriCorps portal at:

VISTA Leader: <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=57854&fromSearch=true>

SOAR: <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=73297&fromSearch=true>

Employment Training: <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=73293&fromSearch=true>

Financial Stability: <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=73299&fromSearch=true>

Youth Money School: <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=73300&fromSearch=true>

Job Training and Employment: <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=73394&fromSearch=true>

Food Access: <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=73398&fromSearch=true>

Food Access & Faces of Homelessness: <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=73397&fromSearch=true>

Community Engagement: <https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/viewListing.do?id=73400&fromSearch=true>

To learn more about VISTA service, please visit:

http://www.nationalservice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/VISTA_fact_sheet_11_2013_508_compliant.pdf

Questions? Please contact:

Wanda Guzman
Program Manager-Community Engagement
& Supervisor of Hartford THRIVE! AmeriCorps VISTA Project
wguzman@handsonhartford.org
(860)706-1507