Enterprise Climate and Cultural Resilience Tribal VISTAs: Building Capacity in Indian Country

AmeriCorps VISTAs - Making a difference in Indian Country
AmeriCorp VISTA presentation
About Enterprise Community Partners

For more than 30 years, Enterprise has introduced solutions through public-private partnerships with financial institutions, governments, community organizations and other partners that share our vision that one day, every person will have an affordable home in a vibrant community, filled with promise and the opportunity for a good life.
What skills does a VISTA bring to your organization?

- Excellent written and spoken skills
- Interpersonal skills
- Experience in organizational processes and group dynamics
- Self initiative and motivation
- Ability to work independently and with minimal supervision
- A college degree is preferred, but, life experience is taken into consideration
The VISTA Assignment Description (VAD)

The VISTA Assignment Description, or VAD, is the foundation on which the entire VISTA member experience is built, from recruitment to the end of service. Using VADs to manage, support, and evaluate VISTA members is a key responsibility of VISTA supervisors.
Where are the VISTAs?

Ho Chunk Tribe of Wisconsin (2 sites)
Opportunity Link – Montana (3 sites)
Ohkay Owingeh Housing Authority - NM
Lowlander Center – Louisiana (3 sites)
Denver Indian Family Resource Center – Denver, Colorado
Ute Mountain Ute Housing Authority – Towaoc, Colorado
American Indian Community Housing Organization-Duluth, MN.
Yakima Nation Housing Authority – Wapato, WA.
Crow Creek Tribal Housing Authority – South Dakota
Santo Domingo Tribal Housing Authority – NM
Housing Authority of Salt Lake City
Seek and apply for grants

Fundraise

Recruit volunteers

Reduce poverty, increase capacity

Help achieve sustainability

Recruit partner programs

Capacity Building
VISTAs: Getting things done in Indian Country

- Enterprise Climate and Culture Resilience Tribal VISTAs are working on tribal housing developments throughout Indian Country. They are also involved in sustainable agriculture and other issues that climate change will bring.

- Enterprise Tribal Resilience VISTAs serve 10+ tribal nations throughout the United States and 3 Native Urban housing programs.

- The Climate and Cultural Resiliency VISTA grant is in the first of three years. VISTAs have the option to apply for another year. This is a great opportunity for VISTAs that are local or tribal members.
VISTA qualities - What does the VISTA bring to your organization?

- Leadership
- Initiative Ambition
- Interpersonal Skills
- Critical thinking ability
- Personal responsibility
- Adaptability and flexibility
The reality of hosting a VISTA at your site

Can your organization support a VISTA?

- Access to a computer/printer
- Office space
- Internet access

Housing Issues

- What creative ways could you support housing for a VISTA?

A VISTA means more responsibility for someone!

Hosting a VISTA equates to an employee taking on supervisory responsibilities.
VISTA Service specifics

- A VISTA works 40 hours a week for your organization.
- A VISTA may seek part time employment or school while doing their committed VISTA service, but their VISTA service takes priority.
- Your host site will be supported additionally by a VISTA Leader and the VISTA Program Associate in all matters pertaining to your VISTA and your host site responsibilities.
- The Enterprise VISTA Program Associate conducts site visits at least yearly.
- There are opportunities for technical assistance and training offered throughout the year.
- The VISTA builds capacity through seeking grants, recruiting volunteers, recruiting partner organizations...and ultimately reducing poverty and in general making the lives better for those they serve.
- You... as the host site supervisor will be required to attend some training and technical assistance to ensure success of your program.
- Cost sharing will be implemented as to encourage the host site to be vested in the Enterprise VISTA Program.
What is the benefit for the VISTA?

- A monthly stipend ($1025.00 monthly)
- Money for college or a one time payout at the end of their year of successful VISTA service ($5815 for college or $1800 end of service payout)
- One year of Federal non-competitive status for Federal employment
- Health insurance
- Invaluable experience they will not get anywhere else
- Relationships that are life long
College benefits

AmeriCorps helps students pay for college.

$3.3 Billion+
Amount of scholarship funds earned by AmeriCorps members to pay for college.

$1 Billion+
Amount of AmeriCorps scholarship funds used to repay student loans.
What’s the impact of a VISTA?

- If you want to make a change in your community...apply to Enterprise’s Tribal and Cultural Resiliency VISTA Program

Amazing Impact of Just One Americorps Member

- Tutors 27 children
- Serves 890 hours
- Recruits 31 volunteers
- Raises $8,430 cash or in-kind resources for their community
- All for $10,100 federal dollars

Produced by Service Nation
First Native American Housing Cluster – Pre HUD
The 2017 VISTA group poses after adobe mud plastering for preservation and protection of a 200 plus year old home at the Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo in New Mexico.

2017 VISTA Tribal and Climate Resilience Academy – Santé Fe, NM
Questions?

Vince Gallagher
110 16th Street, Suite 760
Denver, CO. 80202
Vgallagher@enterprisecommunity.org
303-376-5404