

CAMPUS COMPACT VISTA

VISTA ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTION (VAD)



Host Site	Catherine McAuley Center	Position Title	Race, Gender, & Homelessness VISTA
Anti-Poverty Focus	Economic Opportunity	Service Term	08/02/2021-08/01/2022
Anti-Poverty Objective	Housing	Site Supervisor	Jennifer Tibbetts
Capacity Building Focus	Leveraged Resources	Supervisor Contact	Jennifer@cmc-cr.org 319-731-0454

VISTA Assignment Objectives & Member Activities

Project Goal	<p>The Catherine McAuley Center’s Women’s Services program provides transitional and supportive housing, and case management to women experiencing crisis, as well as alumni support to graduates of the program.</p> <p>The goal of this project is to create and implement a process for gathering data to serve as a baseline demonstrating the underlying reasons for homelessness among women in our community. This data will be used both internally and shared externally to identify needs for services, create strategies for implementation, and track outcomes.</p>
Objective	The VISTA member will develop methods for collecting data on the intersectionality of race, gender, and homelessness, establish a baseline for our community, and research current resources available for women . (August 2021- July 2022)
Member Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop metrics and goals to determine capacity building progress as it relates to this project (August – September 2021) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discuss metrics and goals with invested individuals and organizations, starting with CMC staff and residents. (August 2021) ○ Research how other states and agencies have collected data and metrics, what data they’ve gotten, and what they’ve used. (August – September 2021) • Create materials that outline a case study for this project. (August – November 2021) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Formulate drafts of materials needed for this project, such as shared release, the process, a cover letter to use when asking for client information, and an interview template. (September 2021) • Serve as primary contact between partner agencies to maintain clear and open communication, and provide materials to agencies as needed (August 2021 – July 2022) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Communicate via phone, email, fax, video conferencing, in person, or by other tools deemed to be effective for needs (August 2021 – July 2022) ○ Serve as liaison between Catherine McAuley Center and other agencies to retrieve required information related to project (August 2021 – July 2022) • Compile and assess the data. Pursue any missing or incomplete data. (January 2022 – June 2022) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Parse out and separate client data regarding their 5-year social history, including housing, any history of trauma, what supports they had in place, which agencies they were working with, and income (November 2021 – February 2022) ○ In conjunction, the VISTA will assess time with the justice system, time spent in hospitals (in-patient or outpatient care), homeless services received, ambulance rides, substance abuse treatments, etc. These items determine the “cost” of homelessness on the individual (November 2021 – February 2022) ○ If any data is missing, will follow up with partner agencies to get remaining

information (December 2021 – February 2022)

- Present data to the working group of stakeholders and evaluate additional dimensions of the social costs of homelessness as the project progresses and new needs are identified.
 - VISTA will be a regular attendee of the Women’s Services Advisory Committee, which meets bi-monthly (August 2021 – July 2022)
 - Ongoing needs, updates on progress and struggles with partnering agencies, and how the committee can provide additional support for the project (November 2021 – July 2022)
- Recruit, train, and support other partners working on this project to conduct a collaborative project that utilizes skills from multiple stakeholders (August 2021 – July 2022)
 - Meet with individual stakeholders to determine their expectations and what they will need to support project and get clients to participate (August – September 2021)
 - Continued support and training to break down stakeholder and agency barriers to getting the information to get a full history of the clients (October 2021 – July 2022)
- Build supportive partnerships between the hospitals and this project (August 2021 – July 2022)
 - Work on overcoming barriers, and working around HIPAA requirements to get general information about homeless populations served at local hospitals and clinics without breaking patient confidentiality laws (August 2021 – July 2022)
- Research best practices in creating a long-term supportive housing program, including budgeting for future program costs (April – July 2022)
 - Comparing the emotional cost of homelessness vs. other options, both on a local scale and comparing Cedar Rapids and Linn County to other municipalities and regions in the country (April – July 2022)
 - Research other areas that gave completed this project that have had similar results, what their solutions were, and the results of those solutions (April – July 2022)
- Review project findings with supervisor, provide recommendations, and share knowledge (May – July 2022)
 - Determine next steps and educate agency staff and stakeholders on project findings and recommendations (June – July 2022)
 - Create sustainability binder with project materials for successful transition (June – July 2022)

Objective	The VISTA member will use results from the community assessment to build community awareness of the issue, particularly the intersectionality of race, gender, and homelessness, and alternatives to homelessness. (April – July 2022)
Member Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop readable, informative materials and presentations to be shared with a wide range of community members (April - July 2022)<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Develop and distribute survey to be used in conjunction with presentations, collect and review responses.• Begin distributing data to the public (July 2022)• Add materials and notes to sustainability binder for successful transition (July 2022)

Benefits:

- \$13,399.15 annual living stipend paid out every two weeks.
- Health benefit through AmeriCorps.
- \$6,345 Education Award or \$1,800 Cash Award upon successful completion of service.
- \$750 Resettlement Allowance for individuals moving 50 miles or more for the position.