

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	07/18/2022-07/17/2023
Anti-Poverty Objective	Housing	Site Supervisor	Kristin Bratton
Capacity Building Focus	Leveraged Resources	Supervisor Contact	KristinB@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 - July)
Member Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing metrics and goals and adjusting as needed to determine capacity building progress as it relates to this project (August – September) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continue discussions regarding metrics and goals with invested individuals and organizations, starting with CMC staff and residents. (August - September) ○ Utilize knowledge gained from other states and agencies have collected data and metrics, what data they’ve gotten, and what they’ve used. (August – September) • Continue creation of materials that outline a case study for this project. (August – November) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Formulate drafts of additional materials needed for this project. (August - February) • Serve as primary contact between partner agencies to maintain clear and open communication, and provide materials to agencies as needed (August – July) <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 – July) ○ Serve as liaison between Catherine McAuley Center and other agencies to retrieve required information related to project (August – July) • Compile and assess the data. Pursue any missing or incomplete data. (August – February) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Analyze client data regarding their social history, including housing, any history of trauma, what supports they had in place, which agencies they were working with, and income (February - July) ○ 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 assist in describing a woman’s experience of homelessness (February - July) ○ If any data is missing, will follow up with partner agencies to get remaining information (May – July)

- 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 – July)
 - Ongoing needs, updates on progress and struggles with partnering agencies, and how the committee can provide additional support for the project (November – July)
- Continue to recruit, train, and support other partners working on this project to conduct a collaborative project that utilizes skills from multiple stakeholders (August – July)
 - Meet with individual stakeholders to determine their expectations and what they will need to support project and get clients to participate (August – September)
 - Continued support and training to break down stakeholder and agency barriers to getting the information to get a full history of the clients (October – July)
- Maintain supportive partnerships between the hospitals and this project (August – July)
 - 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 – July)
- Present & distribute best practices in creating a long-term supportive housing program, including budgeting for future program costs (April – July)
 - 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)
 - Research other areas that have completed this project that have had similar results, what their solutions were, and the results of those solutions (April – July)
 - Engage key stakeholders at the city and county level to help increase awareness of the female experience of homelessness (February – July)
- Review project findings with supervisor, provide recommendations, and share knowledge (May – July)
 - Determine next steps and educate agency staff and stakeholders on project findings and recommendations (June – July)
 - Create sustainability binder with project materials for successful transition (June – July)

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)

Member Activities

- Finalize and distribute readable, informative materials and presentations to be shared with a wide range of community members (April - July)
 - Develop and distribute survey to be used in conjunction with presentations, collect and review responses.
- Add materials and notes to sustainability binder for successful transition (July)

Benefits:

- \$15,002 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.