

# CAMPUS COMPACT VISTA

## VISTA ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTION (VAD)



<b>Host Site</b>	Catherine McAuley Center	<b>Position Title</b>	Race, Gender, & Homelessness VISTA
<b>Anti-Poverty Focus</b>	Economic Opportunity	<b>Service Term</b>	07/31/2023-07/30/2024
<b>Anti-Poverty Objective</b>	Housing	<b>Site Supervisor</b>	Kristin Bratton
<b>Capacity Building Focus</b>	Leveraged Resources	<b>Supervisor Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:KristinB@cmc-cr.org">KristinB@cmc-cr.org</a> 319-731-0454

### VISTA Assignment Objectives & Member Activities

<b>Project Goal</b>	<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>
<b>Objective</b>	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)
<b>Member Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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"> <li>○ Continue discussions regarding metrics and goals with invested individuals and organizations, starting with CMC staff and residents. (August - September)</li> <li>○ Utilize knowledge gained from other states and agencies that have collected data and metrics. (August – September)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Continue creation of materials that outline a case study for this project. (August – November)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Formulate drafts of additional materials needed for this project. (August - February)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Compile and review awarded housing grants and objectives. (November – February)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Analyze grant objectives and program guidelines to discover possible conflicts or opportunities (November – February)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 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"> <li>○ Communicate via phone, email, fax, video conferencing, in person, or by other tools deemed to be effective for needs (August – July)</li> <li>○ Serve as liaison between Catherine McAuley Center and other agencies to retrieve required information related to project (August – July)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Compile and assess the data. Pursue any missing or incomplete data (August-July)</li> <li>• Assess the current policies and practices alongside data to determine effectiveness or hindrance towards unhoused women. (August – February)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Analyze client and agency data including but not limited to health histories and services. (February - July)</li> <li>○ In conjunction, the VISTA will assess the experiences of individuals accessing mental healthcare, substance abuse treatments, social services, etc. These items</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- assist in describing a woman’s experience of homelessness and illuminate systemic problems this project seeks to address (February - July)
  - If any data is missing, will follow up with partner agencies to get remaining information (May – July)
- Continue dissemination of case study data to agencies, staff, and clients.
  - 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 to improve collaborative services that meet client feedback presented previously within the case study (August – July)
  - Meet with individual agencies to determine their experiences regarding staffing, program capacity, structure, accountability, bed availability, racial disparities, client self-determination, persistent support, etc. (August – September)
  - Discuss service experiences in relation to intersections of race and gender (August-July)
- Present & distribute best practices in creating transitional and supportive housing programs (April – July)
  - Research other areas that have completed this project that have had similar results, what their solutions were, and the data results of implementation (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)
  - Train relevant staff whose roles will take up long-term implementation of project findings (July)

<b>Objective</b>	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)
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<b>Member Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Finalize and distribute readable, informative materials and presentations to be shared with a wide range of community members (April - July)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Develop and distribute survey to be used in conjunction with presentations, collect and review responses.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Add materials and notes to sustainability binder for successful transition (July)</li> </ul>
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**Benefits:**

- \$17,600 annual living stipend paid out every two weeks.
- Health benefit through AmeriCorps.
- \$6,895 Education Award or \$1,800 Cash Award upon successful completion of service.
- \$750 Relocation Allowance for individuals moving 50 miles or more plus \$.40/mile.