

# VISTA Assignment Description (VAD) Template

<b>Title: Economic Development and Resiliency VISTA – Huerfano County</b>
<b>Sponsoring Organization: Downtown Colorado, Inc.</b> <b>Project Name: Downtown Capacity Builders</b> <b>Project Number:</b> <b>Project Period:</b>
<b>Site Name (if applicable): Huerfano County Economic Development</b>
<b>Focus Area(s)</b> <b>Primary:</b> Disaster Services <b>Secondary:</b> Economic Opportunity
<b>Note:</b> <i>If your VAD is not accepted, the State Office will note the reason(s) why here.</i> <i>Spanish peaks Business alliance/ chamber</i> <i>john</i>

## VISTA Assignment Objectives and Member Activities

**Goal of the Project:** To support the community in its efforts to revitalize and strengthen the County by focusing on disaster and small business resiliency. On June 27, 2018 a devastating wildfire started in the neighboring Costilla County. The Spring Fire destroyed more than 100,000 acres and burned down more than 100 homes. Businesses have suffered in the region since this event and were not equipped with the tools to adapt to new conditions. Huerfano County was awarded a grant from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs to build resiliency for the county and businesses in the region. The goal of the VISTA would be to work with the Recovery Manager for the County to create a stronger and more resilient economy that retains businesses, tourists, and residents in the region through building a resiliency plan. These efforts will lead to a reduction in poverty in Huerfano County which has an overall poverty rate of 18.5%.

### **Objective of the Assignment (*start date – end date*)**

Build upon organizational structure and capacity of the economic development organization to further the goals set out for business support and resiliency.

**Member Activity:** Build upon organizational structure and capacity of economic development organization to build better business-to-business and County-to-business connections

**Member Activity:** Improve existing internal procedures/processes.

**Member Activity:** Identify mechanisms/resources to fund a full-time staff position or additional staff as needed.

**Objective of the Assignment (*start date – end date*)**

Assist in creating documents and programming to guide the long-term approach to community resiliency.

**Member Activity:** Work with staff and the board/steering committee to create a multi-year resiliency plan incorporating the community's vision.

**Member Activity:** Create a communications plan to formalize the way the county communicates best practices and guidance in case of another disaster.

**Member Activity:** Coordinate workshops to educate businesses on how they can implement best practices for supply chain management.

**Member Activity:** Assist individual businesses in creating individual resiliency plans.

**Objective of the Assignment (*start date – end date*)**

Build Huerfano County's capacity to engage in the revitalization of the county by fostering long-term partnerships

**Member Activity:** Continue to foster long-term partnerships with governmental agencies to maintain strong support in the region.

**Member Activity:** Research partnerships and funding that could contribute to infrastructure development

**Member Activity:** Develop on-going conversations, channels of communication, and supportive relationship with community businesses through the sector partnership model in conjunction with the Spanish Peaks Business Alliance, La Veta Cuchara Chamber of Commerce, the City of Walsenburg, and the Town of La Veta.

**Member Activity:** Maintain an on-going relationship with the Workforce Center to assist in training programs.

**Member Activity:** Increase regionalization through partnerships and outreach for Huerfano County Economic Development and Tourism Organizations at the regional and state level by attending regional economic development events

**Member Activity:** Develop processes utilizing technology to promote all phases of economic development

**Objective of the Assignment (*start date – end date*)**

Increase community involvement and grow volunteer base for various Huerfano County Programs.

**Member Activity:** Identify creative ways to engage stakeholders in the effort to include businesses, established organizations, government entities, and the community. VISTA should organize a schedule of events that involve new volunteers and stakeholders.

**Member Activity:** Work with local businesses (including non-profits) to ensure preparedness regarding disaster resiliency and recovery including flood risk and flood insurance.

**Member Activity:** Use marketing and promotional pieces to encourage resident support and involvement in resiliency and revitalization.

**Member Activity:** Identify and record a specific process to encourage the involvement of youth, Hispanic community, low-income community, and those who are the most affected from natural disasters

**Objective of the Assignment (*start date – end date*)**

Reporting and Training

**Member Activity:** Attend a monthly conference call with the Downtown Colorado, Inc. (DCI) AmeriCorps VISTA team and VISTA Leader.

**Member Activity:** Fill out monthly reporting to the VISTA Leader via google forms

**Member Activity:** Fill out a Community Assessment Form at the beginning and end of term of service

**Member Activity:** Attend quarterly DCI AmeriCorps VISTA trainings and DCI Annual Spring Conference (expenses and lodging paid by DCI). This will provide the VISTA member with relevant information and connections that work towards accomplish member activities. May be required to attend relevant meetings, forums, or conferences that relates and assists in the VISTA member accomplishing their VISTA activities outlined in this VAD