

VISTA Assignment Description (VAD)

Title: Transit and Mobility Access VISTA – Lamar, CO

Sponsoring Organization: Colorado Community Revitalization Association

Project Name: Downtown Capacity Builders

Project Number: 16VSWCO001

Project Period: 02/17/2019 - 02/15/2020

Site Name (if applicable): Southeast Colorado Enterprise Development, Inc

Focus Area(s)

Primary: Capacity Building

Secondary: Other

VISTA Assignment Objectives and Member Activities

Goal of the Project: This project will build capacity for the SE Colorado Transportation Planning Region which assists with transit and mobility services in an economically distressed region of six-counties in Southeast Colorado whose poverty levels by county range from 14.0% to 47.4%. The goal of the project would be to alleviate poverty, increase access to health services, and improve the quality of life for a very diverse population. The VISTA will assist with the development of a regional transit council, engage with community, conduct outreach to underrepresented constituencies, inventory existing services, identify service gaps and needs, develop marketing, and support and centralize grant writing resources.

Objective of the Assignment (*Period of Performance: 04/15/2019 - 04/15/2020*)

Capacity and Sustainability: Assist with creation and development of a sustainable regional transit council which will bring mobility access to those in poverty.

Member Activity: Review current list of regional council participants and participant organizations to ensure broad representation of stakeholders and interests.

Member Activity: Improve and develop the distribution data base.

Member Activity: Community outreach and communication by way of developing a system in which meeting notices and information to the data base are reaching the public.

Member Activity: Develop strategy for recruitment of volunteers to sustain the work of the transit council and foster transit champions in the region.

Member Activity: Ensure regular communication via a monthly newsletter to engage transit providers and to keep the public informed of new developments, current and new services and schedules in the region.

Objective of the Assignment (Period of Performance: 04/15/2019 - 04/15/2020)

Communications: Engage community leaders and elected officials on transit and mobility needs.

Member Activity: Meet periodically with community leaders and civic organizations to gauge public sentiment and ideas on transit needs in order to make mobility access to those below the poverty level most effective.

Member Activity: Communicate the work and progress of the regional transit council to county and municipal officials.

Member Activity: Promote and explain current and future initiatives to improve and provide transit services to the public including those under the federal poverty level.

Objective of the Assignment (Period of Performance: 04/15/2019 - 04/15/2020)

Community Outreach: Conduct outreach to underrepresented constituencies and stakeholders to ensure input and access to activities and services.

Member Activity: Establish contact with individuals and organizations able to represent the concerns and needs of segments of the community often overlooked or marginalized such as those with limited English proficiency, seniors, disabled, veterans, or indigent and the needs of the local junior colleges whose students often rely on public transportation.

Member Activity: Encourage participation by underrepresented constituencies in transit discussions and planning.

Member Activity: Developing a marketing program for current and new services including meeting with community organizations to introduce services, utilizing social media, and printed material.

Objective of the Assignment (Period of Performance: 04/15/2019 - 04/15/2020)

Data and Research: Inventory current transit or mobility services in the region.

Member Activity: Provide description of each existing services, their sources of funding, and operators.

Member Activity: Aggregate information about existing services into a single reference for use to evaluate those services.

Member Activity: Coordinate with individual transit organizations to update information regarding services when changes occur.

Objective of the Assignment (Period of Performance: 04/15/2019 - 04/15/2020)

Improving Efficiencies: Identify gaps in service, duplicate services, and unmet transit or mobility needs.

Member Activity: Explore avenues for cooperation among services.

Member Activity: Investigate options and opportunities to address unmet needs.

Objective of the Assignment (*Period of Performance: 04/15/2019 - 04/15/2020*)

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.