

VISTA Assignment Description (VAD)

Title: Neighborhood, Homelessness, and Housing Coordinator – Montrose, 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): Montrose, CO

Focus Area(s)

Primary: Capacity Building

Secondary: Other

VISTA Assignment Objectives and Member Activities

Goal of the Project: To increase capacity of the City of Montrose to address homelessness, workforce housing, and community engagement at the neighborhood level. This includes building on the gains made by the first year VISTA with a greater focus on issues related to homelessness, permanent supportive housing projects, working with developers to do so, being more culturally and procedurally inclusive of underrepresented communities, and to support the local economy by working with the Montrose Development and Revitalization Team (DART).

Objective of the Assignment (*Period of Performance: 06/10/2019 – 06/10/2020*)

Workforce Housing – The increasing demands on the Montrose community to provide housing for regional service workers to communities such as Telluride, Mountain Village, Ridgway and Ouray, is creating a severe shortage of affordable and quality workforce housing in Montrose. There is an adequate amount of Section 8 subsidized housing, but there is a need for housing at the next level, for entrepreneurs, small business owners, service sector workers and others, who struggle to find adequate housing.

Member Activity: Convene stakeholders to discuss the issue, and create an institutionalized forum for these discussions. Stakeholders include property owners and managers, developers, city staff, realtors and, others

Member Activity: Research what other communities have done to address this issue, and create a brief report summarizing strategies used.

Member Activity: Create a report demonstrating the challenges and issues for City Council and others.

Objective of the Assignment (*Period of Performance: 06/10/2019 – 06/10/2020*)

Homelessness – Build capacity for a long term sustainable community approach to reduce homelessness in Montrose.

Member Activity: Research approaches taken by cities like Colorado Springs, Denver, Salt Lake City and others. Create a database summarizing approaches/strategies.

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Neighborhoods are not organized to speak with one voice regarding their issues. City does not currently have a neighborhood services division; VISTA can work towards identifying community needs around this discipline.

Member Activity: Build a pilot neighborhood organization, and act as conduit for residents in that area between city and neighborhood.

Member Activity: Build leadership capacity at the neighborhood level.

Member Activity: Leverage the resources of Habitat for Humanity and other organizations to initiate a pilot housing rehabilitation program in neighborhoods which suffer from blight.

Objective of the Assignment (Period of Performance: 06/10/2019 – 06/10/2020)

Community Engagement for Activating Infrastructure – Build capacity for City to have long term community engagement.

Member Activity: Build formal relationship structure between city and neighborhoods to increase opportunities for citizen engagement.

Member Activity: Engage first generation immigrant community, Hispanic in particular, to better enable the City to understand their needs and most effectively work with this community.

Member Activity: Leverage the resources of Habitat for Humanity and other organizations to initiate a pilot housing rehabilitation program in neighborhoods which suffer from blight.

Objective of the Assignment (Period of Performance: 06/10/2019 – 06/10/2020)

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.