

VISTA Assignment Description (VAD) Template

Title: San Luis Valley Mobility Access VISTA – Alamosa, CO

Sponsoring Organization: Downtown Colorado, Inc.

Project Name:

Project Number:

Project Period:

Site Name (if applicable):

Focus Area(s)

Primary: Regional mobility and transit

Secondary: Economic Opportunity

Note:

If your VAD is not accepted, the State Office will note the reason(s) why here.

VISTA Assignment Objectives and Member Activities

Goal of the Project: This project will build capacity for the San Luis Valley Regional Transit Council which provides transit and mobility services in an economically distressed region of six-counties in South Central CO whose poverty levels by county range from 12.0% to 29.6%. The goal of the project is to alleviate poverty, increase access to health services, and improve the quality of life for the population. The VISTA will assist with the development of a regional transit council, engage with community leaders and elected officials, conduct outreach to underrepresented constituencies, inventory existing services, identify service gaps and needs, develop marketing tools for new services, support and centralize grant writing resources, among other activities.

Objective of the Assignment (start date – end date)

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

Member Activities:

1. Review current list of regional council participants and participant organizations to ensure broad representation of stakeholders and interests.
2. Maintain distribution data base.
3. Community outreach and communication by way of ensuring meeting notices and information to the data base are reaching the public.
4. Develop strategy for recruitment of volunteers to sustain the work of the transit council and foster transit champions in the region.

Objective of the Assignment (start date – end date)

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

Member Activities:

1. 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.
2. Communicate the work and progress of the regional transit council to county

and municipal officials.

3. 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 (*start date – end date*)

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

Member Activities:

1. 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.
2. Encourage participation by underrepresented constituencies in transit discussions and planning.
3. 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 (*start date – end date*)

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

Member Activities:

1. Provide description of each existing services, their sources of funding, and operators.
2. Aggregate information about existing services into a single reference for use to evaluate those services.

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

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

Member Activities:

1. Explore avenues for cooperation among services.
2. Investigate options and opportunities to address unmet needs.

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

Reporting and Training

Member Activities:

1. Attend a monthly conference call with the Downtown Colorado, Inc. (DCI) AmeriCorps VISTA team and VISTA Leader.
2. Fill out monthly reporting to the VISTA Leader via google forms

3. Fill out a Community Assessment Form at the beginning and end of term of service
4. 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.