

AmeriCorps*VISTA Member Assignment Description		For Placement Office Use Only
		Project No: No. of VISTAs: Date Needed:
1. Sponsor Name: Solid Ground	4. Geographic Area(s) of AC*VISTA Assignment King County, WA	
2. City, State: Seattle, WA	5. Number of VISTAs required for this assignment 1	
3. Supervisor's Name: Irene Woo	6. Telephone Number: (206) 694-6798	

7. Briefly describe the sponsoring organization, its mission and activities, and the low-income population served.

Solid Ground is dedicated to achieving a just and caring community, free from poverty, prejudice and neglect. We will pursue this vision in the following ways:

- Develop and provide creative, comprehensive and effective responses to our community's needs.
- Offer quality human services in a manner that promotes dignity.
- Advocate for public policies and private initiatives that give all people equal opportunities and resources.
- Support the efforts of others who share our vision of community.

As the scope and severity of homelessness and poverty have increased over the years, so too has our reach to our greater community as well as our range of services. Now based in Seattle's Wallingford neighborhood, our 30 programs help nearly 33,000 families each year to overcome poverty and build better futures throughout King County and beyond. Each year, Solid Ground helps thousands of people work through the issues that led them to homelessness — or get resources to avoid becoming homeless in the first place.

8. Describe the AmeriCorps*VISTA project and how it fits into the overall mission of your organization.

As a Community Action Agency, Solid Ground has identified the need to improve access to services as a strategic priority, specifically for Communities of Color and Ex-offenders. Over the next year, the AmeriCorps*VISTA will work to improve agency capacity to serve low-income people through this *Community Access Project*.

The two main goals for the *Community Access Project* are:

1. Provide accessible, anti-racist services to communities of color, including immigrants, refugees and ex-offenders;
2. Build a strong and viable coalition with organizations of color to advise and monitor the integration of services.

Some of the objectives are:

1. Develop a clear and concise understanding of institutional racism and how it impacts service delivery;
2. Identify the existing barriers within community of colors; with particular focus on immigrant and refugee communities, and their ability to access services given language and cultural barriers;
3. Internally assess Solid Ground programs and identify the barriers providers face in delivering services to immigrants, refugees and ex-offenders;
4. Identify former Solid Ground clients who are interested in participating in the Community Access Project
5. Develop a community plan that will ensure Solid Ground's services are accessible and culturally relevant;
6. Work with the Community Access Coalition and the Anti-Racism Initiative to take action in supporting ex-offenders re-entry into the community.

PART B, Section IV: Member Assignment Description (Continued)

9. List tasks and activities of the AmeriCorps*VISTA member(s) working under assignment which relate to the goals and objectives of the work plan.

1. Map communities, organizations, community representatives, cultural and religious centers that work with immigrants, refugees and ex-offenders;
2. Research current legislation, available services and determine barriers ex-offenders are facing with re-entry;
3. Develop a needs assessment survey to identify barriers service providers face;

4. Assist in developing actions steps to implement Solid Ground's new policy on client accessibility to services;
5. Build effective collaborations that model change through relationships that may include recruiting Agency's Board members who are representatives of the coalition;
6. Work with coalition members to draft a community plan on accessing services;
7. Develop goals and objectives for the coalition through an anti-racism lens;
8. Conduct search on organizations that have developed policies that prevents discrimination against ex-offenders in securing housing or other services;
9. And start the process of developing legislative language to expunge ex-offenders' record.

With these goals, objective and activities, the VISTA member will be directly involved in developing and planning this project. Also, throughout the development of the Community Access Project, Solid Ground staff, community members, ex-clients and ex-offenders will be directly involved in the development of the project. This will include the development of survey tools, interviews, formation of the Community Access Coalition, and development of the goals and objectives of the community plan. Coalition's members will be composed of community members that will provide necessary guidance and direction of the work.

At the end of the VISTA project we will have a community plan that ensures Solid Ground's programs are accessible to communities of color, especially immigrants and refugee communities will be created. The community plan will also include comprehensive research on language and/or actions that will assist ex-offenders in re-entry, including the ability to secure affordable housing and other services.

10. List requested AmeriCorps*VISTA Member skills and qualifications.

EDUCATION and EXPERIENCE:

Requires one of the following:

- a). Experience in working in communities of color or with low-income population;
- b). Any combination of education, experience and measurable performance which demonstrates the capacity to perform the duties of this position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Excellent communication skills, both oral and written, including the ability to make public presentations;
- Ability to work individually in a self-directed manner and as part of a team in group projects;
- Excellent organizational skills, ability to handle multiple tasks and to meet deadlines;
- Ability to effectively market a program and pursue outreach opportunities;
- Willingness and ability to work with people from a variety of racial, cultural and economic backgrounds, with various lifestyles, sexual orientations, and of all ages, including social service providers, community leaders, ex-clients and ex-offenders;
- Knowledge of community services and resources available to the populations served by the program;
- Valid driver's license;
- Proficient knowledge of computer software (Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook, Publisher and PowerPoint);
- Ability and willingness to work evenings and weekends for the purposes of attending community meetings and events.

11. Indicate any factors the Corporation should be aware of when assigning disabled AmeriCorps*VISTA Member(s) to this project, such as availability of transportation and housing, accessibility of facilities, etc. Indicate whether services to be provided are accessible to the disabled members of the community.

*I have read the assignment description and if placed on this project, I agreed to fulfill the duties and activities described above as an AmeriCorps*VISTA Member.*

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT/MEMBER

DATE