

VISTA Refugee Youth Mentoring Program Coordinator

(Positions open in Chattanooga and Memphis)

Job Summary

AmeriCorps VISTA

Often referred to as the domestic Peace Corps, AmeriCorps VISTA enables motivated individuals to serve for twelve months in an area that most interests them. Making an impact on marginalized populations and communities by working with nonprofits to build their capacity to serve more, better, VISTA members commit to serve for one full year. Members must be 18 years old; be US Citizens, nationals, or legal residents; and must successfully complete a criminal background check. VISTA is a full-time commitment. Political advocacy, organizing or demonstration while on VISTA duty, or while perceived to be on duty, is prohibited. Part-time work is allowable with permission from your supervisor. While public transportation is available, a car is recommended.

Tennessee Office for Refugees

The Tennessee Office for Refugees (TOR) is a department of Catholic Charities Tennessee responsible for the coordination and administration of the statewide refugee program and management and oversight of federal funding for refugee-serving programs. We partner with organizations that provide direct services to refugees and other eligible populations in and near Chattanooga, Knoxville, Memphis, and Nashville. Positions are housed either at TOR's office in Nashville, Bridge Refugee Services in Knoxville or Chattanooga, or World Relief's office in Memphis (see job descriptions for location of each position).

Please indicate in your cover letter which AmeriCorps VISTA position(s) most interests you.

Job Responsibilities and Qualifications

Help build a new youth mentoring program! The VISTA member will help lead the development and implementation of a new mentoring program for refugee youth and young adults ages 15 – 24 to increase their educational and economic opportunities. The VISTA member will increase the capacity of the local refugee services network by strengthening and expanding partnerships with key stakeholders, mentoring networks, volunteers, and refugee communities. The VISTA member will exercise research, analytical, and creative skills in developing program and training materials, and public speaking and group facilitation skills in providing orientations for program participants and training for volunteer mentors. The VISTA member will expand the scope of supportive services for refugees by recruiting, assessing, and matching participants with volunteer mentors. The VISTA member will develop data collection and analysis skills by utilizing a program database and using findings to inform program improvements. The VISTA member will evaluate program sustainability and pursue additional resources as needed including grant writing. The VISTA member will coordinate with other site-based VISTA members and the VISTA Leader.

We are looking for a self-starter who works well both independently and as part of a team. Eagerness to learn about refugees, mentoring, and all aspects of nonprofit program management and development are a must. Foreign language proficiency in a refugee language and significant intercultural experience is

Tennessee Office for Refugees

"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."



a plus. We are looking for a VISTA member with the ability to facilitate intercultural communication and to create an environment where differences are respected; the ability to exercise good judgment, curtesy, and tact in dealing with the public and staff; the ability to handle confidential information with extreme professionalism; attention to detail and adherence to deadlines; the ability to plan and organize work; the ability to follow tasks through to completion; effective interpersonal skills; strong written and verbal communication skills; and basic computer proficiency.

This is a great opportunity for a VISTA member who wants to develop leadership, program development and management, and community relations skills while making a real impact in the lives of refugee youth and young adults. Working within a refugee resettlement agency will offer the VISTA member the opportunity to work deeply and specifically on this project, as well as to gain knowledge of and contribute to a continuum of resettlement services. The VISTA member will be part of a six VISTA member cohort that will meet regularly for training and coordination. Professional development opportunities will be provided on an ongoing basis.

Benefits

- Bi-weekly living allowance
- Education award (or cash stipend) upon successful completion of service term
- Health coverage
- Relocation allowance (if moving 50+ miles from your home)
- All related training and professional development
- Supervision by some of the very best in the nonprofit sector
- Making an impact on the refugee community and the nonprofits that serve them
- Connections to agencies across Tennessee

How to Apply

Start date is immediately! End date is one year from start of service. For more information, please e-mail Louisa Saratora at lsaratora@cctenn.org.