

VISTA Assignment Description (VAD)

Title: VISTA Outreach Coordinator

Sponsoring Organization: UNITED WAY OF THE PIEDMONT

Project Name: VISTAS in the Piedmont

Project Number:

Project Period: 08/04/2017 – 08/03/2018

Site Name (if applicable): Spartanburg County Detention Facility

Focus Area(s)

Primary: Healthy Futures

Secondary:

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: To support the Veteran population within the Detention Center by connecting them to military benefits, local community resources, Veterans Treatment Court (if applicable) and other necessary support services. The VISTA will also be responsible for finding and/or writing grants for the purpose of housing, programs, and reintegration for low-income inmates transitioning back into the community.

Objective of the Assignment (08/04/2017 – 08/03/2018)

Develop strategy to ensure increased support for Veteran inmates and access to benefits and community resources.

Member Activities:

1. Research Veterans benefits that may be applicable to Veterans in the Detention Center.
2. Connect Veterans in the Detention Center with applicable benefits.
3. Research programs focused on supporting Veterans that can be implemented for those in the Detention Center.
4. Research Veterans Administration resources intended to support Veterans reintegrating into the community
 - a. Develop a process to connect Veterans with all applicable reintegration resources
5. Collaborate with Upstate Warrior Solution (UWS) to make their new and existing programs accessible to Veteran inmates in need.
6. Create system to help Veteran inmates and their families housing upon release from the Detention Center in collaboration with UWS.

Objective of the Assignment (08/04/2017 – 08/03/2018)

Increase financial support for Veterans Treatment Court and Veteran population.

Member Activities:

1. Research grants.
2. Apply for 3 grants.
3. Create database of grants and deadlines.
4. Research additional funding opportunities.

Objective of the Assignment (08/04/2017 – 08/03/2018)

Expand access to Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) to assist Veteran inmates with reintegration back into the community.

Member Activities:

1. Provide assistance to UWS and VTC Coordinator in screening applicants.
2. Build relationships with partner agencies that could support VTC participants in reintegration into the community.
3. Connect VTC candidates and participants with Veterans Transitional Guide and other applicable resources.

Objective of the Assignment (08/04/2017 – 08/03/2018)

Create database to track all support provided to Veteran inmates in order to reduce recidivism rates.

Member Activities:

1. Create database for quantifying veteran information and data
2. Train staff to use created database
3. Observe procedural visits with Veteran inmate population, and analyze for improvement of efficiency
4. Recruit community partners to provide services
5. Analyze current support to identify any gaps in Veteran success
6. Connect Veterans with community resources including UWS

Objective of the Assignment (08/04/2017 – 08/03/2018)

Expand and update Veteran's Transitional Guide (VTG).

Member Activities:

1. Research additional services available in the community that are appropriate for inclusion.
2. Expand the guide to show benefits, resources, jobs, etc. for Veterans
3. Maintain up-to-date records of contact information for all resources
4. Provide the public with Veteran support service information, including the VTG.
5. Develop a process for maintaining the VTG and gathering updated contact information for resources listed.
6. Train staff and volunteers on how to utilize the VTG.

Objective of the Assignment (08/04/2017 – 08/03/2018)

VISTAs will spend 10% of their service participating in a supplemental project designed to foster collaboration and problem-solving for (a) community-wide issue(s). The VISTA team will gather one half-day each week to share different perspectives and experiences gained through their work on-site and work together on (a) project(s).