

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: 07/20/2019 – 07/18/2020

Site Name (if applicable): Spartanburg County Detention Facility

Focus Area(s)

Primary: Economic Opportunity

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: Develop transition services specific to individual population groups to enable successful reintegration into the community, placing an emphasis on treatment, housing, transportation, military benefits, and Veterans Treatment Court (where applicable). Research and analyze other programs to identify effective steps to reduce recidivism. Evaluate programs, services, and policies in order to reduce recidivism and implement appropriate transition strategies.

Objective of the Assignment (07/20/2019 – 07/18/2020)

Grow the Transition from Jail to Community (TJC) initiative within SCDC facility for successful reintegration of inmates into society

Member Activities:

1. Maintain, update, and expand the Transitional Guide (TG)
 - a. Train staff and volunteers on how to utilize the TG
 - b. Provide TG to public
2. Identify community resources that will be beneficial for transportation, housing, and treatment
3. Complete SC THRIVE Benefit Bank training
 - a. Complete requirements to maintain membership
 - b. Provide applications for completion by staff
 - c. Build a TJC plan of action for inmates approximately two weeks before release
4. Provide information about community resources to the public by stocking the lobby document cabinet
 - a. Compile brochures/documents from community partners as well as other community resources for the public
 - b. Review information and resources on a daily basis to ensure adequate supply and accurate information

Objective of the Assignment (07/20/2019 – 07/18/2020)

Develop and deliver focused support to veteran population, ensuring access to benefits and knowledge of community resources

Member Activities:

1. Maintain, update, and expand the Veteran's Treatment Guide (VTG)
2. Provide the public with veteran support service information, including the VTG
3. Train staff and volunteers on how to utilize the VTG

4. Promote Upstate Warrior Solutions (UWS) and Veteran's Affairs (VA) within SCDC's veteran population to ensure access to services
 - a. Collaborate with UWS and the VA to make their new and existing programs accessible to veteran inmates in need
5. Research veteran's benefits that may be applicable in Detention Facility
6. Develop and implement a process to connect veterans with all applicable reintegration resources

Objective of the Assignment (07/20/2019 – 07/18/2020)

Evaluate the effectiveness of Inmate Programs and in-kind donations.

Member Activities:

1. Track attendance in Inmate Programs
 - a. Update the program attendance logs
 - b. Generate statistics based off data
2. Research and create a recidivism tracker to measure and assess the effectiveness of programs
3. Track in-kind donations
 - a. Collect estimated monetary donations of certain given supplies i.e. medical supplies
 - b. Collect lists or spreadsheets of donations received from suppliers as well as how many books were donated, how many were kept, or discarded

Objective of the Assignment (07/20/2019 – 07/18/2020)

Observe disciplinary and mail procedures for the process of inmate behavior.

Member Activities:

1. Analyze incoming and outgoing mail for contraband and improper communication
2. Observe disciplinary hearings to identify personal history, behaviors, and background information of inmates
3. Develop individualized transition plans based on information gleaned from above task.

Objective of the Assignment (07/20/2019 – 07/18/2020)

Increase financial support for the Detention Facility, Veteran's Treatment Court, and Veteran population

Member Activities:

1. Research grants as well as apply up to 5 grants within the VISTA year
2. Create and maintain database of grants and deadlines
3. Research additional funding opportunities

Objective of the Assignment (07/20/2019 – 07/18/2020)

Assist Recruiting Team and Re-Entry Specialist with documentation and outreach efforts.

Member Activities:

1. Create informational documents (brochures/posters/etc.)
2. Take pictures or video footage to help with staff recruiting efforts of the Detention Facility
3. Assist Re-Entry Specialist with outreach efforts to help inmates transition to community

Objective of the Assignment (07/20/2019 – 07/18/2020)

VISTAs will spend 10% of their service participating in a supplemental project designed to foster collaboration and problem-solving for 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 project(s).

