



Guiding Opportunities AmeriCorps VISTA

About Cities of Service

Cities of Service is a nonprofit organization that helps mayors build stronger cities by changing the way local government and citizens work together. We help coalition cities tap into the knowledge, creativity, and service of their citizens to help identify and solve critical public problems. Cities of Service supports a coalition of more than 260 cities, representing over 73 million people across the Americas and Europe.

With a data-driven focus on creating measurable results, Cities of Service provides counsel, expert technical assistance, and proven resources to city leaders and their staff. We bring coalition members together to share best practices, expand networks, and deepen relationships. We also design and manage competitive grant programs for cities that leverage our expertise in advising and connecting cities.

About Guiding Opportunities

The Guiding Opportunities (GO) program will build capacity in six cities to engage community members in the Opportunity Zone (OZ) planning process. VISTA members will develop the infrastructure for the city's OZ citizen engagement, expand partnerships with local community groups, coordinate workshops for relevant stakeholders, and support citizen-led activities in the community.

For its GO program, Cities of Service awarded each winning city \$25,000 to support community visioning and volunteer initiatives to engage citizens in the OZ planning process. In addition, two AmeriCorps VISTA members are placed in each winning city's city hall to serve as community engagement specialists to strengthen public trust and ensure that the people who can benefit the most from OZ investments have a voice in the process. The program is made possible with generous support from The Rockefeller Foundation as part of the recently launched [Opportunity Zone Community Capacity Building Initiative](#).

Position Overview



Cities of Service is seeking [AmeriCorps VISTA members](#) to support the GO program. This position requires a high level of community interaction, calling on VISTA members to build relationships with residents and partner organizations. AmeriCorps VISTAs will be working in each grantee city's City Hall. They will report to the Chief Opportunity Zone Officer or a similar position. Responsibilities include:

- With guidance from the Chief Opportunity Zone Officer, prioritize engagement neighborhoods according to the census tracts that are designated OZs.
- Conduct a landscape analysis of potential and existing partnerships, and develop relationships with those partners.
- Conduct extensive outreach to community members through a variety of means to ensure that a good representation of community members, not just the usual suspects, participate in engagement activities.
- Plan and host a series of local engagement activities that engage citizens in a dialogue about local needs, their vision for the future, and local economic development.
- Together with the Chief Opportunity Zone Officer, synthesize the learnings from the engagement activities and translate those learnings to inform the city's OZ goals for those communities.
- In partnership with community members, identify and implement some community volunteer initiatives, such as park rehabilitation, lot revitalization, or community clean-ups.
- Collect and report on the tangible impact of these community initiatives.
- Other duties as assigned.

Cities of Service Guiding Opportunities AmeriCorps VISTA members' term of service begins on **September 3, 2019**. Two AmeriCorps VISTA positions are available in each of the following cities:

- Atlanta, GA
- Dallas, TX
- Newark, NJ
- Oakland, CA
- St. Louis, MO
- Washington, D.C.



To see what some of our previous AmeriCorps VISTA members have learned during their year of service and what they are doing now, check out some of our [AmeriCorps VISTA member profiles](#) on the Cities of Service website.

Duration and Compensation

This is a one-year, full-time AmeriCorps VISTA commitment commencing on September 3, 2019. A modest living stipend is provided and an additional end-of-service award is provided contingent on successful completion of the service year. Relocation assistance is provided as needed.

Qualifications

- Some college preferred
- Experience working in community engagement preferred
- Comfort interacting with community members and building relationships required

To Apply

To apply for this position, please visit <https://my.americorps.gov/> and search for “Guiding Opportunities”.

If you have any questions, feel free to email vista@citiesofservice.org.