Opportunity Posting
Community Involvement Americorps VISTA Volunteer
Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization
Reports to: Community Organizer
Application Deadline: March 31, 2019

Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization (DSCDO) is a non-profit 501(c)3 community development corporation that serves the Detroit Shoreway neighborhood, which stretches from West 45th – West 85th Streets, from Lake Erie to Interstate 90.

Detroit Shoreway is one of Cleveland’s coolest, most diverse neighborhoods along the North Coast. New residents are moving in, businesses are setting up shop, theatres are opening, the EcoVillage is blossoming, block clubs are growing and visitors are arriving. Less than two miles west from Downtown, this neighborhood is quickly becoming the place to live, work and play for all members of our community. However, much of the area continues to struggle with unemployment and access to neighborhood resources.

In partnership with DSCDO’s Community Involvement Staff, the Community Involvement VISTA will work towards DSCDO’s goals through:

• Participating with residents in ongoing dialogue around their vision for their community.
• Support DSCDO staff who are in the process of implementing Southwest Plan projects and objectives (e.g. parks, greenspaces).
• Building 1:1 relationships with resident leaders.
• Working with Community Involvement staff, help generate volunteers to door knock the Southwest area to distribute information to residents.
• Working with Community Involvement staff, research, experiment with and implement new community engagement techniques to increase the number of residents interacting with DSCDO.
• Gain familiarity with job training and placement programs such as Hire Local and El Barrio Workforce Development Center.
• Gain familiarity with asset building programs such as Community Financial Centers
• Utilize metrics to track whether an increasing number of residents participate in programs.

NEEDED SKILLSET AND QUALIFICATIONS
Bachelor’s degree (or equivalent work experience) in community organizing, social work, urban studies, human services, non-profit administration, communications or related field.
Excellent writing and communication skills.
Proficiency in computer and web-based information technologies and in preparing written reports and business correspondence.
Able to build rapport and relationships in community and institutional settings.
Commitment to personal and community empowerment.
Possess a creative, and solution-oriented approach to issues.
Strong planning and organizational skills and the ability to think strategically in the design and execution of projects.
The ability to facilitate and engage with a diverse community and collaborate for effective solutions.
Ability to communicate and work with people of all racial, ethnic and income backgrounds.
Self-motivation and an ability to work toward objectives and ability to work independently.
Able to operate in a network-centric environment, one that values interdependence and a belief that all people have gifts and are valuable.
Belief in the principles of self-determination, social justice and equity; and that relationships and connections are essential building blocks for healthy communities.

VISTA BENEFITS:
MONTHLY LIVING ALLOWANCE
VISTAs will receive the cost of living in their area. This works out to be $1026 dollars before taxes. The amount varies depending on if the service site is in a rural location versus urban.

END OF SERVICE STIPEND – if not choosing education award
•Accrues at the rate of $125 per month for 12 month, which is $1,800

EDUCATION AWARD – if not choosing end of service stipend
•This award is in the amount equivalent to the Federal Pell Grant, which is about $6,059
  •There are two types of education benefits to members who choose the AmeriCorps Education Award:
    ▪ An education award in the form of a voucher (it is not cash) that can be used to pay for higher education (degree or nondegree) or to repay eligible student loans
    ▪ A postponement of payments on federal student loans during the time served in AmeriCorps VISTA (called a forbearance)

RELOCATION ALLOWANCE
•Members serving a 12-month term and moving from their home of record to their project site are eligible to receive a relocation allowance. The amount, which may not exceed $550

HEALTH CARE SUPPORT
•AmeriCorps VISTA Members are required to maintain their own health insurance, in compliant with the ACA. For these members, their only health care option through AmeriCorps VISTA is the Healthcare Allowance.
•The AmeriCorps VISTA Healthcare Allowance helps cover eligible out-of-pocket expenses. These include: an annual deductible, coinsurance, copayments for qualified medical expenses, and similar charges for qualified medical payments. The allowance may not be used to for any other purpose, including paying for other healthcare coverage premiums or expenses from non-essential healthcare services. The allowance can cover up to the maximum limit specified by the Health Insurance Marketplace. For VISTA Members who began their service in 2015, the maximum that a Member could receive was $6,600.
  •The AmeriCorps VISTA Health Benefits Program is not an insurance policy.
In rare occasions, AmeriCorps VISTA Members may be exempted from the ACA’s health insurance requirements. Individuals who may qualify for exemptions are those who have very low income, members of federally recognized tribes, and certain hardship other situations. Additional information regarding exemptions from the ACA’s requirement is available here: https://www.healthcare.gov/health-coverage-exemptions/exemptions-from-the-fee/

- In these cases, Members may enroll in the AmeriCorps VISTA Health Benefit Plan. The plan covers expenses for most emergency, medical and surgical costs, hospitalization and prescription drug needs a Member may have during their service term. It is not considered ACA-compliant coverage.

Additional information regarding the healthcare options through AmeriCorps VISTA, and how Members can sign up for them, is available on the VISTA Campus: http://www.vistacampus.gov/sites/default/files/VISTA_Healthcare_FAQ_8_7_2015.pdf

CHILD CARE SUPPORT
- AmeriCorps VISTA offers child care benefits to members who qualify. The maximum amount of child care assistance a member can receive is $400 per child per month.
- Child Care Assistance is paid directly to the child care provider.
- Child Care Assistance paper can take a few months to process and for the benefits to start. Assistance will be retroactively paid to child care provider for the time it took to process paperwork once everything is processed.

Please e-mail a cover letter stating your interest and how you meet the stated position qualifications along with your resume as soon as possible and by no later than March 31st, 2019 to:

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