# AmeriCorps VISTA Public & School Partnership

# Partner Information Sheet

## Logos

## The Public & School Partnership (PSP) is an AmeriCorps VISTA grant program hosted at Utah State University. Through this grant, PSP recruits and places national service volunteers (VISTAs) to work within partnering organizations to focus on improving and expanding educational systems. PSP manages the grant, reporting, and hiring (based on partner organization recommendation).

## The focus of the project is to help eradicate poverty in our communities through the promotion of educational initiatives. While the project is designed to improve the circumstances for all of Utah's students and families, specific grant activities strive to provide support for economically disadvantaged students and those at-risk for social and academic failure.

## **How does the program work?**

## A potential site can submit an application to host one or more VISTA Members; however, requests are not guaranteed. Upon approval of the application, the site and PSP will work together to recruit a qualified VISTA member. The VISTA Member reports directly to the project site (school or community organization) as a full-time (40 hours/week) volunteer for the contracted duration of one year. Renewal of the VISTA Member’s contract and/or the site’s VISTA slot is assessed each year and is based on availability within the grant and the discretion of PSP and the project site.

## The VISTA Member work scope is centered around building capacity and creating sustainable programs within educational partnerships. VISTA Member activities should be based on increasing literacy, community connectedness, parent support, high school completion, college and career readiness, or other appropriate educational initiatives. The VISTA Member will address various needs of the project site through specific focus areas. Some of the specific areas of focus for VISTA projects include:

## Developing and implementing training materials for staff and volunteers

## Student screening and identification for needed services

## Implementation of programs and services to benefit at-risk students and families

## Management of data systems and data presentation for decision making

## Resource generation and capacity-building activities

## Volunteer recruitment, training, and management

## Promotion of college and career readiness programs and activities

## *\* VISTA Members are absolutely prohibited from proselyting or participating in any activity designed to influence the outcome of an election. VISTA Members also may not participate in any political activity while identifying themselves or their program with AmeriCorps VISTA or to participate in activity designed to influence passage or defeat of legislation. (See the Hatch Act for more information.)*

## **What is required of participating partners and what support will we receive?**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | AmeriCorps (CNCS)Federal Funding Agency | Public & School Partnership atUtah State | Project Site (School or Community Organization) | VISTA Member |
| Provides | Medical coverage options for membersLife Insurance plan optionsChildcare benefitEnd of service Award: Education Award OR cash stipend  | VISTA member living allowance and benefitsAdministrative support servicesProgress and financial reporting to CNCSTraining for VISTA membersPayroll and grant management servicesHuman resources support | $7,000 cost shareProfessional work environmentDaily management Orientation & training as neededProgram data for reportingAllowances for VISTA leaveProgram feedback and VISTA evaluationsBranding as appropriateSigning and abiding by the project MOA | One-year commitment40 hours per weekMandatory attendance at PSO and PSP trainings and eventsProgram impact data for reportingParticipation in national days of service and other service projectsCompletion of monthly reporting |
| Receives | Full time national service volunteersImproved services for Utah StudentsReporting data  | Continued grant funding for VISTA programLasting partnershipsCollaborative environments to develop and refine best practicesRecognition and support from administrative partnersJoint authorship (on collaborative efforts as appropriate) | Full time VISTA member on siteAccess to PSP resources (staff, library, research, training materials, etc.)Increased resources and grant activitiesImproved services for at-risk studentsAccess to research opportunities and validated best practices | Monthly living allowance of $1042 Medical and pharmacy benefitsChild care and life insurance optionPaid trainingSegal Education Award ($6,195) OR Cash stipend ($1,800) upon completion of service10 personal and 10 medical leave days. |