



Leadership Development VISTA Project
VISTA Assignment Description

VAD Title: Rural Community Developer

Site Name: NC Rural Economic Development Center

Primary Focus Area: Leadership and Economic Development

Goal of the Project:

The goal of the project is to build capacity in leadership development to support the enhancement and growth of the Center's statewide leadership training and regional leadership trainings through curriculum development, development of marketing materials, dissemination of information on best practices in rural leadership development, and maintaining and supporting the alumni network through peer networking and continuing education opportunities. As a result of these activities, rural communities across the state will have strong, effective leaders who are engaged in the community's civic life and economy. The beneficiaries of this project include the communities we serve and their leaders.

Performance Period: August 2019 – August 2020

Objective Description:

Build capacity and develop opportunities to support and grow the Rural Center's leadership development programs to include the nine-day Rural Economic Development Institute, Homegrown Leaders regional leadership training, and the Leadership Alumni Network.

Member Activity:

1. Grow the capacity and reach of the Center's Rural Economic Development Institute (REDI):
 - Build partnerships with local governments, nonprofits, faith community, healthcare community, businesses, and other partner organizations to inform them of leadership and rural economic development training opportunities
 - Develop a resource guide of financial, technical assistance, and training resources available to communities, regions, and the Center
 - Identify opportunities for fundraising and sponsorships for the Institute
 - Identify sector and service area gaps for potential participants
 - Assist with planning and logistics for REDI

2. Grow the capacity and reach of the Center's Homegrown Leaders regional training program:
 - Identify partnerships in regions across the state to serve as training hosts and funding partners

- Help with curriculum development that includes best practices in leadership and economic development
 - Assist with a marketing and recruitment strategy for the program and participants
 - Assist with planning and logistics for the regional training
3. Support and grow the Center's REDI alumni network:
- Update and maintain the REDI alumni database
 - Help identify effective continuing education opportunities for alumni
 - Market and disseminate information about alumni events
 - Plan the logistics for alumni events
4. Support the Center's Regional Capacity Building and Leadership programming
- Identify partners in specific Prosperity Zones to invite to participate in programming serve as training hosts
 - Identify and disseminate best practices in community development, program planning and management to coaches
 - Coordinate logistics for coaching and training

For more information on the AmeriCorps VISTA program, the benefits, and how it works [click here](#). If interested, please submit resume and cover letter to Kayla Dobyms, kdobyms@ncruralcenter.org.