



Campus Compact



AmeriCorps

Campus Compact AmeriCorps VISTA Member

*Michigan State University, Center for Community & Economic Development, Blue Zones
Lansing, (Ingham County), Michigan*

The Campus Compact AmeriCorps VISTA program places AmeriCorps VISTA members in full service with our campus and community partners for a one-year period. During this year, members spend 35 hours per week on their host site's campus or with one of that campus's community partners to work on building systems and programs that support low-income college students and community members. The VISTA member's work is to build capacity, meaning that rather than directly serving the community, they're enhancing or creating systems, structures, and resources that support the direct anti-poverty work. Campus Compact functions as the central VISTA program hub, performing program administration, offering training and support to VISTA members and their projects, and connecting the work happening in individual projects both to similar work happening nationwide and back to AmeriCorps. For detailed program information and FAQs, please visit our website.

Service Term:

June 17, 2024 - June 16, 2025

Please note that this start date is subject to change. Start dates are based on a federal calendar and are not flexible. Regardless of start date, the term of service lasts exactly one year.

Summary of Position Details:

Within Ingham County, Michigan, a nexus of low-income population census tracts and high social vulnerability, there are nine opportunity zones and a "level of vulnerability" score of medium to high on the Health and Place Index (Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry, 2020). The Lansing region also scores particularly high on the Michigan Environmental Justice Screen map ranging from 51 to the 100th percentile of average exposures and environmental effects multiplied by the average of sensitive populations and socioeconomic factors representing level of vulnerability to pollution and related climate change. With this as a backdrop, the Blue Zone VISTA will assess the built and natural environmental factors that influence health and lifespan. This member will also assist to document related factors of poverty, circular transition and community wealth building on health and longevity.

Additionally, initiatives that lend themselves to "priming" the ecosystem of circular transition to healthier futures will be compiled, analyzed and assessed in regards to outcomes related to increased well-being and longevity. Across the globe, five cities including: Ikaria, Greece; Loma Linda, California; Sardinia, Italy; Okinawa, Japan, and; Nicoya, Costa Rica have been identified as original "Blue Zones". Blue Zones are areas reflecting lifestyle habits of: "natural movement, purpose, stress-less, appropriate proportions, inclusion of antioxidants, sense of community, care-giver support, and socialization as supported by "healthy behaviors" leading to the average

life space increasing by 10-12 years.

Therefore, the Blue Zone VISTA will assess related health factors, influenced at the local and state levels within a circular transition hotspot that are known to extend life span. An example of this might be a percentage of healthy housing stock being inaccessible for those socially disadvantaged yet identified as a requirement for circular businesses' growth. To fill this gap, nonprofit, tri-county and state partners might participate in a community benefits planning session that identifies housing needs and ultimately generates gap funding addressing the intersectionality of affordable housing as a green jobs catalyst. As a first for Michigan, the intersectionality of circular economic transitions, community benefits planning and longevity based on environmental factors influenced will be documented. This will be assessed through a lens of critical environmental justice including: 1) emphasis on intersectionality of inequalities and oppression, 2) attention to spatial and temporal scales, 3) focus on state power as reinforcing social inequalities, and 4) recognition of the indispensability of marginalized populations according to Holifield and Pellow's "What is Critical Environmental Justice?" (Polity Press, 2018) Ultimately, this will help pave the way for a traditional Blue Zone assessment and future designation that positively impacts those marginalized populations in distressed areas who will age in place throughout Ingham County.

Responsibilities

- Develop a community advisory board and foster synergies leading to collaboration (both internal and external) with University partners
- Utilizing circular economy and community benefits data local to Ingham County, include social factors and environmental indicators to project out the potential effects of transitioning to a healthier future where residents are more likely to positively age in place.
- Prioritize areas of Blue Zone intervention recommendation
- Conduct fund development research and complete non-federal grant applications as appropriate for Blue Zone-related project funds
- Access Blue Zone Challenge "bundle" and sample assessment
- Attend orientation, weekly meetings, days of service, and trainings/retreats coordinated by Campus Compact
- Complete data collection and reporting activities required by Campus Compact and AmeriCorps

Preferred Qualifications

- Experience at recruiting and engaging community stakeholders
- Knowledge of community and economic development
- Strong reading, writing and researching skills
- Interest or experience in health disparities as well as natural and built environmental influencers
- Awareness of and participation in social and environmental justice initiatives
- Grant writing and fund generation development
- Experience in creating media and conducting outreach such as hybrid meetings and webinars

Requirements

- BA/BS or equivalent experience
- US Citizen, national, DACA status, or legal permanent resident
- Must be able to complete federal background check

Logistics

- Status: [In-person]

- Hours
 - M – F [9 A.M. - 5 P.M., flexible and may be negotiated, such as 8 A.M. - 4 P.M.]

Benefits

AmeriCorps VISTA Benefits:

- Bi-weekly living allowance of \$877.66
- End of service award (AmeriCorps member must choose one of two options; requires completion of full term of service to receive)
 - Segal AmeriCorps Education Award (\$7,395)
 - End-of-Service Cash Stipend (\$1,803.10)
- Relocation stipend for candidates moving more than 50 miles (\$750)
- Mileage reimbursement for candidate moving more than 50 miles (\$0.40/mile)
- Healthcare benefits (AmeriCorps member must choose one of two options)
 - Healthcare allowance for out-of-pocket expenses
 - Basic healthcare coverage
- 10 Days Personal Leave
- 10 Days Sick Leave
- 14 Days Holiday Leave
- Child care assistance for children under 13 years of age (**income dependent**)
- Student loan forbearance or deferment for certain loans
- 1 year of noncompetitive eligibility for federal positions*
- Access to professional development opportunities provided by Campus Compact & AmeriCorps

Additional Host-Site Benefits:

- “Life After VISTA” job search and networking support
- Local budget innovation support such as “double up food bucks”
- Potential anti-racist book club participation and access to lending library

How to Apply:

You can apply to this position two ways:

1. My AmeriCorps.gov Application
 - a. Visit this [link](#) and apply to the position through the my.AmeriCorps.gov system
 - i. Note: The myAmeriCorps system is sometimes finicky and can be hard to update – if that website says “no longer accepting applications,” please feel free to reach out to our team via email at vista@compact.org to check.
 - ii. For support using the myAmeriCorps portal, please see this [document](#).
2. Apply Directly to the Site
 - a. Reach out to the site contact, Mary ZumBrunnen via email at zumbrun1@msu.edu with your resume, cover letter and information
 - i. Title the email “VISTA Application: Your Name” to ensure it’s not missed

Deadlines:

The last day to submit an application for this position is May 14th, 2024; however, positions are filled on a rolling basis, and we recommend applying as soon as possible.